

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.



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

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FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Our Group

For 26 years, the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation group has not only maintained a presence in the community and increased its membership but, importantly, has continued to advocate on behalf of First Nations people. We promoted the referendum for a Voice to Parliament, and we continue to reach out to local schools, early learning centres, community groups and organisations. Currently, we're planning to host an educational Yarning Circle Forum and are seeking ways we can support Victoria's Treaty process. Our monthly meetings are lively and welcoming, and we have regular guest speakers. Newcomers are always welcome, so please check out ppcfr.org for details.

Congratulations

To Alexis Wright, winner of the \$60,000 Miles Franklin award for *Praiseworthy*, first winner of both the Miles Franklin and Stella prizes for the same book;
to Wiradjuri-Scottish woman of the Galari/Kalari peoples April Phillips, winner of the Uncle Jack Charles Award in collaboration with Kearney Group for her film, *kajoo yannaga (come on let's walk together)*;
to Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta woman Bridget Brennan, appointed the new co-host of ABC News Breakfast.

Goodbye

Nicole Lindsay has left her role as CEO of Reconciliation Victoria. I'd like to thank her for the support she's given our group, including as guest speaker at our 2022 AGM and attending our Sorry Day lunch. More inside.



Members meeting in August.

Council

Maggie Smith has been appointed the Council's First Peoples Lead. *"I feel privileged to be in a position to advocate on social issues impacting the First People of Port Phillip and ensure that their right to self-determination and their voice and aspirations are heard within this organisation,"* she said. We value Maggie's counsel and guidance and feel privileged when she attends our meetings.

Rosemary Rule

Diary Date

Tuesday 15 October.

It's our AGM with special Guest Speaker Uncle Charles Pakana, Editor of the Victorian Aboriginal News. Refreshments served afterwards. All Welcome! Details next month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 September, 6.30 pm

South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne. All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 675 734.

TREATY - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

In Victoria, as we know, a process has been underway since 2016 to enable First Peoples and the Victorian Government negotiate Treaties. To help people understand more about Treaty, the Treaty Authority - which is independent of both the Assembly and the Government - has put together a handy explainer for friends and allies who want to know what Treaty is all about, so check out:

<https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/treaty-explainer/>.

MALARNDIRRI McCARTHY

Yanyuwa Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is the new Minister for Indigenous Australians, following Linda Burney's move to the backbench in July. Senator McCarthy, from the Gulf Country, is a former journalist, including with SBS/NITV, and was first elected for Labor as one of the Northern Territory's two senators in 2016 and selected to the Northern Territory Assembly as the Member for Arnhem in 2005. During her seven years in the Assembly, she held the portfolios of local government, regional development, Indigenous development, tourism, women's policy and statehood.

REPORT ON MISSING AND MURDERED FIRST NATIONS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

After two years of hearings, featuring 87 submissions, the senate inquiry into missing and murdered First Nations women and children handed down its findings in August. WA Greens Senator Dorinda Cox who spearheaded the inquiry said: *"It's a start; the recommendations could have been much more ambitious."* The inquiry's terms of reference focused on missing and murdered First Nations women and children, seeking to examine the extent of the problem, comparing investigation practices between First Nations and non-First Nations cases, examining systemic causes and the effectiveness of existing policies, exploring actions to reduce violence and improve safety and considering how to honour and commemorate the victims and survivors. It found precisely what First Nations women have been saying for decades: that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children are disproportionately impacted by men's use of violence; that their stories and lives are ignored by mainstream media; that police often fail to adequately investigate, search for or respond to calls for help from First Nations women and children and that the data is shockingly incomplete and inadequate; no one is accurately keeping count. The report made ten recommendations. Senator Cox said the biggest let-down was that there was no dataset or national dashboard for First Nations murdered and missing women.

Note: First Nations women represented 16% of all Australian women homicide victims, despite comprising between 2-3% of the adult female population; First Nations children represented 13% of all child homicide victims.



Melbourne-based educator, Leila Gurruwiwi, 4th from left, meets Garma Elders.

GARMA FESTIVAL 2024: KEYPOINTS/DIFFERENCES

Following last year's referendum defeat, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's return to Garma 2024 was more subdued. His demeanour was slightly more guarded than the previous year and his announcements modest and achievable; likely to neutralise the key criticism of the Voice not being "practical" enough to change the lives of Indigenous people. *"Some of the changes we need to make are not political. They are practical,"* the PM said while introducing his new economic empowerment strategy to the festival. *"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people deserve a real say in the economic development of the land that you call home, and you deserve your fair share of the benefits that flow from it."*

Key points included:

- Northern Territory Police Commissioner Michael Murphy apologising to Aboriginal Territorians for the injustices the NT police have inflicted over the past 150 years;
- Yes23 campaign manager Dean Parkin declaring that there must be no backsliding on the full meaning behind Makarrata;
- Dr Josie Douglas, general manager of the Central Land Council, saying the nation needed a national Treaty and that change must be delivered;
- Senior Gumatj clan leader Djawa Yunupingu saying that the Yolngu people will not look back despite the failed referendum.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA UPDATE

