

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

ABN: 444 16 152 998

P.O. Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182

195 Bank Street, South Melbourne, 3205

Phone: (03) 9530 3245 Mobile: 0418 675 734

Email: rule@comcen.com.au

Web: www.ppcfrr.org

This newsletter is supported by a Community Grant from the City of Port Phillip and printed with the assistance of the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley, MP.

July, 2008

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

As many of you will know, it is the custom to begin meetings with an Acknowledgement to Country as a sign of respect to the traditional custodians of the land. The City of Port Phillip has recently revised their Civic Statement, as follows: "Council acknowledges the people and elders, past and present, of Yalukit Willam and the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge and uphold their relationship to this land." We encourage those involved in community groups to include an Acknowledgement.

NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee) is being celebrated around the country between 6-13 July and there are several events taking place locally. The City of Port Phillip is hosting a flag raising ceremony on 7 July at the St Kilda Town Hall along with some activities in the St Kilda Library opposite and we encourage those who can to attend. See item below for the details of what the Council is organising. Inner South Community Health Services (ISCHS) has invited PPCfR to put on boomerang painting for children at the event Indigenous Access worker Naomi Prior is organising during NAIDOC Week. It's at Vege Out on 7 July and is sure to be an interesting and fun-filled day. If you are able to lend a hand for an hour or so, please let me know.

On the political front, the Rudd Government recently ordered a 12-month review into the Northern Territory intervention, that arguably contentious program implemented in great haste with limited consultation with the communities not to mention any recognisable or thoughtful follow-through plan included. Speaking about the Government's support for this program implemented under the Howard Government ostensibly to tackle child sex abuse in indigenous communities, Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has pledged to be in it (the intervention) "for the long haul". She said the review will ascertain what is not working and will look at where the improvements that need to be made and make them. It is to

be hoped that in light of what has been learned from the proceeding 12 months, and taking into the recommendations of many respected community leaders, that the review will lead to a more meaningful, productive and beneficial outcome for our indigenous fellow Australians.

Closer to home, it is subscription renewal time for PPCfR members. The rates remain unchanged. For a modest \$10 for individuals, each subscription helps support our on-going work in the area of reconciliation. As well as having the chance to be involved in our activities, another benefit of membership is receiving a complimentary copy of Mungo each month. Even if you can't attend meetings but like to keep abreast of what's happening – and there is always a great deal going on – Mungo helps keep you informed. The funds received from subscriptions and from the annual Council grant we receive are carefully allocated. For instance, they are used to organise, stage and/or participate in local community events and festivals, to cover costs such as rent and postage and to support the work of organisations such as ANTaR, Reconciliation Victoria, The Homeless Memorial and ISCHS. A subscription renewal form is enclosed with this issue of Mungo and once completed, can be returned to our office. We feel it is important to know that we have the continued support of our members, and the community.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting

Tuesday, 15th July, 2008, 6.30pm, 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

Everyone most welcome.

WHAT DO MEMBER'S WANT?

Being PPCfR's subscription renewal time, it is perhaps also a good time to ask members for some feedback to find out what they want. For those interested, what are the issues

that concern you with regard to Indigenous affairs? What would you like to learn more about? Are you involved with a community, school or church group that we could connect with in some way? Is there a particular agenda or issue you would like the group to focus on, such education, health, Treaty or compensation, over the coming year? We welcome your feedback and will respond to your suggestions.

Rosemary Rule, Co Chair.

NAIDOC Week 6-13 July
The Haunted and the Bad
Launch 6pm - 8pm Thursday 3 July
Exhibition: 4 July – 10 August 2008
Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts
26 Acland St, St Kilda

The Haunted and the Bad is an exhibition featuring five contemporary artists of Australian Indigenous heritage whose cultural identity spans four states. Their individual styles are unique, engaging and personal. This exhibition explores the notion of an aftermath of invasion told within narratives that are often haunting and bad.

Tony Albert, Joel Birnie, Nici Cumpston, Andrea Fisher, Yhonnie Scarce

Curated by Julie Gough

Gallery Hours are Tuesday – Sunday 1.00 – 6.00pm. For further information and/or images please contact Programs Director Jan Duffy on 9209 6794 or email

info@lindenarts.org

NAIDOC Flag Raising
10.30am to 11.30am Monday 7 July, St Kilda Town Hall
Front Lawn, 99a Carlisle St, St Kilda

Every year during NAIDOC week the City of Port Phillip hold a flag raising ceremony to mark the beginning of week long activities across the nation celebrating the survival of Indigenous culture and the significant Indigenous contribution to modern Australia.

Euro Yoroke (St Kilda) Wominjeka (Welcome) BBQ
12.30am to 3pm Monday 7 July, Veg Out Community Gardens, Cnr Shakespeare Grove and Chaucer St, St Kilda

This year the Wominjeka BBQ will be hosting acclaimed singer/songwriter Dave Arden www.davearden.com.au plus a range of family friendly activities organised by Inner South Community Health Service, City of Port Phillip and Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation.

