

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 acknowledge Martin Foley MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for his ongoing support.



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October 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Annual General Meeting

I am delighted that Ian Hamm has kindly agreed to be the Guest Speaker at our AGM on **Tuesday 19 October**. A Yorta Yorta man, Ian is Chair of the First Nations Foundation (national), Chair of the Koorie Heritage Trust and President of the Community Broadcasting Foundation. Passionate about making a difference and admired for his big-picture thinking, Ian has taken on a number of leadership positions with Federal and State Government bodies. He was recently appointed to the Property Council of Victoria's Culture, Faith and Reconciliation sub-committee and is a former President of the Western Region Football League and was Head of Aboriginal Affairs for several years. I'm looking forward to hearing from Ian and inviting questions afterwards. Beforehand, during the business component of the meeting, office bearers will be elected. Currently they are: Co-Chairs - Dennis Fisher and myself; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary - Deb Stewart; and Ordinary Members - Jo Bond and Denis Frankel. A proxy nomination form is attached if you can't attend the AGM.



Ian Hamm will be the Guest Speaker at our upcoming AGM on Tuesday 19 October.

Linden Postcard Exhibition

Entries for this year's exhibition are being accepted until **13 October**, and the public are invited to see the entries between **4 December** and **27 February**. I'll be keen to discover who is judged the winner of the \$500 cash award for the *First Nations Community Art Prize supported by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation*.

Vale

I pay tribute to Harry Ward, a highly respected and valued member of PPCfR, who died on 1 September in true Harry style; he left us in a slow, peaceful, gentle and dignified way. He was 95.

Tyerri Yoo-rrook 'Seed of Truth' Report

Details inside about the Report handed to the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission in August.

Congratulations

To Professor Brian Martin, Associate Dean, Indigenous, Monash University Art, Design and Architecture, welcomed to the Melbourne Art Foundation; to Evie Ferris, the first Indigenous member of The Wiggles; to actor, director and arts executive Rhoda Roberts, appointed to provide cultural guidance to the management and leadership teams at SBS and NITV.

Festivals

The City of Port Phillip has announced that the Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee will return in February as part of a 9-day St Kilda Festival held in a Covid-safe format across Acland Street, Fitzroy Street and South Beach Reserve.

New Website

Please check out our redesigned ppcfr.org website. My grateful thanks to Nick Margiolakis for donating his time and all his excellent work.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting Tuesday 19 October, 6.00 pm via zoom. To participate, contact Deb Stewart – deb.stewart33@gmail.com

VALE HARRY WARD

On 1 September, Dr Henry Arthur Ward, better known as Harry, died. He was 95 and, in true Harry style, left us in a slow, peaceful, gentle and dignified way. For 63 years, Harry was the devoted husband of Noelleen (who died in 2018), father of Ruth, David and Dorothy, grandfather and great-grandfather to many. At his funeral service, held online at St Silas, Albert Park, on 9 September, Ruth paid tribute to a thoughtful, scientific, spiritual man of integrity. She said her father was a life-long scientist, a feminist, ahead of his time in many areas, who dedicated his life to environmental and social justice, Reconciliation issues and latterly to his many 'friends with purpose'. Harry, along with Noelleen, was aware of and involved in the Aboriginal Rights movement from the early 1950s through the Aboriginal Advancement League and the Student Christian Movement and onwards after this. His daughter, Dorothy, a Yamaji woman, expressed her deep love for her father for 'choosing' her, and his grandchildren remembered his humour, patience and total acceptance of whatever they did. He was a dedicated Christian, humble, gentle and courteous - who also had a radical streak - so the congregation heard the *Internationale*



played during his funeral service along with carefully chosen hymns. Harry was a highly respected and long-time member of Save Albert Park and Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation whose insightful and thoughtful contributions will be long remembered.

Rosemary Rule

The late Harry Ward.