Nicole Lindsay is leaving her role as CEO of Reconciliation Victoria. Alistair King, current RV board member, is stepping in as interim CEO. Nicole said the past three years *"has been an amazing journey with lots of ups and some downs (especially the referendum)"*. She sent a special thank you to the Local Reconciliation Groups *"for the incredible work they do; chipping away and helping to put truth-telling, recognition and respect for First Peoples and culture at the forefront of our communities. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with many of you during my time at RV, and I am truly in awe of the longevity of service and love that exists in this network."*

AUSTRALIA'S NEW CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Yorta Yorta culture and knowledge is embedded in the curriculum of Australia's first Aboriginal-led education site in Shepparton. The recently opened \$36 million Munarra (meaning *thunder* in Yorta Yorta language) Centre for Regional Excellence is a school for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, with Yorta Yorta knowledge and culture embedded in its curriculum. The centre is run by local First Nations group Munarra Ltd in partnership with First Nations groups the Rumbalara Football Netball Club and the Kaiela Institute.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

There were two major events in the last month for Rec Ston. On 13 August we jointly hosted a Reconciliation in Schools event with Lauriston Girls' School. All primary and secondary schools in Stonnington were invited; the purpose being to discuss Reconciliation in schools, share good practice and determine the appetite for future events and focus. A dozen schools attended, with 20 participants and about 10 students. It was inspiring to see the students engaged, reporting on school activities and asking questions. In small group discussions, good ideas were shared, with a strong focus on issues around school RAPs. The group agreed further events would be valuable, and the next one could focus on school RAPs.

At our AGM on 14 August, we heard from three strong speakers. Uncle Andrew Gardiner, representing the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, spoke about the failure of the Voice referendum which was largely due to Australians being unaware of the true history of colonisation and its inter-generational legacy, noting that the role of government agencies should be to call out disinformation. He also reported on Treaty progress in Victoria, including work by Merri-bek Council, opportunities for co-naming places and the importance of consistent, not one-off, allyship. Stonnington Deputy Mayor Cr Mike Scott reported on the Council's progress with its RAP and the possibility of engaging Council in the Treaty process. Professor Andrew Gunstone spoke to his analysis of the Voice referendum as reported in his latest book, *Reflections on the Voice*. He called out some universities for not supporting the Voice despite having a RAP. His book includes 'signposts from the referendum'- key learnings for the future of the Reconciliation journey. The AGM unanimously approved a Reconciliation Stonnington Treaty Pledge to support the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in its journey towards Treaty in Victoria.

*Keith Gove,
President*



Speakers, L-R: Keith Gove, Professor Andrew Gunstone and Uncle Andrew Gardiner.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

The annual celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Stories, Cultures and Languages is held on **Wednesday 4 September**. This year's theme is *Be a Proud Voice for Country* and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) is producing a 15-minute film and 45-minute livestream from the Sydney Opera House; a free adventure for early learners, primary students and adults.

BIRRARUNG WILAM ABORIGINAL WALKING TOUR

The Koorie Heritage Trust's tour takes in the Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground) Aboriginal art installations and Aboriginal history of the Birrarung Marr and Aboriginal Peoples of the Kulin Nation. One of thirty Birrarung RiverFest events celebrating the Birrarung river.

Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo: What's good for the Yarra is good for all! **1-22 September**.

<https://riverfest.com.au/>

STUDENTS VISIT NASA

Five Indigenous university students travelled to the US for a 10-week internship at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory in California. They were Gamilaroi man Carl Goodwin from Monash University, Griffith University's Jordan McGrath - a Lunga Kija man, Sydney University's Renee Wootten - a Tharawal woman, Lucy Barr - a palawa woman from the University of Tasmania and Eastern Arrente man David Corporal from QIT. Run through Monash University's National Indigenous Space Academy, the students attended a 'space boot camp' program, covering aerodynamics, robotics, rovers, rockets, astrophysics, planetary science, engineering and computer and earth sciences before heading to the US in August.

ARTS NEWS

Dance

Leading Māori choreographer Moss Te Ururangi Patterson and Bangarra alumni Deborah Brown have created Bangarra's latest production, *Horizon*. Melbourne Arts Centre until **7 September**.

Blak & Bright

Bebe Oliver, a First Nations writer, facilitator and speaker and Deputy Chair of Magabala Books, has taken over from Jane Harrison as the Artistic Director and CEO of Blak & Bright.

Art

The 2024 Indigenous Art Award winners include Noli Rictor, awarded the \$100,000 Telstra Art Award, and Josina Pumani who won the General Painting Award and Emerging Artist.

Books

Always Was, Always Will Be by Elder Aunty Fay Muir and Sue Lawson is a junior non-fiction book sharing twenty years of the fight for justice by First Nations people, created in partnership with Reconciliation Australia; Magabala Books.

Dirrayawadha (Rise Up), by Dr Anita Heiss; truth-telling through fiction, a story of love and resilience in a time of war.

Music

National Indigenous Music Award winners: Rapper Barkaa - Artist of the Year; Album of the Year - Dan Sultan for his self-titled album; Angus Field - Song of the Year for *Our People*; Hall of Fame inductee - Warumpi Band lead singer Sammy Butcher.

