

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: 0401 716 448
Email: rule@comcen.com.au

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.
March, 2008

FROM THE CHAIR – Rosemary Rule

Wednesday, 13 February 2008 is a date that will be etched into the memory of this nation. On this historic, euphoric date marking the first day of business for the new parliament, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said sorry, not once but three times “for the pain, suffering and hurt of these stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind” and then spent 20 minutes dealing with what he named as the “unfinished business of the nation.” His speech was electric and engendered a feeling of euphoria, celebration and hope, not to mention a spirit of bipartisanship not seen for decades. Patrick Dodson, chairman of the Lingari Foundation and former chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, reckoned those few words spoken by the Prime Minister can open the bridge to a shared future. He also said that “it takes courage to begin a journey when the destination is imagined but not known.”

The journey for many of us began that day at the Community Breakfast in St Kilda’s O’Donnell Gardens hosted by Martin Foley, MP and State Member for Albert Park in consultation with our group, the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Port Phillip. Although arranged at extremely short notice, more than 100 people, including elders and community members, PPCfR members and the media, turned out at 8am on that cool morning. Speeches from Martin Foley, Mayor Janet Cribbes, Liberal MLC for the Southern Metropolitan Region Andrea Coote and Boonwurrung Elder Carolyn Briggs seemed to have an added poignancy. The two poems (one reproduced below) read by Dennis Fisher, poet, broadcaster and PPCfR’s Co-Chair, were the perfect finale for the start of what was to be a momentous day. We thank Martin Foley for taking the initiative and arranging this event. Afterwards, a bus transported elders and some supporters into Federation Square to join around 10,000 people gathered there to watch the apology broadcast live on the big screen. Many stayed

on for the lunch time speeches and concert featuring talented performers including Archie Roach, Ruby Hunter, Dave Arden and Peter Rotumah. Later, we could relive the history-making events covered by every media outlet for days afterwards, allowing time to read, analyse and absorb the implications of the apology. Long may they linger.

PPCfR is keen to ensure the journey continues. At our first meeting for the year in February, those present agreed to write an Open Letter to support the work of the Stolen Generations Alliance, to press for compensation as and where appropriate, and to support implementation of the 54 Recommendations of the *Bringing them Home Report*. There are many paths to follow on this journey of course and we’re open to suggestions and we’ll be consulting with the Indigenous community to make sure that we’re on the right path. If you’re interested in knowing more, contact our office and visit www.stolengenerationsvictoria.org.au or www.reconciliationivc.org.au. Media coverage of the Community Breakfast included an article in the Emerald Hills Weekly Elder about Aunty Maria Starcevic, former Port Phillip Citizen of the Year who herself is a stolen child. Information and photos have been posted onto the Council’s website, www.portphillip.vic.gov.au.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting

Tuesday, 18th March, 2008, 6.30pm, 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne.
Everyone most welcome.

Yalukit Wilam Ngargee:

YWN People Place Gathering festival celebrating Indigenous bay culture was another successful local community event sponsored by the City of Port Phillip.

PPCfR had a stall at the community day in O'Donnell Gardens on 2 February and hosted boomerang painting for kids, small and big. We enjoyed the chance to meet and talk with new people and see old friends.

Poem by Den the Fish

This is one of the poems Dennis Fisher read at the Community Breakfast, St Kilda, 13th February 2008. Dennis has kindly given us permission to print it here.

Come From

We have language
Comes from England
We have law
Comes from England

We have the constitution
Comes from England

We have the Union Jack
Comes from England

We have the Monarchy
Comes from England

Convicts came from England

Captain Cook came from England

The First Fleet came from England.

I have hope
....that doesn't come from England!

