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Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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May, 2008

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Indigenous matters received widespread coverage during the recent 2020 Summit in Canberra and thankfully, interesting conversations are continuing about some of the main ideas discussed. They included: 'constitutional recognition and other forms of legal recognition' for Aborigines, a treaty or formal settlement, early childhood education, mandatory health and education 'compacts' with Aboriginal parents about their children, increasing boarding school places for indigenous students and the delivery of services to remote communities. An immediate and positive-sounding outcome came from Indigenous affairs Minister Jenny Macklin who said that the government had not ruled out the idea of a treaty. Compensation to members of the Stolen Generation may have been discussed but was not one of the main publicly reported outcomes. Nonetheless, PPCfR is continuing to press for the establishment of a compensation fund.

Other significant events are taking place in May: Sorry Day, 26 May and Reconciliation Week, 27 May - 3 June, which will have particular significance following the acknowledgement and national apology delivered by parliament on February 13. At last, it seems possible to make a real reconciliation possible. The theme for Reconciliation Week 27 May-3 June is *'RECONCILIATE 08: Let's walk the mile, let's reconcile'*. This year, PPCfR is pleased to be able to be supporting the lunch being planned in conjunction with the City of Port Phillip for community members and friends in the St Kilda Town Hall on Sorry Day. We are also a sponsor and stallholder at the 'Reconciliate 08: Dreaming Together' public event being held in Federations Square on Friday, 23 May being organized by the City of Melbourne. Aiming to interest and inform the general public, and school children, in particular, the day will feature keynote speakers, entertainment and information stalls and if it's like last year's inaugural event, will be a day not to be missed. By the way, if you'd like to help out with this or any other of public event, please let me know. For details of some of the events being held during

Reconciliation Week, see news item below. It's worth noting that they can present some good opportunities to look, learn and participate in some pretty interesting events, not to mention mixing and meeting with our fellow Australians of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

In an effort to get out and meet people and interest some in joining the group, we have set up information stalls at two events recently. The first was an event organized by the Melbourne Social Forum at the EcoCentre, St Kilda which unfortunately did not attract many visitors; the second was at the April Farmers' Market held at Gasworks Park. Although most people there were more concerned with buying the wonderful produce on offer, we spoke to several people including Martin Foley, the Member for Albert Park, who had actually suggested the idea for this stall when we met him during his first weeks in office, and attracted a new member. Please remember that we are always open to invitations from other groups or organizations to provide speakers, an information stall, boomerang painting for children or to participate in relevant events. We are also keen to support like-minded groups within the community and are looking forward, for instance, to being involved with Inner South Community Health Services' Indigenous programs – and there may be opportunities for members to become actively involved. More information mentioned below.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting

Tuesday, 20th May, 2008, 6.30pm, 195 Bank Street, South Melbourne.

Everyone most welcome.

Reconciliation Week Activities

Friday May 23: Reconciliate 08: Dreaming Together, Federations Square public event (day). Hosted by the City of Melbourne Indigenous unit in partnership with

Reconciliation Victoria. PPCfR will be among the stallholders.

Saturday May 24: The Long Walk from Federation Square to the G. 2.30pm-5pm. Followed by the AFL Dreamtime @ the G, Essendon v's Richmond match.

Monday May 26 – Sat 31: Relaunch of 'Songlines of a Mutti Mutti Man' at North Melbourne Town Hall - the story of the Edwards family.

12 May-22 June – Exhibition of work by Jim Berg, Chapel off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel street, Prahran, sponsored by the City of Stonnington and supported by Stonnington Citizens for Reconciliation.

Tuesday May 27: City of Yarra will host a Parkies BBQ at the Rotunda behind Collingwood flat Harmsworth Street.

