

# Mungo...



## Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yalukit Wilum clan of the BoonWurrung Nation who are the traditional owners and custodians of the land.

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September 2016

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Writing Competition

The deadline for entries is **Friday 16 September**, so please get writing! Liz Gallois reports that Graeme Wilson Real Estate has kindly donated the \$500 first prize for the winner of the adult section, and there are prizes also for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place primary and secondary students. Visit [ppcfr.org](http://ppcfr.org) for details and an entry form.

### Referendum/Treaty

The Referendum Council, which is responsible for advising the Government on the Referendum's timing and the question that should be put, announced last month it is delaying its final report to Government, saying it wants to make sure it properly consults all Australians. I've canvassed the idea of presenting a Forum to raise public awareness on Treaty-related issues with the Council's Todd Condie and Daniel Carter and will wait for updates as to how and when to proceed.

### Royal Commission

I was as shocked as most Australians to learn about the abuse of juveniles at the Don Dale Detention Centre in the NT which was aired on the ABC's *Four Corners*, but heartened when public pressure led to the resignation of the first commissioner appointed by the Prime Minister and the subsequent appointment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda and former Queensland Supreme Court Justice Margaret White AO as co-commissioners.

### Local Reconciliation Groups (LRG) Forum

I attended the LRG Forum hosted by ANTaR Victoria on 13 August with fellow PPCfR members Helen Bennett and Yosefine Deans. It was a great opportunity to hear from other local group members from across Victoria about their successes – and challenges – and also to hear from the very inspiring guest speaker, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) CEO, Professor Muriel Bamblett. A member of the Treaty

Working Group, she suggested some actions to take including local Reconciliation groups letting the Premier know there is support for Treaty, "myth busting", and establishing a Futures Fund for Aboriginal programs. Further information inside.

### City of Port Phillip Council

Ten interpretive signs commemorating places of significance have been installed within the City of Port Phillip. Council has accepted the evaluation report for the organisation's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and approved the development process for its second RAP. Refer Todd Condie's article. My thanks to Daniel Carter for helping finalise PPCfR's 2015-16 grant acquittal forms.

### Guest Speaker

Please come and hear Chloe Hohneck talk about her role as Elwood Primary's Reconciliation team leader next month.

### Diary Date

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 18 October** with a special guest speaker. All members and friends are invited to attend. Details in the next issue.

### Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: **Tuesday 20 September, 6.30 pm**, South Melbourne Community Hub, Fishley Street, South Melbourne. Guest speaker Chloe Hohneck. Refreshments afterwards. Free. All welcome.



## RECVIC NEWS

### **Four Corners**

Along with most of Australia we were appalled by the recent *Four Corners* story exposing the severe mistreatment of young people in the NT youth detention system. Such sickening injustice must stop! A Royal Commission should give confidence that justice will be done, but shamefully many recommendations of past Royal Commissions and inquiries, including those related to Aboriginal Deaths in Custody which were released 25 years ago, continue to be ignored and governments must be held accountable. Such injustices are directly related to systemic racism and this must be considered by the Royal Commission. We support Change the Record's Open Statement which calls for the Royal Commission to be independent and broader in scope. The insidious racism that enables these and many others injustices to continue in Australia in 2016 was bluntly portrayed in this week's cartoon in *The Australian*, which unbelievably, perpetuated derogatory stereotypes about Aboriginal people on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. The racism must stop.

### **Treaty & Constitutional Recognition Update**

RecVic has been keeping our networks informed about both Treaty developments and Constitutional Recognition via our eNews and social media. To enhance our organisational capacity in these areas we've been able to secure a small amount of funds to recruit a short-term role allowing RecVic to provide a balanced and informed voice to our networks. Interim Treaty Working Group will be established to consult Aboriginal people in Victoria and advise the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs on the development of Treaty and broader self-determination agenda. They will provide advice on the process and timing for Treaty, guidance on community engagement, and examining options for a permanent Victorian Aboriginal representative body. For more information on the Treaty Interim Working Group, please go to the Terms of Reference on the Aboriginal Victoria webpage. The Working Group will report back at the next state-wide Forum in Melbourne in early December, where Aboriginal Victorians will meet to discuss the Group's work, outcomes of community-led consultations and the next steps for the Victorian Government.

