

Mungo...

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 thank them for their ongoing support.



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May 2025

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Sorry Day Lunch

It's with great pleasure that I invite members and friends to join me for the lunch we're hosting to commemorate National Sorry Day on **Monday 26 May** in the St Kilda Town Hall. PPCfR's Co-Chair, Dennis Fisher, aka "Den the Fish", will be the affable MC. Guests will be officially Welcomed to Country by Bunurong Elder Uncle Mark Brown, hear from City of Port Phillip Mayor Cr Louise Crawford and renowned singer/songwriter/guitarist James Henry, mingle with fellow community members and vie for some terrific raffle prizes. Lunch and soft drink provided. Numbers are limited, so please RSVP by Tuesday 20 May. The attached flyer has details. For bookings, click on this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAFTY>

the importance of connecting different communities in this process. The Council will hold their Rec Week event on **Friday 27 June** so visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/first-nations-community-information/reconciliation-week/> for details.

Congratulations

To Uncle Shane Charles, appointed Advisory Board Member, Indigenous Knowledge and Research Centre, University of Melbourne; to Professor Jackie Huggins AM, appointed ABC's inaugural Elder-in-residence; to Tony Armstrong, named co-host of Australia's Eurovision coverage.

Brickbats

To the disgraceful disruptors interrupting Bunurong Elder Uncle Mark Brown's Welcome to Country during the Shrine of Remembrance's Anzac Dawn Service.

Federal Election

The results will be known very soon; however, it's been disappointing that so little attention has seemingly been paid to First Nations issues by the major parties during the campaign.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20 May, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,
Ferrars Place, South Melbourne.
Enquiries: 0418 685 734. All Welcome!



Renowned First Nations singer, songwriter and guitarist James Henry will perform at our Sorry Day Lunch.

National Reconciliation Week - 27 May-3 June

This is one of the most important commemorations of the year. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2025 is Bridging now to Next, which emphasizes the ongoing connection between past, present and future. It urges Australians to learn from the past and continue the push forward towards Reconciliation and highlights



See our Sorry Day Lunch flyer on page 4!

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

The National Reconciliation Week 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future, inviting all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us. Among a host of events around the state, Reconciliation Victoria is hosting a breakfast with speakers the Hon. Natalie Hutchins - Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, Belinda Duarte AM - Reconciliation Australia Board Director, CEO Culture is Life and former Co-Chair Reconciliation Victoria, Andrew Gunstone - Co-Chair Reconciliation Victoria and MC Uncle Charles Pakana - Victorian Aboriginal News Editor and Journalist, 8 am, **Tuesday 27 May**. Details: <https://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/>.

Stan Grant is giving a talk, Sacred Peace: How Reconciliation Must Defy Time, for Federation University's National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice at The Edge, Fed Square, Free event. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/federation-university-annual-reconciliation-lecture-with-stan-grant-tickets-1261761244849?aff=oddtcreator>.

For the first time since its inception, the iconic Dreamtime at the G is on a Friday night, **Friday 23 May**, not a Saturday, an historic shift for one of the league's most celebrated fixtures. The annual clash between Essendon and Richmond starts with The Long Walk from Birrauring Marr hilltop at 3 pm. Michael Long's flagship education program continues to build the first digital-based national education platform that teaches the true and powerful history of First Nations peoples to both teachers and students. <https://thelongwalk.com.au/pages/the-long-walk-melbourne>

WALK FOR TRUTH

Victorians are invited to join Yoorrook Justice Commission in a Walk for Truth from Portland to Parliament with Deputy Chair Travis Lovett. The 370-km walk from Gunditjmarra Country in Portland finishes at Parliament on **Wednesday 18 June**, having begun in May in Portland, visiting communities including Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Colac, Geelong and Footscray, to build awareness of the Yoorrook Justice Commission's final report. This includes an Official Public Record and a call for Victorians to acknowledge the past and walk towards a shared and equitable future. Registration required. <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/events/walkfortruth/> for updates.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA NEWS

In the lead up to the federal election, Rec Vic's Co-Chairs Andrew Gunstone and Alistair King met with national and state Reconciliation peak groups from around Australia, finding their interstate colleagues very interested to hear about the ground-breaking work being done in Victoria on Truth Telling and Treaty; they also

took part in various discussions. A common theme was concern about politicians at federal, state and local level pulling back from the Uluru Statement, Welcome to Country and the flying of First Nations flags, along with a general rise in racist commentary. The meeting committed to further exploring these issues and identifying actions we can take in response, as a national network, and Rec Vic will report on the outcomes.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

Last November, Stonnington Reconciliation member Priscilla Yeo organised a meeting for Early Childhood Education Services (ECEs) to support each other in working on their RAPs, as Rec Ston had done with schools previously. It was stressed to ECEs that it was important to be respectful, authentic and relevant to children and families when making a RAP. To do this successfully takes time and consideration and means sharing ideas and resources, which became a focus for our first workshop. Held at Gardiner Preschool, Glen Iris, representatives from 10 ECEs attended; Renown Kinder South Yarra shared their service's Aboriginal Perspectives and Culture in everyday practice, which was inspirational. Challenges were faced, particularly in connecting with Elders and obtaining authorisations. Keith Gove, Rec Ston President, helped clarify these challenges, leading to a "light bulb moment" for many. The second workshop was at Ewing Kinder, Malvern East, which already has an embedded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective in their environment to help the children build connection to Country, with plants that reflect Indigenous seasons so the children can see the seasonal changes. They can also explore the plants and use them in play, take them home for cooking and talk about what these plants mean to First Nations Peoples. About 20 people representing 10 ECEs attended, finishing with songs written by the educators about each season, sung with the children. It is inspiring to see what is happening in ECEs when it comes to educating children about Indigenous Perspectives. The vision is to involve children in learning Indigenous Culture, hoping they will pass on their knowledge. This year, we hope to provide more workshops and with Rec Ston's help, engage with an Elder to provide direct guidance in one of our ECE sessions. *Ro Bailey*