Sunday June 1: Groove for Reconciliation, Maza Sisters and Ross Hannaford Trio 2-6pm, Geelong Performing Arts Centre. Contact Reconciliation Victoria, phone 9662 1645 or visit:

www.reconciliationvic.org.au
www.reconciliationvic.org.au

News from ANTaR

ANTaR has launched a new national campaign: Racism Makes me Sick, and is calling on Australians to take action against racism and tackle the Indigenous health crisis. The Body Shop will promote the campaign in their stores for the next three weeks as part of their commitment to promoting reconciliation in Australia. Racism, as a direct influence on health, helps explain in part the Australian Indigenous health crisis. **Three out of four Indigenous Australians experience racism in their everyday lives.** Heart disease, premature births, hypertension and mental illness can all result from personal experiences of racism. YOU can do something to help overcome the Indigenous health crisis in Australia: stand up to racist attitudes in workplaces, schools and in your family. Sign the pledge, Test your assumptions ... take the quiz, Find out more about the campaign. They also recently launched *SeaChange*, a national quarterly magazine. Their vision for *SeaChange* is to create a **meeting space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous voices** to exchange news, views, arts and issues. In the Autumn issue, editor Rob O'Brien looks at people's reactions to the apology on February 13. In *Your Say* readers share their thoughts and feelings from the day. We also pose a focus question and invite you to respond for inclusion in our next edition. We review Andrew Gunstone's book *Unfinished Business*, and feature the stand against racism taken by Koori Mail columnist Stephen Hagan in his new film, *Nigger Lovers*. *SeaChange* magazine will be available on ANTaR's website: www.antar.org.au, phone: (02) 9555 6138, email: antar@antar.org.au.

PPCfR needs help!

PPCfR is keen to find some more members willing to assist is with stalls and other special events we participate in from time to time. Even if you only have an hour or so, your presence will be most welcome. It's highly likely that your time will be well spent meeting like-minded people, connecting with members of the local community and being a little more involved with the reconciliation movement which is now progressing into a new and interesting phase.

If you can help us, please get in touch with the office or send an email.

Supporting ISCHS

Inner South Community Health Services (ISCHS) offers a range of services across their four sites as well as out in the community, including Indigenous Access that works with the indigenous community to meet their health needs. Some of ISCHS's services are available only to people with health care or concession cards. There is a small fee charged for most of its services; however, people will not be denied a service if they cannot pay. Kokwam Wapau and Naomi Prior, who work closely with the Indigenous community, oversee various activities for Our Rainbow Place such as the fortnightly BBQs at Veg Out, groups for men and for women, computer courses at Elwood Neighbourhood House, excursions and special events. On 8 May they're hosting a sports day and on 9 July (to be confirmed) during NAIDOC Week, a family day. PPCfR is keen to support their work as and where we can, so for instance we will have a stall and/or boomerang painting. Individually there may be opportunities to help with the Wominjeka barbecues and activities at Veg Out organised as part of the Indigenous Access program. If you are interested, contact Kokwam for more details, 9525 3180 or email: kwapau@ischs.org.au

University Conference

'New Worlds: New Sovereignties', a cross-community interdisciplinary international conference being held 6-9 June, University of Melbourne. For details visit www.newsovereignties.org

Mallacoota District Reconciliation

WORKING AND WALKING TOGETHER is a special event in the spirit of Reconciliation with the Aboriginal people being held on Thursday, 1 May, 7.00pm in the Mudbrick Pavilion Mallacoota. Ben Cruse, from Monaro Country, and Merv Graham, a Kukuimiji man visiting Mallacoota will speak about how we can work and walk together with a stronger resolve now that our Government has at last said 'Sorry.' For details, contact Jean Nickels, Secretary, 03 5158 0367.

NAIDOC Week

Reminder that celebrations for NAIDOC Week will be held between 6-13 July and will include a flag raising ceremony at the St Kilda Town Hall as well as ISCHS's sports day. More details in the next issue.

Anglican Archbishop Freier's Response to the Apology

The March issue of 'The Melbourne Anglican' reported the response of Archbishop Philip Freier on the Apology. He said it was a profound day in which Australia had an opportunity to 'come of age'. 'Symbolic reparation is important in dealing with the past. A formal apology, which recognizes and expresses sorrow for the deep pain and hurt of Indigenous children who were removed from their families, and for the anguish of families and communities

who were traumatised by the removal of their children, provides the opportunity for a process of genuine healing to begin.' Dr. Freier said that by facing the painful experience of the Stolen Generations and taking responsibility for the effects of government policy, 'the darkness of denial and prejudice has been exposed to the light of honesty, truth and compassion.'... 'Let Wednesday 13 February be remembered as the day when parliament, on behalf of all Australians, not only made a symbolic gesture, but also made a new start in its determination to work with Indigenous Australians to ensure that the opportunities for Indigenous Australians to live healthy, happy, meaningful, fulfilled and prosperous lives are just as great as for non-Indigenous Australians.'