### **Constitutional Recognition**

Referendum Council will be holding nation-wide Aboriginal community consultations over the next few months. They released a statement on 9 August indicating that a 2017 Referendum was unrealistic due to the need for consultation, and that 2018 was more likely. They will provide an interim report on 8 September and a final report soon.

### **ANTAR VICTORIA**

Notes and other material from the recent ANTAR/RecVic Local Reconciliation Groups Forum are available via [www.antarvictoria.org.au](http://www.antarvictoria.org.au). By joining The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples you will be kept up-to-date on issues including Constitutional Recognition. This national body is a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. As a company, the Congress is owned and controlled by its membership and is independent of Government. It will lead and advocate for recognising the status and rights of First Nations Peoples in Australia. The National Board is led by member-elected male and female Co-Chairs, Dr Jackie Huggins and Rod Little, who, along with the other six Directors, represent

our members and set the priorities and agenda for Congress. Become a Friend of Congress and receive a regular *CongressMob* e-News each month and be kept up-to-date with any special announcements or opportunities to assist or support Congress. To learn more, visit <http://nationalcongress.com.au/friends-of-congress>.

### **CITY OF PORT PHILLIP UPDATE**

You can now walk to places of significance for the First Peoples of the City of Port Phillip with the recent launch of ten interpretative signs. The signs, developed by Council in partnership with the Boon Wurrung Foundation, highlight sites of historical importance for the Yalukit Willam of the Boon Wurrung language group. They can be found at St Kilda Town Hall, Point Ormond, Beaconsfield Parade, Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda foreshore, West Beach, South Melbourne Market, Fraser Street, Lagoon Reserve and Port Melbourne foreshore. For more information go to Council's website: [portphillip.vic.gov.au/indigenous](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au/indigenous).

In other news, Council met recently at South Melbourne Town Hall to accept the evaluation report for the organisation's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), and approved the development process for its second RAP. Councillors highlighted some of the outcomes of the first RAP which included:

- Development of an Aboriginal protocols framework for Council staff
- Development of Victoria's only Indigenous Arts Strategy at the local government level
- Development of an Aboriginal employment policy and the current employment of eight Indigenous staff
- The naming of mainstream childcare centres in the Boon Wurrung language
- The launch of ten Aboriginal interpretative signs located in sites around the City of Port Phillip

The second RAP will continue the developments from the first RAP, with a particular focus on boosting Council's number of Indigenous employees.

*Todd Condie, Indigenous Policy Officer | Community Development, City of Port Phillip.*

### **SING UP COUNTRY, SING IT UP STRONG - THIS IS THE COUNTRY OF THE BOON WURRUNG**

On Sunday 21 August, the Baptist Church Reconciliation Action Plan concert opened with some of these words, sung by the Solstice Singers Choir. The drawcard for the occasion was Yirmal, guitarist and songwriter with a powerful voice; a strong proud Yolngu man from Arnhem Land. Yirmal is the 'young blood' of the next generation and *Young Blood* is the title of his soon-to-be released debut EP. Working with mentors Shane Howard, Neil Murray and Archie Roach, Yirmal is helping to pave the way for Indigenous youth.

Nigel Wearne, one of Australia's emerging singer-songwriters, also performed. The crowd loved his finger-style guitar, country twang and his stories of mischievous bank robbers and wandering poets. Nigel's current album *Black Crow* was recorded by Adelaide's Mick Wordley and has received impressive reviews across the board, including a 4-star review in *Rolling Stone* magazine.

The concert was organised as a fundraiser for the Marmma' Rom Two Worlds Foundation which is a leadership program for the next generation of young men from North East Arnhem Land, with the vision of empowering these young men to walk confidently in 'two worlds'. ([www.mrf2worlds.org.au](http://www.mrf2worlds.org.au))

The audience showed great appreciation for all of the performances. For me, young Yirmmal showed great promise with his voice, lyrics and musicality, his ease in playing, and speaking with his audience; to the manner born. I also loved that he performed with Solstice and with Nigel, and he was such a generous encore provider. Helen Hoffman reports from the Church that approximately 140 people attended the concert (it was sold out). \$3400 went to the Marmma' Rom Foundation and a donation also went to Nigel Wearne's Pozible Campaign. Yirmmal has another Victorian performance at Kew Court House Mixed Bag, 188 High Street, Kew, Friday 9 September, at 8.00 pm.