YOO-RROOK COMMISSION

The Tyerri Yoo-rrook 'Seed of Truth' Report to the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission, presenting the ideas, hopes and expectations for a truth-telling process that our communities shared, was officially accepted by the First Peoples' Assembly on 7 September and is the culmination of consultations with the Aboriginal community around the state. It provides the Commission with a mandate to proceed with its inquiry. Gunai-Gunditjmara man Troy McDonald, Co-chair of the Assembly's truth-telling committee, said the Report would set the outline for work to be done over the next three years, including "what sort of stories need to be told, how broad the inquiry's focus should be and how it should be led". Covid has delayed community consultations across Victoria which are part of Australia's first inquiry into the impacts of colonisation on First Nations people. The Commission, guided by chair Eleanor Bourke, is conducting weekly online meetings via video calls until the

lockdown ends. The Commission will have statutory powers and examine historical and ongoing injustices experienced by Aboriginal communities around the state and explore redress pathways. It is supported by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and backed by \$58 million in funding. Yoo-rrook is the word for 'truth' in the language of the Wemba Wemba/Wamba Wamba.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

A first of its kind strategy has been released by Victorian Traditional Owners (TOs) in collaboration with the State Government, giving Indigenous people more say when it comes to environmental management. The strategy aims to see actions taken to systematically enable Victorian TO's to lead planning and activate cultural knowledge and practices to manage Country. Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations CEO Paul Paton said the significance of the strategy is that it allows Indigenous people to become part of decision-making more than ever before. "Our cultural landscapes are deeply significant for community, and this strategy will play a big part in sharing decision-making powers, reforming systems and removing barriers," he said, adding that it marks an important step towards Reconciliation and Treaty and sets guidelines for TOs to, once again, care for Country. The strategy provides a framework and tangible actions that will underpin work by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria including policy and legislative reform.

INDIGENOUS VOICES ABSENT FROM WOMEN'S FORUM

At the August Women's Safety Summit, the Prime Minister acknowledged too many women in Australia did not feel safe and that "Australia does have a problem". Women's Safety Minister Anne Ruston is considering developing a separate plan to reduce violence against Indigenous women and children after a powerful call for action from prominent Indigenous leaders. Indigenous leaders including Marcia Langton, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance chief executive Sandra Creamer said there must be a separate or additional plan for their communities. Professor Langton said the national plan that had existed for twelve years "does not work for us," and Indigenous representatives must be involved in designing local initiatives. "Nobody listens to us. They talk over the top of us, they tell us what we are going to have in our communities, and no-one listens to the women in the communities, the women in the towns, the women in the suburbs, who have to deal with all those young women and older women and children fleeing from violence." Professor Creamer said the mainstream system "has not really been there for us" and had failed to address the specific dynamics of domestic violence in Indigenous communities. June Oscar noted that without acknowledging or including diverse voices, policymakers wouldn't be designing the right responses.

BOOST TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mental Health Minister James Merlino has announced an additional \$22.1 million in support for residents across the state suffering impacts from the pandemic and lockdowns with twenty pop-up community health clinics - eight in regional Victoria and twelve in metropolitan Melbourne - at a cost of \$13 million. The services will provide 90 mental health practitioners and an estimated 93,000 hours of care. Additional support has been provided for groups the government have labelled as 'high risk,' including \$4 million for Aboriginal controlled organisations to provide additional care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

REVIVING LANGUAGES

A new Victorian team of specialist teachers has been given the task of helping to revive language on Country and in classrooms. The nine teachers recently became the inaugural graduates of a Swinburne University pilot course on endangered Aboriginal languages, developed with First Nations' groups and led by Taungurung Elder Aunty Lee Healy. Under the guidance of the linguistic expert, the teachers were equipped with the skills to teach and preserve five languages in schools, kindergartens and Aboriginal communities. Koorie students are also being offered free Certificate II and III Australian First Nations Language courses under a \$2.7 million, four-year investment made in the 2021/22 State budget. The State Government-funded course aims to promote and support Koorie culture and tradition in Victoria as part of its 10-year Aboriginal education plan.

