

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

ABN: 444 16 152 998

P.O. Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182

Phone: (03) 9699 8804

Mobile: 0418 675 734

Email: rosemary.rule@gmail.com

www.ppcfr.org

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.

August 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

NAIDOC Week

Rain didn't deter people, including a group of bubups from St Kilda/Balaclava Kindergarten, attending the City of Port Phillip's flag raising and smoking ceremony; it definitely 'Kept the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud!



An inspiring Welcome to Country from Bunurong Elder Mark Brown, enthusiastic MCing plus Mark's didge playing as Elder Aunty Judith Jackson and COPP's Fred Gesha hoisted the two flags, rounded out a memorable event. St Kilda Library hosted a well-attended author talk with Dr Marguerita Stephens and Elder Fay Stewart Muir about their ground-breaking book *The Years of Terror - Banbu-Deen: Kulin and Colonists at Port Phillip, 1835-1851* and a performance from soulful singer Amos Roach. Boonwurrung Foundation's N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs AM led a walk to the historic Ngargee Tree at St Kilda Junction, another of the many wonderful NAIDOC events held between 7-14 July; more inside.



At the Council's NAIDOC ceremony, COPP's Maggie Smith, Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Deb Stewart and Rosemary Rule enjoyed the Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, performed by Bunurong Elder Mark Brown (above).

Congratulations

To NAIDOC 2024's Person of the Year Award winner, Aunty Muriel Bamblett AO, CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) and to Jessica Mauboy who performed her song *Higher* at the launch of the Australian Olympic Committee's



flag bearer ceremony in Paris last month.

CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Muriel Bamblett AO has been awarded the NAIDOC 2024 Person of the Year.

Thank You

On behalf of our group, I'd like to thank the Member for Albert Park, Nina Taylor, and her office staff, particularly Vicki Mastihi, who for several years have kindly printed the snail mail edition of our monthly *Mungo* newsletter. Due to the high cost of postage and the fact that most of our members now have access to email, we've been able to significantly reduce the number of copies needed. We're grateful to Nina and her staff for their support.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20 August, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3
Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 675 734.

TREATY HISTORY IN THE MAKING

In July, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria took one of the final steps required to enable Treaty negotiations in Victoria, declaring to the independent Treaty Authority that they are ready to enter Treaty negotiations. A copy of the Treaty Declaration was presented to the Treaty Authority Assembly Co-chair, Rueben Berg, who said it was a culmination of years of work from Victoria's various Traditional Owner groups and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The Treaty Negotiation Framework that the Assembly and the Victorian Government agreed to in 2022 allows for Traditional Owners to form delegations to negotiate Treaties that reflect priorities and aspirations specific to their area; the Assembly will negotiate a statewide Treaty for big-picture structural reforms. The Treaty Authority invites community members to comment.



Assembly members parade Victoria's Treaty Declaration.

In other news, Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung and Yorta Yorta man Uncle Shane Charles has resigned from his position as an elected member of the First Peoples' Assembly - he was one of the general members of the metro region. The Assembly's independent election provider will conduct a count-back of the historic vote to fill the vacancy.

TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMISSION BILL INQUIRY

The Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has commenced an inquiry into the Truth and Justice Commission Bill 2024, introduced in the Senate by Yamatji-Noongar Senator Dorinda Cox. The Bill proposes to establish a Federal Truth and Justice Commission to provide a national framework for Truth-telling about the history and impacts of colonisation, dispossession and systemic racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The Commission would also make recommendations on how to advance justice, healing and Reconciliation for First Nations communities and the wider Australian society. Chair of the Committee, Victorian Senator Jana Stewart,

said the inquiry was an opportunity to hear from stakeholders and experts on the merits and challenges of the provisions in the Bill.

NAIDOC WEEK

There were some terrific events held in Port Phillip last month during NAIDOC, including those held at Linden New Art, St Kilda. Auntie Janet Galpin shared the Boonwurrung history of significant sites in different suburbs, Bianca Easton engaged kids and Amos Roach sang beautiful, soulful songs. Statewide, the Victorian NAIDOC Committee delivered an outstanding seven events, including the Awards Ceremony, Gala Ball, children's day, Pride night and flag raising ceremony at Fed Square. The coverage of events in the media was widespread – and deservedly encouraging.

Auntie Muriel Bamblett AO, CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is the NAIDOC 2024 Person of the Year. Under her leadership, VACCA has advocated strongly for the rights of Aboriginal children to be raised in their own Culture and the importance of family, extended family, kinship networks, Culture and community in raising or 'growing up' Aboriginal children.