©denthefish 2002

The Dirty Mile

This dramatised Walking Trail through Indigenous Fitzroy runs till 16 March. At the return season of Ilbijerri's Deadly Award winning show The Dirty Mile, the audience meets our heroes and activists in the organisations, pubs, churches and back lanes around "Dirty Gerty" - Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. Thurs, Fri and Sat 7pm, Sat and Sun 2pm. Tickets: \$20 - \$30 through Malthouse Ticketing Service 03 9685 5111 or malthousetheatre.com.au or visit <http://www.ilbijerri.org.au>.

Garma 2008

This year's key Forum theme is 'Indigenous Knowledge: caring for culture and country'. The 10th Garma Festival of Traditional Culture will be held at Gulkula in Northeast Arnhem Land, 8-12 August 2008. Those interested in attending can get further information for the festival held under the auspices of the Yothu Yindi Foundation via www.garma.telstra.com or www.healingplace.com.au

Creating Futures: Indigenous, Rural & Remote and Island Nations in Transition

Scheduled for 22-25 September, the organisers invite abstracts by March 28. For full details on this 4-day conference hosted by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, see http://conorg.com.au/library2008/Call_for_Papers_Creating_Futures_2008.pdf.

News from Reconciliation Victoria

Merchandise now available around RECONCILIATE 08! includes new t-shirts, stickers, badges, brochures and other resources. Give us a call if you'd like to purchase some in bulk at cost price to sell for your local group, or drop into our office to fit yourself out! Photos and prices on our website, www.reconciliationvic.org.au, or phone 9662 1645.

Power & beauty Indigenous art now

17 November - 10 March 2008 Venue: Heide III: Central Galleries Curator: Judith Ryan, Senior Curator, Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Victoria
http://www.heide.com.au/exhibitions/power_and_beauty
PPCfR group visit to Exhibition tour – Power & beauty, Indigenous art now: **2:00 pm Sunday 2 March 2008**. Volunteer guide. Tickets: FREE with admission \$12/8. Venue: Heide III: Central Galleries. Contact Steve 0423100952

Report from Bayside Indigenous Affairs Advisory Committee

At its meeting on 4 February, new Co-Chairs were elected for the coming year: Isabel de la Rambelya (9583 5439) and Ken Blackman (9521 6184). Diana Pittcock and Linda Sparrow's leadership for the last 3 years was warmly acknowledged.

Even after the recent retirement of long-serving stalwarts Chris Tate and David Hall the Committee has 14 very active members who work to advance Bayside Council's practical commitment to full Indigenous recognition and inclusion in our community. Six more meetings are planned for the year.

By mid-year, it is expected that the three sculptures, by Ellen Jose and Glen Romanes, will be officially installed at their location along the coast as part of Bayside's Indigenous Trail. Watch for publicity, and opportunity to access the wonderful stories that background the Trail, from Boon Wurrung Elder Caroline Briggs. It is hoped that their launch might take place during Reconciliation Week in May, or during NAIDOC Week soon after.

Plans to implement Council's commitment to establishing one or more local Sites of Reconciliation are in active negotiation. Under detailed consideration are 3 sites of special importance to the original custodians of our Bayside area, or to present Baysiders. All will be shaped to

acknowledge the Boon Wurrung people, and either to *celebrate* their survival and culture, or to *reflect* on the changes 200 years has brought to their, now our, world.

Meanwhile, it seems that the findings of the Bayside Indigenous Heritage Study, completed many months ago, will not be known until after registered Aboriginal parties are appointed for this area under the Cultural Heritage Act.

Committee work has begun to form recommendations to Council about an Indigenous Strategy Plan for 2009-11. Current discussion includes:

- Publicity for Indigenous Bayside, through a booklet showcasing all the ways in which, this century, Council has worked for Reconciliation. Inclusion of Indigenous Bayside in the 2009 BCC calendar is also of interest
- Council initiatives in Indigenous employment in Bayside
- Formation of a regional, inter-municipal organization involving Bayside - for action and sharing in Indigenous justice initiatives, such as the existing one involving a number of Councils in and beyond Melbourne's south-east
- A 'sister-community' initiative, linking Bayside with an interested Indigenous Australian community.