Henry Ward

Indigenous Bayside Perspectives

Indigenous Bayside Perspectives group exhibition communicates the many different understandings of Indigenous peoples living within the Port Phillip and Bay side area. Featuring artists Bindi Cole, Reko Rennie-Gwaybilla, Michelle Wise, Winja Ulupna women artists, Salvation Army Indigenous Arts Access artists and Our Rainbow Place artists.
Exhibition Dates: 22 May - 20 June
Exhibition Launch and Reconciliation Day Flag Raising Saturday 24 May
ARTrium, Bayside City Council, Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham 3191
Contact: Ph. 9599 4444
enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au

Bunjil's view, tour: Discover the bush

Wednesdays in April and May, 11 am- 12.30 pm.
\$6.50 adults, \$5.50 children/concessions.
Tel: 03 5990 2245. Bookings required.
Join Wurundjeri Elder Vicki Nicholson-Brown on a guided walk through the RBG Cranbourne. Discover the customs and rich heritage of the traditional custodians of this land. The tour will start with a traditional Tanderrum and Gum Leaf welcome ceremony.
<http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/rbg>

Fed Square Freestage

Yul Lull: VCA Music Indigenous Ensemble
Wednesday 30 April, Thursday 1 May-Sun 4 May, 12:00 pm

New Work by Stephen Page

Bangarra Dance Theatre,
Mathinna, a girl's journey between two cultures.
16-24 May, The Arts Centre, Playhouse.
Bookings Ticketmaster 1300 136 166
www.ticketmaster.com.au

Remembering Indigenous Service, Friday 23 May 11 am

Presenter: Ian Hamm.
In the lead up to National Reconciliation Week Ian Hamm, Deputy Director of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, tells some

of the history of Indigenous service from the First World War through to modern conflicts. A ceremony to commemorate the service of Victorian Indigenous returned service men and women takes place at the Shrine of Remembrance on **Saturday 31 May, 11 am.**
Information: 03 9654 8415, email: reception@shrine.org.au.
www.shrine.org.au

National Reconciliation Week 2008 Exhibition

Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran
Jim Berg, Gunditjmara
12 May – 22 June
'Have Camera, Will Travel', portrait exhibition.
2 – 22 June
'Silent Witness', Scar Tree exhibition.
Opening night launch Wed 4 June, 6 pm. Ph. 8290 1333

2008 Next Wave Festival

Next Wave is Victoria's major biennial event for young emerging artists. Events include:
* **Wrong Skin**, featuring Allan Clarke, Colin Kinchela, Mathew Shields, at Tower Theatre, Malthouse Theatre
* **Urgent**, performance based on a novel written by four young women exploring their heritage, at Carlton Courthouse
* **Not Really Aboriginal, Bindi Cole**, exhibition, Centre for Contemporary Photography, 404 George St, Fitzroy. For dates and times of these events, see:
<http://2008.nextwave.org.au/festival/>

Heart of St Kilda Concert, fundraiser for Sacred Heart Mission, featuring Paul Kelly, Tex Perkins, Kev Carmody, Des Dowling, Ruby Hunter, Archie Roach, Choir of Hard Knocks and more.
Friday 23 May, Palais Theatre
Tickets \$69, www.ticketmaster.com.au 136 100

Talking Heads, ABC 1, Monday May 12, 6:30 pm

Peter Thompson interviews Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, both members of the Stolen Generation.

Kutch Edwards

Mon 26 May – Sat 31 May, Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall
Kutch performs original songs interspersed with stories about his friends and family.
www.kutch-edwards.com

Sing a Song of Protest

Kevin Rudd's Sorry speech has been sampled in a new version of *From Little Things Big Things Grow*, by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody. The song also samples excerpts from Paul Keating's Redfern speech and is accompanied by a video clip featuring the singers and musicians as well as John Butler, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, Leah Purcell, Ernie Dingo, Anthony Mundine and Matty Bowen. Proceeds from the song will support the GetUp Reconciliation Fund.