URGENT REPAIRS NEEDED FOR HEALTH ORGANISATIONS

Last month's report by Infrastructure Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, found that a majority of community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) were in urgent need of repair, and in some cases, replacement. The first ACCO's began in the early 1970s as co-operatives to provide community with health and care services; today 33 ACCOs operate across the state, each providing a wide range of wrap-around services, run out of about 200 buildings; the average age of which is 40 years. Disrepair varies but 82% of them need replacing or

substantial repairs within the next 15 years. The report found 98% of the buildings were culturally unsafe for running health services. It also outlined three recommendations to the Victorian Government, aimed at building and maintaining self-determined health infrastructure, including interim funding for minor works, more meaningful funding to replace buildings before they fail completely, and funding to develop the skills and capacity for ACCO teams to develop and deliver their own infrastructure plans.

PALAWA CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR

While enjoying our stint as campground hosts at Peggs Beach, north-west Tasmania, we were very fortunate to experience a Palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) guided tour at Boat Harbour on the north-west coast of Lutruwita, Tasmania. Jye Croswell, a proud Palawa man, walked us in the footsteps of his Old People to learn to see milaythina (Country) through their eyes and discover the wonders of Palawa Cultural Heritage. We witnessed ancient ocean fish traps and middens, also learning about bush tucker and bush medicine and yarned about the mutton birding on Cape Barren Island and the history of dispossession and stolen children. Jye was passionate about sharing his culture; his knowledge of language was inspiring. He has connected with local farmers and some are giving him sections of land to restore to its natural environment which he feels he can turn into a sustainable business, harvesting resin, foods and medicine. We made twine and used it to sew a kelp basket. See tunaprisciencenatureculture.rezdy.com.

Janine Passlow, PPCfR member



Palawa man Jye Croswell shares his knowledge of bush tucker and bush medicine as a guide in north-west Lutruwita and took PPCfR members Janine and Greg Passlow to see ancient fish traps and middens.

ARTIST SOUGHT FOR LOUISA BRIGGS SCULPTURE

With funding from the Victorian Women's Public Art (VWPA) program, City of Port Phillip is seeking to commission an artist or artist team to create a permanent public sculpture that captures Louisa Briggs' rich cultural and historical identity. It will stand as a prominent, iconic piece, inviting visitors to explore the precinct and serve as a landmark. In partnership with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, led by N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs, a direct descendant of

Louisa Briggs, the project will celebrate her significant contributions to the Indigenous community and their history. The sculpture will serve as a powerful symbol of resilience, cultural heritage and the ongoing fight for social justice, promoting gender equality and raising the profile of women in public spaces. This project is designed to meet all objectives of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program (VWPA) program by addressing the underrepresentation of women, particularly First Nations women, in public spaces. The VWPA is funded by the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund and run in partnership with McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery. Refer <https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-womens-public-art-program>

ARTS AND CULTURE

Theatre

Returning for their fifth festival, YIRRAMBOI reclaims centre stage in Naarm's arts precinct with a dedicated festival hub, The Uncle Jack Charles, The Tower, at the Malthouse Theatre, **1-11 May**. Plays include *Lazarus*, based on a series of interviews with Uncle Larry Walsh, *The Three Blak Ravers*, *Home Arrest*, *Black Out* and *Uncle Jack's Backyard*.

<https://yirramboi.com.au/program>

The Black Woman of Gippsland is written and directed by Andrea James, Melbourne Theatre Company, Southbank Theatre, **5-31 May**. www.mtc.com.au

Exhibition

Presented in partnership with The Torch, the *Blak In-Justice* exhibition calls attention to the pressing issue of Indigenous incarceration in Australia through a compelling selection of artworks by leading First Nations artists and participants of The Torch program, Heide Museum until **20 July**. Also, The Torch Gallery at 146 Elgin St, Carlton, is now open to the public every Tuesday–Thursday, 11 am to 4 pm, with an inspiring collection of paintings, sculptures, ceramics and products.

Books & Writing

Melbourne Writer's Festival program running **8-11 May**, features many First Nations authors and speakers, including Thomas Mayo, Marcia Langton, Daniel Browning, Anita Heiss, Nardi Simpson, Amy McQuire, Alice Skye and Bebe Oliver. Program details: mwf.com.au

All of It, Notes on Public Life, Private Joy and Everything in Between by journalist and proud Gamilaroi woman Brooke Boney is a collection of witty and heartfelt essays about love, loss and ambition. Brooke is currently studying a Masters of Public Policy at the University of Oxford.

I Am Nannertgarrook is based on the true story of award-winning actor Tasma Walton's ancestor, and is a powerful, heart-wrenching novel about maternal love that endures against pitiless odds.

Sorry Day Lunch

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation
invite you to a Lunch to commemorate

National Sorry Day

Monday 26 May 2025

12.30-2.30 pm

St Kilda Town Hall

99A Carlisle Street, St Kilda



Entertainment
Singer & Songwriter
James Henry brings a relaxed,
engaging presence to the stage



Master of Ceremonies
Elder Uncle Dennis Fisher
aka Den the Fish

Welcome to Country
by Bunurong Elder
Uncle Mark Brown

Door prizes

**Lunch &
refreshments
provided**

**Free event -
All Welcome!**

RSVP by 20 May
T: 9699 8804

<https://www.trybooking.com/DAFTY>

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PPCfR gratefully acknowledges
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the City of Port Phillip