NAIDOC Cabinet exhibition
7 - 31 July St Kilda Library, 150 Carlise St, St Kilda
A display of local artists' works and looped screening of What Makes Me Feel Free? photos taken during this year's Yalukit Wilam Ngargee: People Place Gathering festival, Saturday 2 Feb 2008 held in O'Donnell Gardens.

For further details please contact
City of Port Phillip Assist 9209 6777
<http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/indigenous.html>

St Kilda Library is also the venue for the School Holiday Activities/ School Holiday program from 1.00pm.

Saturday 19 July - NAIDOC Ball at Sheldon Receptions, 608-614 Somerville Road, Sunshine from 7pm. Formal. Tickets \$70 available from the Eastern Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place, phone 9318 7855.

Bridging the Cultural Divide Seminar
24-25 July, presented by Richard Trudgeon (author "Why warriors lay down and die") and Rev. Dr Djiniyini Gondarra, OAM, Witiyana Marika. For information, go to: www.ards.com.au

Mallacoota Concert
The Mallacoota community is celebrating Reconciliation Week on Friday 4th July at the Mudbrick Pavilion, 7.30pm. The Mallacoota District Reconciliation Group, together with Mallacoota Strum Inc+, is sponsoring a very special once only performance of Merv Graham in concert with local musicians, John Grunden, John Wilson, John Fry and Glenn Warren. \$15. Enquiries: Jean Nickels, 03 5158 0367 or Jocelyn Grunden, 03 5158 0523.

Songlines Bunjilaka 2008
Melbourne Museum, free concert Saturday July 5, 12 noon – 4:30 pm. Featured artists include Vic Simms, the Grenadines, Monica Weightman, James Henry, and Tjimba and the Yung Warriors. For further information ring 8341 7352

Report from Stonnington
Extracts from talk given at the opening of reconciliation art exhibition, Lumina Gallery, Malvern

I would like to speak briefly with my two hats: Co-Chair of Reconciliation Victoria; and President of Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation. As Co-Chair of Reconciliation Victoria, I'll say a few words about symbolic and practical reconciliation: the importance of symbols and the role of art.

Symbols are subtle but important. Our dreams are symbolic. Symbols give meaning to our lives, our communities, and our country. And of course art is all about symbols and communicating meaning. An important symbolic gesture was the Australian Government's recent apology to the stolen generations. This was very significant, and begins a new phase of maturity to our country.

So what are the symbols we use to define ourselves as Australians? In an increasingly globalised world, what is our unique identity, one we can be proud of without being jingoistic? If we look around the walls of this gallery, we see many and varied symbols that are uniquely Australian, being based on aboriginal views of the world.

An important part of our identity is recognising and celebrating our Indigenous culture, a 40,000 year old culture that is still vibrant and contemporary. Only when we have fully embraced the origins of our country will we be a truly mature nation. Our origins are with the First Nations of Australia, our Indigenous peoples, who have a rich and diverse cultural, spiritual and creative heritage, still being renewed today.

Mick Dodson said that Reconciliation is about 'deeper things – to do with nation, soul and spirit. Reconciliation is about the blood and flesh of the lives we must lead together'. Sir Gustav Nossal, a great whitefella supporter of reconciliation said 'The tidal wave which is reconciliation will come to shore as our young people learn the truths of our shared histories, freeing them to live in harmony in our shared land, Australia'.

While symbols are important, they are empty if we don't provide practical reconciliation: improve the life chances of Indigenous Australians. We can't just mend the relationship, which needs to be done, but we must undo the injustices that exist, such as the 17 year gap in life expectancy.

Now with my other hat, as President of Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation I would like to note that this is the tenth year since the beginning of SCR. We have our tenth anniversary AGM later this year when we will recognise the founding members.

Coming events in Stonnington

Tues 8 July, speaker from WorldVision talking at Malvern Library, on the Wetengger NT community capability-building project, 6pm

SCR's 10th anniversary AGM, Aug 12, 6pm

Keith Gove

Co-Chair, Reconciliation Victoria

President, Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation

Report from Bayside

Indigenous Coastal Sculpture Trail

On Saturday June 21 Mayor Andrew McLorinan, Councillors, guests and interested Baysiders attended the launch of three outdoor sculptures installed at North Rd., Red Bluff and Ricketts Point.

Long planned as part of the art trail begun in the 1990s, the impressive sculptures are each based on Boon wurrung stories, ten of which have been written – from the oral tradition – by Carolyn Briggs, Boon wurrung Elder. Each sculpture has introductory signage. You can read all the stories at

www.bayside.vic.gov.au/arts_indigenous_trail_stories/htm

At North Rd. Glenn Romanis has created – out near the rocky beach - *The Barraimal [Emu] Constellation*, a visual overlay of the male emu and eggs on the star 'formation', with the Southern Cross as its head.