Bayside Reconciliation Group has not met this year.

Contact: Secretary, Jim Richardson 95988006.

Ken Blackman

Alcaston Gallery Exhibitions

11 Brunswick Street Fitzroy

4 March – 15 March 2008:

The estate of the Late Johnny Warrangkula Tjupurrula

18 March – 5 April:

Pedro Wonaeamirri

Herring Island Summer Arts Festival Exhibitions

Koorie Heritage Trust

'Gnokan Danna Murra Kor-ki'

Opens 12 noon – 2 pm 15 March 2008, exhibition 12-5 pm on 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 March 2008.

www.koorieheritagetrust.com

Sean Choolburra – Live and Deadly

A charismatic and captivating blend of 'Deadly' standup, yarns, dance, rap and didge. As seen on *The Footy Show* and in Episode 19 last on *Thank God You're Here*.

Melbourne International Comedy Festival, April 1-5; April 8-12. Venue: Imperial Hotel, Cnr Bourke & Spring Sts, Melbourne, 8.30 pm. Ticketmaster 1300 660 013 & at the door. Full \$22, Laugh Pack \$20.

www.seanchoolburra.com

Northcote Town Hall

Koorie Night Market

The Northcote Town Hall is hosting a Koorie Night Market with a focus on arts and crafts by local and Victorian

Aboriginal artisans as well as Bush Food and other produce. This is a **free** public event.

Time: Wednesdays 5.30 – 10.00 pm

12, 19 and 26 March 2008

Contact: john.smith@darebin.vic.gov.au

City of Yarra launches important Indigenous project

The project, called Aboriginal Heritage Fitzroy Plaques and Places, is a result of council's Aboriginal Partnerships Plan and will be launched on 13 March, 5.00 – 6.00pm, Builders Arms Hotel. At completion the project will mark 15 sites in total. The project was inspired by Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre's production of *The Dirty Mile*. Further info: www.yarracity.voc.gov.au

Lake Bolac Eel Festival

This festival aims to provide a low cost public artistic and cultural event that will promote the restoration of Lake Bolac and surrounding stream systems.

www.eelfestival.org.au/Festival.html

Black Harmony Gathering 2008 – Free event

Sunday 16 March, 12 pm – 4pm.

The Fairfield Amphitheatre, Heidelberg Rd. Fairfield

The Black Harmony Gathering is held as a celebration of cultural diversity in Harmony Week, which also marks the United Nations Elimination of Racism day.

<http://www.mulitculturalarts.com.au/>

Tribal Expressions

A free event showcasing the wide range of Indigenous businesses and products available in Victoria.

Where: The Atrium, Federation Square

Date: Thursday, 13 March, 11am – 7pm.

Contact: Koori Business Network, Tel 1300 799 526

News from ANTaR

Get active! Turn up the heat on Indigenous justice!

ANTaR Community info night

Wed 26 March 6pm – 7:30pm.

Brotherhood of St Laurence Building, Father Tucker's Room, 67 Brunswick St Fitzroy (enter from Palmer St) RSVP by 24 March to Jacinda on 9419 3613.

A chance to learn more about ANTaR, and what you can do to change the discrimination experienced by Indigenous people in Australia. Guest speakers, drinks and nibbles, and a short film.

ANTaR: The Rights Stuff 07/08 Catalogue

For enquiries or more information about the Rights Stuff Catalogue, contact ANTaR on 02 9555 6138

www.antar.org.au/onlineshop

Recommended Book:

Anouk Ride, *The Grand Experiment*

Colourful and tragic story of two young Aboriginal boys in the 1850's who leave their tribe, the story of Father Salvado Rosendo, a Spanish missionary in Western Australia, and his 'grand experiment of the civilisation of the Aboriginies ... on a scale that has never yet been attempted in this part of the world'. Hachette Livre Australia.