

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet, and we pay our respects to their Elders; past, present and emerging.

This newsletter is supported by a Community Grant from the City of Port Phillip, and we acknowledge Nina Taylor MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for their ongoing support.

JULY 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

NAIDOC Week

Keep the Fire Burning! - Blak, Loud and Proud, NAIDOC's 2024 theme, celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, with a host of events between **7-14 July**. On **Tuesday 9 July**, Dr Marguerita Stephens and Boonwurrung Elder Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir OAM will give a free talk about their groundbreaking book *The Years of Terror - Banbu-deen: Kulin and Colonists at Port Phillip 1835-1851*, at the St Kilda Library, 6:30-7:30pm.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1233225>

On **Thursday 11 July**, a narrative of healing told with song and dance will be held at the library with the talented Amos Roach, 6:30-7:30 pm, also free.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1233361>

The Council's flag raising, smoking ceremony and yidaki performance is on **Tuesday 9 July**, 11-12 am, St Kilda Town Hall lawn, free. More NAIDOC news below.



The Victorian NAIDOC 2024 poster design winner is Deb Belyea, a proud member of the Samuawgadhagal Cassowary Clan. Her art is entitled *Urapun Muy* and means 'One Fire'. The design shows an Elder's hands carefully nurturing a glowing ember to portray the sacred act of passing down cultural wisdom and traditions to younger generations.

Education

For several years, our group has been making connections with Early Learning Centres in Port Phillip, and we're encouraged to see many engaging with First Nations providers. Astra Early Learning, Port Melbourne, have invited Edler Judith 'Jacko' Jackson to take part in several activities; other centres use appropriate resources, teach language and/or are implementing Reconciliation Action Plans. We're hoping to host a forum for ELC educators and also to reach out to maternal health centres. I'll post updates and welcome your ideas and suggestions, so please get in touch.

Congratulations

To the Co-Chairs of the Uluru Dialogue, Professor Megan Davis and Aunty Pat Anderson AO, awarded an Australia Peace Women Award by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; to Yankunytjatjara poet Ali Cobby Eckermann for her verse novel *She Is the Earth*, winner of both the Book of the Year and the Indigenous Writers' Prize at the NSW Premier's Literary Award and to the organisers of the Rising Festival for including several stand-out First Nations events.

Reconciliation Champions

Thank you to Reconciliation Victoria for acknowledging myself and PPCfR's Co-Chair Uncle Dennis Fisher as 'Reconciliation Champions who walked with us' during National Reconciliation Week.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 July 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,
Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 675 734.

VICTORIAN NAIDOC WEEK

Among the official National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week celebrations is the flag raising at Federation Square on **Monday 8 July**, the NAIDOC March from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Centre on **Wednesday 12 July** and the grand NAIDOC Ball at the Melbourne Convention Centre on **Thursday 13 July**. Melbourne Museum celebrates with a Welcome to Country on the Museum Plaza, events, performances and family activities such as Kooyang Eels, Dancing Dragonflies and a Gallery tour of Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, all on **Tuesday 7 July**, 10 am-3 pm.

Information:

<https://museums victoria.com.au/bunjilaka/whats-on/naidoc-week-family-day/>

ABC Education has partnered with the national NAIDOC committee and Culture is Life to develop the official Resources for 2024 under the guidance of Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman Aunty (Dr) Lynette Riley AO. See <https://www.abc.net.au/education/naidoc-week-2024-keep-the-fire-burning-education-resources/103898712>

PROVINCIAL ARCHDEACON - RECONCILIATION, RECOGNITION AND TREATY

In a historic move, Reverend Canon Uncle Glenn Loughrey has been appointed the Provincial Archdeacon - Reconciliation, Recognition and Treaty by the Anglican Church. *“After several years of advocating for a body to represent First Peoples and to work for Reconciliation, Recognition and Treaty, I have been tasked to lead this process across the Province of Victoria,”* he explained. *“This is a significant commitment and will require me to work closely with the Yoorrook Justice Commission, the First Peoples’ Assembly and Reconciliation Victoria.”*

Wiradjuri man and artist, Glenn is a priest at St Oswald’s



Church, Glen Iris, and has developed the Murnong First People’s Gathering Place and the Wominjeka Garden.

The Reverend Canon Uncle Glenn Loughrey, who has been appointed the Provincial Archdeacon - Reconciliation, Recognition and Treaty by the Anglican Church.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO MISSING FIRST NATIONS WOMEN

A two-year senate inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children, established after Yamatji-Noongar woman and Greens senator Dorinda Cox brought a motion to parliament, concluded last month. Up to 87 submissions were received by the inquiry, and hearings were held across NSW, VIC, ACT, NT and WA. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up 20 per cent of homicide victims in Australia, according to the Australian Institute of

Criminology, despite representing only 3.8 per cent of the population; almost a fifth of those victims are children. First Nations women are 33 times more likely to be hospitalised and six times more likely to die due to family violence compared to non-Indigenous women. A final report with findings and recommendations has been released.