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/awards/winner-profiles> has details of all the NAIDOC Award winners.

LINDA BURNEY RETIRES

Linda Burney, the Minister for Indigenous Australians and the first Aboriginal woman in the lower house, has retired from politics. She has represented the Sydney seat of Barton since 2016, becoming the first Indigenous woman elected to the House of Representatives and later the first Indigenous woman to serve as Minister for Indigenous Australians. Previously she was the first Aboriginal person to be elected to the NSW parliament, serving for more than a decade. As minister, Ms Burney oversaw the unsuccessful referendum to establish an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, describing its defeat as "*a day of sadness*" but "*not the end of Reconciliation*". "*My entire life has always been about service, and I believe I have a valuable contribution to make outside parliament in the future,*" Ms Burney said.

INDIGENOUS POPULATION INCREASES

The population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People has reached one million. Indigenous people make up 3.8 per cent of the total Australian population. By 2031, the Indigenous population is expected to reach almost 1.2 million.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

City of Stonnington's NAIDOC Week event, a flag raising, smoking ceremony and morning tea, was reasonably well attended, but we wish that they would hold these occasions on weekends so more people, including our members, could attend. The flags were raised by John Wayne Parsons, representing the Torres Strait Islands. He told me that he also has

Aboriginal heritage and could represent both nations. The Aboriginal flag was raised by a representative of the Wurundjeri. In the meantime, we will keep badgering the council to change these occasions to weekends. At our July meeting we were pleased to have two council officers, Lisa Stafford and Ned Valent, attend to consult on council's new Reconciliation Action Plan. A good discussion took place with all members involved; many good ideas were put forward and we hope they will be included in the new RAP being finalised soon.

At our upcoming AGM, 6.00 pm on **Wednesday 14 August** at the Prahran Place Neighbourhood Centre, we will be considering a Treaty Pledge to support the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in their drive to negotiate a Treaty with the Victorian Government. After the sad demise of the Voice, it seems important to support the Victorian Treaty process as allies to First Nations communities.
Ro Bailey, Secretary

CAROLINE JONES BEQUEST

Well-known journalist Caroline Jones, who died in 2022, has bequeathed \$1.7 million to create two Indigenous education scholarships. Goddaughter and executor of her will, Kate Cadell, said the donation to the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) included one scholarship named after Caroline Jones and another named after her parents, Brian and Nancy Jones. An ABC Scholarship in Caroline Jones's name was also established after her death to support young Indigenous journalists.

ARTS & CULTURE

Reimagining Birrarung: Design Concepts for 2070 is an exhibition showcasing a new vision for the lands and waters of Birrarung (the Yarra River) through the work of eight leading Australian landscape architecture and design firms who have developed both speculative and real-world ideas for how communities can better access, engage with and care for this important living ecosystem. Presented by the National Gallery of Victoria in association with the Birrarung Council and guided through consultation with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Elders, the exhibition presents provocative and innovative design proposals, exploring how science, knowledge systems and emerging technologies might influence or enhance our relationship with Birrarung over the next five decades. From **Friday 23 August**.

Lightscape transforms the Royal Botanic Gardens into a wonderland of light and sound. The Torch is proud to be a part of the magic with *On Country*. Wander the illuminated trail and immerse yourself in a unique cultural experience alongside the dazzling light displays. Installed on the banks of the Ornamental Lake, *On Country* showcases the works of eight talented First Nations artists from The Torch. Until **Sunday 4 August**.

Universal Music Australia (UMA) has united with Yorta Yorta rapper Briggs and Deans of Soul frontman Linc Yow Yeh to launch *Irruk Birruk*, a new not-for-profit label focused on promoting Indigenous music. *Irruk Birruk* comes from the Yorta Yorta language and means 'yesterday', reflecting the label's ambition to honour music of the past while protecting songs and stories for the future.

Always Was Always Will Be is Thomas Mayo's latest book; a positive rallying cry, mapping the path towards next steps on how to create a fairer Australia and keep building the movement for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Cover design by Larrakia woman Jenna Lee.

MEDIA

Introducing VAN - Victorian Aboriginal News - a fully Indigenous-owned and managed news and current affairs content creator, focused entirely on Aboriginal Victoria, founded by Charles Pakana, a former 3KND current affairs broadcaster. Check out the following link: <https://vicaboriginalnews.com.au/about/> for talks, podcasts, The Leader Tapes Project, online news service and updates on Charles's projects.



On Country brings the work of eight Torch artists to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