On top of Red Bluff, at Love St., is his interpretation of *The Ancient Yarra River with Bunjil's Eggs*, a schematic vision in stone of the Port Phillip area as the Boon Wurrung knew it long ago, with the life force of creator Bunjil represented by six eggs, one for each Boon Wurrung clan.

At Ricketts Point, just north of the Teahouse, is Ellen Jose's *Boon Wurrung Blossom*, which evokes the flowers Boon wurrung women wore when living seasonally in the well sheltered and food-rich area. At the launch, Ellen spoke of "the important role reconciliation plays in connecting all those who have made the Boon wurrung's land their home together with the first inhabitants of this land".

A lot of the coloured stone used – sandstone, limestone, basalt – is from Victoria, with some from Europe and Queensland where artistic priorities held sway!

So... get on yer bike down the coast path, or the 600 bus, and have a look this winter! The works have been a long time in the planning and execution, with support funding dating from before the Commonwealth games, but are a great achievement by all concerned.

Apology

Responding to the *Get Up* initiative back in April, two gatherings were held in Bayside to take a fresh look at Reconciliation as the nation responded to the parliamentary Apology to Australia's stolen generations. One of these produced a petition to Bayside Council, who themselves responded with a decision to make its own formal and appropriate Apology in the near future.

Indigenous Strategy, 2009 – 11

The Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee has drafted what it would like to see in a renewed commitment by Council towards Reconciliation. In coming months, it is hoped to further research particular items, then submit the draft for Council consideration before the coming local government elections.

New items include appointment of an Indigenous Liaison officer – possibly in cooperation with other Councils – and beginning an Indigenous employment program; and we want to explore possibilities involved in a 'sister-city' (town? settlement?) relationship between Bayside and a remote Australian location.

Council has already decided to budget for the compilation and publication of a booklet showcasing Indigenous Bayside – not so much a telling of the Ngaruk willam / Boon wurrung story, as published a few years ago, as a way to underline the diversity of ways the city has already moved towards recognition of the Kulin legacy we share.
Ken Blackman, Co-Chair, IAAC

'Racism Makes Me Sick' – a new national ANTaR campaign

Many Australians felt a new level of optimism as the Prime Minister committed his government to closing the life

expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation. But 'closing the gap' is not just a task for governments. It needs all of us.

Individual anti-racism action is the aim of the campaign. If you have ever felt powerless, or at a loss for ideas on how to end Indigenous disadvantage, this campaign will help you make a real difference.

You can sign a Personal Pledge to show your commitment, at www.ANTaR.org.au, where you can also find fact sheets and hints on how to effectively speak up when you encounter racist or misinformed comments.

State Library Dreamtime Stories

Hear Dreamtime stories that have been passed on by many generations, told by a storyteller from the Aboriginal community, and take part in art and craft activities.

8664 7555

www.slv.vic.gov.au

**Exhibition: 'Out of the Dark' – the 1951 play revisited
Friday 4 July – Wed 20 August, City Gallery,
Melbourne Town Hall, corner of Swanston and Collins
streets. Free event**

www.Melbourne.vic.gov.au

In 1951 an arts festival and parade of floral floats through the city streets was planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Federation. The absence of any Indigenous content rankled the Australian Aborigines League and Pastor Doug Nicholls. To redress the situation he obtained funding for a theatrical performance titled 'An Aboriginal Moomba: Out of the Dark'.

NAIDOC March and Federation Square Program

The march provides an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The march departs from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy and proceeds into the heart of the CBD at Fed Square.

Friday 11 July, starts 186 Nicholson Street Fitzroy at 10 am. Arrives at Fed Square around 11 am. Free event

Visible: A Free Concert

Presented as part of MIX IT UP by the Arts Centre in association with Multicultural Arts Victoria

Sunday 20 July 5 pm

Arts Centre, Hamer Hall

www.theartscentre.com.au

Be part of a musical revolution on Sunday July 20 as contemporary and traditional African, Pacific, West Papuan and Indigenous cultures come together in a massive showcase concert.

LUCKY COUNTRY

Who owns this country?
Where do they come from?

Are they Australians?
Are they Poms?

What did they bring here?
What do they speak?

Do they speak English?
Do they speak Greek?

They bring trouble.
They bring guns.

Shoot you dead
You nothing but a bum.

They say you're a no hoper
You no good.

You just nothing
You're just a boong

Where can we go?
Where can we stay?

Stand up and fight
Kneel down and pray.

We have to do something
We have to together

We can't do it alone
We can make it better

So, come on you people
Let's come as one

Bring your family
Children, Dad and Mum

Bring all your friends
Bring all relations

This is what we call!
Reconciliation.

© COPYRIGHT 2001 Dennis Fisher. Reprinted with permission