CHILD PROTECTION POWERS TRANSFER TO INDIGENOUS VICTORIANS

The Victorian department responsible for child protection and housing is preparing for a *“likely transfer”* of powers to First Nations groups, resulting from Treaties being negotiated with the government. The Department of Fairness, Families and Housing (DFFH) is looking for an organisation to provide training to staff to *“increase readiness for Treaty”* and is set to begin negotiations with the First Peoples’ Assembly later this year. In 2023, the Yoorrook Justice Commission released a report recommending a major overhaul of the state’s child protection and criminal justice system, including that First Peoples have a stand-alone child protection system after evidence of systemic racism. Deputy Chair Sue-Anne Hunter said the Commission *“cautiously welcomes”* the department’s move. *“Educating and training department staff about injustice affecting First Peoples is a small step towards the government meeting one of Yoorrook’s 46 recommendations for change, but there is much, much more work to do to address ongoing harms against First Peoples.”*

RECONCILIATION NEWS

Reconciliation Victoria (RV) hosts the largest network of local reconciliation groups (LRGs) in Australia, and Victoria is now home to the second-highest number of organisations with Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) in any state in the country. RV is excited about these statistics that reveal there has been a 30 per cent increase in RAP organisations and LRGs in Victoria since the referendum; showing Victorians are more determined than ever to support Reconciliation. In other news, RV has appointed Emily Poelina-Hunter as Education Officer and First Nations Co-Chair (Acting) and Tony Stephen, Board Executive Member (Treasurer). Remember, RV is a not-for-profit organisation and relies on donations and partnerships to help create change and sustain the Reconciliation movement in Victoria. Donations help to fund ongoing work and projects to support meaningful Reconciliation; corporate sponsorships and partnerships welcomed; see <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/donations-page>. Reconciliation Stonnington members attended a Treaty information event at the Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place on 19 June. Murnong is a recently established Gathering Place to service the inner eastern suburbs, complementing the Mullum Mullum Gathering Place in the outer eastern suburbs. Technically in Boroondara, it is close to Stonnington and services Stonnington residents. Georgina and Michael Gartland presented an overview of the First Peoples’ Assembly

proposal for ally organisations to publicly pledge to support Treaty. A pledge consists of four principles: collaborate, educate, advocate, activate. Making a pledge follows an 11-step process including consultation, checking in with the Assembly, public declaration and continuous improvement. Discussion amongst the twenty participants raised issues about Treaty, timelines, educating the community and how best to communicate about Treaty – including what it means to us personally as non-First Peoples. Uncle Glen Loughrey, Murnong's Boss Man, hopes that these meetings will continue from time to time; they are worth attending for anyone interested in Reconciliation matters.

The City of Stonnington will host a flag raising and smoking ceremony for NAIDOC on **Thursday 4 July**. All Welcome. [NAIDOC Week - Flag raising & Smoking Ceremony | Humanitix](#).
Ro Bailey

RISING FESTIVAL HIT

This year's Rising Festival featured a range of events celebrating First Nations culture. PPCfR member Fiona Darroch-Green organised an outing to the opening night of *Big Name, No Blankets*, a tribute to the Warumpi Band, one of Australia's greatest rock bands. Including some of the original Butcher family band members, joined on stage by talented brothers and sisters, it showcased culture, storytelling, fabulous performances and music. *Blackfella/Whitefella* and the finale *My Island Home*, sung in language, was a joyous, dance-inducing end to a memorable theatrical experience.



Deb Stewart, Rosemary Rule and Fiona Darroch-Green (2nd from right) with audience members including Leila Gurruwiwi, Baker Boy and Sammy Butcher (front) - one of the original Warumpi band members - and members of his family.

RED EARTH IMMERSION FOR STUDENTS

Twenty-two fortunate Torquay College Year 6 students set out on a week-long Indigenous immersion experience to Culpra Milli Homeland (Barkindji Country on the Murray River), Lake Mungo (Mutthi Mutthi Country) and Balranald (Mutthi Mutthi Country on the Murrumbidgee River). They met Traditional Owners, participated in a Welcome To Country smoking ceremony, made their own traditional clap sticks and coolamons, painted boomerangs, listened to dreaming stories, made Johnny cakes over a fire, caught very big fish and enjoyed beautiful sunsets. The evening yarning circle around the fire was very special, especially the astronomy experience of picking out the Dark Emu in the night skies. They stepped up to engage with the Indigenous Elders and formed relationships with them,

learning to respect their connection to Country. A highlight was learning traditional dancing, using ochre to paint their faces and bodies and performing for their group. Girls made emu feather skirts and used gum leaves for their dance; boys made kangaroo pelt headbands and painted red ochre on their bodies to perform animal dances - kangaroo, emu, eagle and goanna.

Red Earth offers immersion for adults and school children in WA, NT, Qld and NSW and aims to empower Traditional Owners to share their stories and culture and provide an income for their work. This, the first group of primary school aged children, was extremely successful. Post immersion, the students pass on their knowledge with presentations and by creating displays, writing newspaper articles, creating small videos and marketing to Year 5 students. Torquay College should be congratulated for organising such an amazing experience for these students, who will be great ambassadors for Reconciliation well into the future. They are very fortunate to have such passionate teachers and supportive parents to facilitate such a life changing experience.

PPCfR member Janine Passlow has worked over a 10-year period in remote communities and is encouraged to see such programs in place to provide more awareness of Indigenous Culture, dispel myths

and address racism. Her grandson Mitchell participated in the immersion.



Torquay College Year 6 students gather around the campfire.

THE ARTS

Music

During NAIDOC Week, one of Australia's most loved singer-songwriters, Dan Sultan, performs alongside the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in *Dan Sultan x MSO*. Arts Centre, **12-13 July**.

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/>.

First Nations artist Ngulmiya and Australian ensemble ELISION join together for *ELISION + Ngulmiya* on **Friday 5 July**, Melbourne Recital Centre.

Books

The First Knowledge series introduces Indigenous knowledge in vital areas and its application to the present day and the future. Edited by Margo Neale, senior Indigenous curator at the National Museum of Australia, each book is a collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers and editors. The series includes *Songlines* by Margo Neale and Lynne Kelly, *Country* by Bill Gammage and Bruce Pascoe and *Plants* by Zena Cumpston, Michael Fletcher and Lesley Head. <https://www.welcometocountry.com>