Enquiries: [kch@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:kch@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

Liz Gallois, PPCfR and Solstice Choir member.



**Yirmmal sings with the Solstice Choir.**

*Photo courtesy Mark Moray, Wicked Rock Photography*

### **RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON (RecSton)**

RecSton held their 17th AGM on Tuesday 9 August. Our guest speaker, Jack Quigley from The Wilderness Society, gave an interesting and informative presentation on the work of the Society in support of Aboriginal communities. Councillor Erin Davie, representing the Mayor of Stonnington, gave an update on Council's Reconciliation activities and the forthcoming new Reconciliation Action Plan. Councillor Davie also thanked RecSton for their work. Local MP Sam Hibbins also addressed the meeting on state Reconciliation matters. Further discussion took place after the meeting over food and drinks.

Public consultations are now taking place in preparation for the new RAP, and the consultant, Ms Claire O'Kelly, will attend our next meeting on Tuesday 13 September to meet with RecSton members.

*Ro Bailey, Secretary, RecSton*

### **INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY**

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) Great Book Swap will be held in workplaces and schools all over Australia on Indigenous Literacy Day - **Wednesday 7 September** - to raise funds for Indigenous literacy. Last year, schools and businesses in Australia raised \$180,000 for Indigenous literacy. Register your school or workplace, swap one of your favourite books for someone else's, and make a gold coin donation. Any organisation, business, school, club or library can take part. Schools' Special Offer! Every school that registers for the 2016 Great Book Swap will go into the draw to win a class set of one of Andy Griffiths' books. Register via <http://www.greatbookswap.org.au/>.

Also on 7 September, the ILF will be celebrating at the Sydney Opera House to launch the new children's book *The Goanna Was Hungry*, written by ten children from remote communities in WA at an ILF writing camp with Sally Morgan and Ann James. They will also be launching a new song, *Words Make the World Go Around*, written by our ambassadors Josh Pyke, Deborah Cheetham and Justine Clarke with students from St Andrews (Gawura) in Sydney (available online at ABC).

### **STAN GRANT AND RICHARD FLANAGAN**

The Melbourne Athenaeum together with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and Readings are honoured to host an evening with award-winning journalist Stan Grant in conversation with ILF ambassador and Booker prize author Richard Flanagan to discuss, amongst politics and privilege, Grant's book *Talking to My Country*. 6.30 pm, **Tuesday 27 September**, Melbourne Athenaeum, 188 Collins Street. Tickets \$25-\$35 via [TryBooking.com](http://TryBooking.com). Enquiries: 0437 004 711.

### **VICTORIAN EARLY YEARS LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Gowrie Victoria have recently been working with the new Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF). This is not a curriculum as such, more a framework which guides our practice. Both a national and state version of the Framework were initially introduced in 2009. Since then Victoria has had a review which highlighted that Aboriginal perspectives were not as embedded as they ought to be. We are now pleased with this new update, as it privileges Aboriginal knowledge. I thought you may be interested to have a look at this work and the wonderful artwork of Annette Sax. I think it places Early Childhood in a much better position and I am very pleased to see the focus on Aboriginal knowledge resonating throughout the document.

*Karen Bonson, Gowrie Victoria (Docklands).*

*Note:* The VEYLDF in particular recognises and respects Aboriginal cultures and their unique place in the heritage and future of Victoria. Learning about and valuing the place of Aboriginal people will enhance all Victorian children's sense of place in our community. More at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/edcare/veylldframework.pdf>

## VICTORIAN PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARD FOR INDIGENOUS WRITING

The winners will be announced on **Thursday 8 September** along with a celebration of the languages of Australia's First People. Daniel Browning, Bruce Pascoe and Vicki Couzens will introduce and define a favourite word in language – then talk about why this word is precious and how it defies English translation. At the Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