REC STONNINGTON NEWS

Recently, one of our members, preschool teacher Montana Slavik, taught a lesson on the Wave Hill Walk-off using the lyrics of *From Little Things Big Things Grow*. The children were then tasked with sharing the story with one other person. Here is a comment from a parent: *"Being new to the country, I did not recognise the verses of From Little Things Big Things Grow or the story Tara shared with me this evening. These are indeed powerful. Tara told me it is important that I share the story with someone else I know. Thank you, Montana, for sharing this powerful story with the kids and also with us."* The following learning points were covered: children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active civic participation; and children become aware of fairness. Rec Stonnington is very proud of Montana and the wonderful work she does with the children. Rewardingly for us, Montana says the support she gets from the group encourages her in doing this work. In other news, we were excited to learn that another member, Alexander McKay, has started work at RecVic as a Projects Officer. Congratulations Alex - we wish you a long, happy and productive career with RecVic. We were very happy to receive a grant of \$2,000 from Bendigo Bank for Community Education about Reconciliation and the new Traditional Owner boundaries and hope to meet with the Wurundjeri soon to discuss

how we may work with them. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13 October**, probably by zoom, to discuss our new Community Education Program and meeting with the Wurundjeri.

Ro Bailey

VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH - CALL TO ACTION

Thomas Mayor, a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, is a tireless campaigner and an inspiring speaker. In August, he presented an online forum as a way to progress and promote the ongoing national campaign for Voice, Treaty, Truth, focusing on what next steps can we take and where it has got to. Thomas outlined the current state of play regarding the campaign for a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament, stressing we can all play a part by lobbying our Federal and State MPs. Prototype letters can be adapted - see www.ulurustatement.org or www.fromtheheart.com.au. The forum was organised by Initiatives of Change (IoC), located in Toorak, as part of their Our Uluru Response program. Another of their key projects is Trustbuilding through Truth Telling, a national initiative co-designed with First Nations partners which delivers forums and workshops aiming to bring healing and justice in our country. The IoC has appointed Uncle Shane Charles, a proud First Nations man and Co-Chair of RecVic, as their Cultural Integrity lead facilitator to guide the co-design and delivery of their programs and events. Refer Initiatives of Change - <https://au.iofc.org/>.

Note: Thomas Mayor's new book, *Dear Son: Letters and Reflections from First Nations Fathers and Sons*, is an anthology of heartfelt letters, written by First Nations men, about masculinity, love, culture and racism. Authors include Stan Grant, Troy Cassar-Daley, John Liddle, Charlie King, Joe Williams, Yessie Mosby, Joel Bayliss, Jack Lattimore, Tim Sculthorpe and Blak Douglas. Published by Hardie Grant.

TV DOCO

Incarceration Nation - a documentary exploring the dark history of Australia's punitive approach to First Nations people and its modern-day results - shocked viewers when it aired late August. The examination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' experience of the justice system in this country was always going to be intense, yet #IncarcerationNation was one of the highest trending hashtags in the country on the viewing date, hitting number 5 at its peak. As Professor Anita Heiss noted: *"It was a powerful piece of television with harrowing images from the country's bloody colonial past used to highlight the continuing prejudice experienced by mob."* To further highlight issues and themes throughout *Incarceration Nation*, NITV has curated a powerful slate of programming. See *Incarceration Nation – The History of Black Injustice* collection on NITV & SBS On Demand.

PPCFR 2021 AGM - COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

For the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 6.00 pm, via zoom.

I _____ (Your Name)

nominate _____ (Name of Nominee)

for the Committee position of

(One of Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 x Ordinary members)

Signed by _____ (Your Signature)

(Your Name in CAPITALS)

Signed by Seconder _____ (Signature of Seconder)

(Name of Seconder in CAPITALS)

The Nominee is prepared to stand for election to this position.

Consent of Nominee: I agree to the above nomination.

Signature of Nominee _____

Please note: Proposers, Seconders and Nominees must be current paid-up members of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation. The Nomination Form must be delivered not less than 7 days before the meeting date to Rosemary Rule, PPCfR, PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182 or emailed to rosemary.rule@gmail.com.