### LAGANGU (FROM THE ISLANDS)

Linden New Art is proud to present a solo exhibition *Lagangu* (from the islands) by Alick Tipoti. One of the Torres Strait Islands' most dynamic artists, Tipoti will present a selection of lino-prints, paintings and sculptures that reflect his culture and depict many meaningful symbols about the land, sea and sky through customary Torres Strait Island patterns. Born and raised on Badu Island (Queensland), home to the biggest community in the outer Torres Strait, Tipoti was taught carving techniques by uncles from an early age. His involvement in making traditional dance costumes and dancing apparatus as a child led to his interest in creating art today. Tipoti is also one of the few remaining people who can speak the Torres Strait Island language of Kala Lagaw Ya fluently, another influence leading to the preservation of his culture and art practice. Exhibition ends 9 October. Linden Gallery, 26 Acland Street, St Kilda, phone 9534 0099.

### YANNAE WIRRATE WEELAM - THE JOURNEY

The Yanna Weerate Weelam Exhibition is currently on at Bunjalika Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Museum Victoria, until 9 November. The artists are participants in the post-release component of The Torch's Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program, after their release from prison.

### MELBOURNE FESTIVAL

The magical and enthralling Tanderrum ceremony at Federation Square will mark the beginning of this year's Festival of Arts and Culture from **6-23 October**. The program includes several other Indigenous-related performances. Advance bookings are recommended. Visit <https://www.festival.melbourne> to view the program.

### BANGARRA DANCE

*Our land, people, stories* is the title of the latest work from Bangarra's Artistic Director Stephen Page. Performances at the Arts Centre, **1-10 September**. Bookings: 1300 182 183.

### WORKS ON PAPER

Torres Strait Islander Daniel O'Shane took out the top prize at the 2016 National Works on Paper Prize. He is among the artists at the National Works on Paper exhibition at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Dunns Road, Mornington, until **11 September**. Information: [mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au)

## NIMA 2016 WINNERS

Gurrumul has reigned supreme again at this year's National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAs), taking out Artist of the Year for the fifth time. Newcomer Gawurra (Stanley Gaykamangu) won New Talent of the Year, Album, Cover Art and Film Clip. Song of the Year was awarded to Victorian artist Briggs for *The Children Came Back*, which also features Tasmania artist Dewayne Everettsmith and Gurrumul; Film Clip: *Ratja Yaliyali* by Gawurra; Community Music Clip: *Break The Silence*; Traditional Song of the Year: *Two Sisters Journey* - Ishmael Marika; Hall of Fame: Kutcha Edwards - Victorian Indigenous musician and activist.

### AUSTRALIAN BALLET'S WIRADJURI WOMAN

Ella Havelka knows she's not a conventional ballerina. The proud Wiradjuri woman made Australian history in 2013 by becoming the first Indigenous dancer in the 50-year-old Australian Ballet. Her hard work and determination has not only enabled her to reach her goal as a professional dancer, but by doing so she has changed the landscape of the Australian Ballet industry. Ella is now having her story told by Director Douglas Watkin in the film titled *Ella* that was screened at the Melbourne International Film Festival. The documentary shares how she engages with her Indigenous heritage through weaving baskets in the traditional Arnhem Land style, using pandanus and raffia in addition to her pointe-shoe ribbons. It features people who have inspired her including her mother, former teachers and friends, and family from Dubbo.

### WAVE HILL WALK-OFF

3 August 2016 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk-off. This event was a crucial moment in the national Aboriginal land rights movement and was an important influence of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Kalkarindji and Daguragu are on the traditional homelands of the Gurindji people, and these communities are linked to the Malgnin, Mudpurra, Bilinara, Ngarinman and Warlpiri peoples through the historic Walk-off from Wave Hill Station, which was initially established on Gurindji traditional lands in 1883. At the time of the Walk-off, Wave Hill Station had been owned by British Lord Vestey's family since 1914. The Gurindji Walk-off was initiated by Gurindji/Malgnin leader, Vincent Lingiari, on 23 August 1966 and lasted till 1974, an event which lit the fire that became the national land rights movement. On 26 August 1975, then Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam officially handed back his people's traditional lands to Vincent Lingiari in the community of Daguragu