

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

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.

NOVEMBER 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Voice to Parliament Forum

Our group is proud to present a Public Forum in support of the movement for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Our Moderator, Leila Gurruwiwi, will introduce the eminent speakers, Thomas Mayor, Uncle Shane Charles and Ian Hamm, who will share their knowledge and take questions from the audience at the St Kilda Town Hall, **Thursday 3 November**, 6.30 pm. The flyer attached has all the details; bookings recommended, so I hope to see you there.

Writing Comp Winners

It was fun meeting the winners of our Reconciliation Writing Competition at the Awards Ceremony on 14 October, and like the judges, I was impressed by the entries. Winners were presented with a cash prize and an award booklet. Floods prevented Vanessa Harbrow from Shepparton attending, winner of the Student Highly Commended Award for her poem *Woka*, and Alanah Andrews, winner of the Adult First Prize for her story *Voicelless*, was overseas so we sent them their prize money. Sponsors Graeme Wilson, Helen Sykes, Penelope Demos and Deb Stewart mingled with the guests, staying to enjoy the refreshments. A big thank you to Fiona Olney-Fraser who liaised with winners and produced the awards booklet and to my fellow committee members, Deb Stewart, Jo Bond, Joy Bandy, Janine Wilder and Penelope Demos.



(Left to right) Our MC Deb Stewart with student prize winners Annabel Johnstone - Highly Commended for *Too Much is Taken*, Emma Jebb - 2nd prize for *Enough is Enough*, Maxine Fan - 1st prize for *Awaken* and Charly Murphy - 3rd prize for *Redgum*.

Uncle Jack Charles Remembered

The funeral service for the late actor, activist, singer and renaissance man, held in Hamer Hall on 18 October, was one of the most memorable services I've ever attended. Alternatively moving, informative and hilarious, it was an honour to have been there and to hear the many tributes

of love and affection that were given. This unlike-any-other state funeral service was live-streamed into Federation Square and, more significantly, into Victoria's prisons, remand centres and youth justice centres in acknowledgement of the work Uncle Jack committed himself to along with the late Archie Roach. More inside.

Reconciliation Victoria and ANTaR's Joint AGM

This looks like an exciting event to attend - RecVic and ANTaR Vic's joint AGM at Fed Square, 10.00 am on **Sunday 6 November** as you'll see from the details below.

Activities

I was invited by U3A Port Phillip's Pam Caven and Sheila Quairney to facilitate their special Seniors' Festival Seminar on 8 October with Senator Patrick Dodson, the Special Envoy for Reconciliation and Implementation of the Uluru Statement. During his wide-ranging talk, the Senator set the context for the need for an Indigenous Voice, describing the forthcoming Referendum as a moment in our history that we can't afford to pass up. "*Wouldn't it be a great thing in our country to exercise our vote for a Voice for First Nations peoples so that they can speak on behalf of themselves on policy?*" Recording available at <https://www.u3a.org.au/course-guide-public-events/>. I was also among several PPCfR members attending The Homeless Memorial at the Peanut Farm on 11 October, a significant and meaningful event within our community.

Congratulations

To Moreland Council, officially changing their name to Merri-bek, and to Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship First Nations winners Alethea Beetson, Fred Leone, Carly Sheppard, Ghenoa Gela and Vincent Namatjira.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 November, 6.30 pm, South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne. All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 685 734. Note: This is the last meeting for 2022.

UNCLE JACK CHARLES' FAREWELL

Thousands of people - family, friends, politicians, gathered in Hamer Hall on 18 October for the state funeral service for Uncle Jack Charles. A Welcome to Country with traditional songs and dancers was performed on the lawn outside before mourners moved inside for the two-and-a-half-hour service. The federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Linda Burney, was present, sitting alongside politicians past and present. Tributes were given by Uncle Jack's long-time manager Patrice Capogreco, Ilbijerri Theatre Company artistic director Rachael Maza, filmmaker Amiel Courtin-Wilson, Noongar actor Kelton Pell and veteran Aboriginal activist Gary Foley. First Nations musicians Uncle Kutcha Edwards, Bart Willoughby, Emma Donovan and Dan Sultan headed a cast of performers, each one handed gum leaves to add to the fire quietly burning on the stage. Befittingly, this rare state funeral service was live-streamed into Federation Square - and into Victoria's prisons, remand centres and youth justice centres. Afterwards, a funeral cortege of Harley-Davidson motorbikes led Uncle Jack's casket up Swanston Street and past the Town Hall.

INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

There is a groundswell of interest in and support for the upcoming Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, which is appropriate as it is a journey that all Australians are invited to take part in. The Prime Minister has provided the words he would like voters in that referendum to add to the Australian Constitution:

- There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to parliament and the executive government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- The parliament shall, subject to this constitution, have power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

A working group of First Nations leaders has been appointed which includes Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney and Senator Patrick Dodson, who will advise on three matters: the timing of a referendum, the words of the proposed referendum question and the information about the Voice to be issued to the public before the vote. Australians will debate on the referendum between now and the end of 2024, whether to entrench the Voice in the Constitution. If the referendum is successful, the government will be obliged to legislate the Voice; if the voters reject the referendum, a government could still decide to legislate a Voice.

Learn More: Attend our public event Forum on a Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament presented by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation at St Kilda Town Hall, 6.30 pm on **Thursday 3 November** with moderator Leila Gurruwiwi and speakers Thomas Mayor, Uncle Shane Charles and Ian Hamm.

Volunteer: As we get closer to a referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, the Campaign from the Heart will need volunteers out on the streets of Australia. Register interest <https://fromtheheart.com.au/join-now/>

TREATY FRAMEWORK

The final steps in Victoria's history-making Treaty process were signed off late October after the state government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria agreed on a framework that sets up the principles and criteria for negotiating Treaty. A state-wide Treaty could involve negotiating changes to Victoria's institutional structures and systems of government to provide First Peoples the right to access and manage land and resources, among other things. The Treaty cannot be negotiated until the election of the new First Peoples' Assembly, due by November next year, but the framework could allow Traditional Owners across Victoria to begin their own Treaties process with the state before the end of the year. The framework sets the ground rules for the independent Treaty Authority, established in August, that will facilitate Treaty negotiations and resolve disputes between the government and Aboriginal Victorians. A \$65 million Self-Determination Fund has also been established to assist Traditional Owners to prepare for the process.

Note: Victoria is the only state or territory that has enacted the Voice, Truth and Treaty elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a 2017 manifesto that demanded a commission to supervise a process of "agreement-making" between governments, widely understood as a reference to Treaties and Truth-telling.



The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the state government have agreed on the terms of the Treaty framework. Photo courtesy of Justin McManus.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA & ANTAR JOINT AGM

RecVic and ANTAR Victoria are hosting their joint AGM and Forum on **Sunday 6 November**, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm at The Edge, Federation Square. The theme is *Voice, Truth, Treaty: What is our Call to Action?* Special guest speaker is Yoorrook Justice Commission Deputy Chair Sue-Anne Hunter, followed by a panel discussion hosted by Charles Pakana with speakers from the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria - Reuben Berg; The Uluru Dialogue, Indigenous Law Centre UNSW - Geoff Scott and Yoorrook Justice Commission - Professor Maggie Walter. Light lunch provided. Bookings required. Learn more - info@reconciliationvic.org.au, 9016 0657.

FLOOD RELIEF HELP

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) is working in partnership with members to aid Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who have been impacted by the devastating flood events across the state. Donations of good quality

clothing, blankets, non-perishable food items and toiletries and, in particular, donations of children's clothing and warm clothing including puffer jackets and windbreakers are welcome. They can be made at the VACCHO office at 17-23 Sackville Street, Collingwood, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm and will be distributed to Communities in flood-affected areas across Victoria in collaboration with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations. Refer <https://www.vaccho.org.au/>

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

On 22 October, our president, Keith Gove, was invited to do an Acknowledgement of Country to launch the Community Fair at Lloyd Street Primary School, in Malvern East, by Philosophy Teacher and First Nations woman, Debra Reys. He began by explaining the purpose of conducting the Acknowledgement, stating that it reminds us that there were people living here for many thousands of years before British colonisation. Despite the awful weather, the fair was well attended. Keith and I have had an association with Lloyd Street school over several years, having been invited to attend many great Reconciliation Week functions organised by Debra, so it was pleasing to be involved once again.

Ro Bailey, Secretary

ARTEFACTS RETURNED

Indigenous stone tool artefacts that were never meant to sit in a display case were, last month, returned home to the care of the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, represented by Wurundjeri Elder Ron Jones at a ceremony at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). The collection has been repatriated with the support of the Israeli Government as part of the national Return of Cultural Heritage program that aims to facilitate the return of cultural heritage items to Indigenous communities in Australia, a project led by AIATSIS.

DEN'S POETRY COLLECTION

Embracing Us All is the title of a collection of poems written by Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish. Originally recorded 15 years ago, this CD of Den's poems with musical backing has just been re-released, and copies are available for \$25. Contact Den - 0407 367 579 or Suzanne Peart - 0447 600 569. Den is the Co-Chair of PPCfR and a 3KnD radio presenter.

ARTS NEWS

Literary Festival

Stonnington's [untitled] Literary Festival, being held online, includes a session titled *First Nations Advocacy for Change* featuring activists Thomas Mayor, Celeste Liddle and Teela Reid, **Friday 18 November**, 1.00 pm -2.00 pm.

Books

The 2nd edition of *Finding the Heart of the Nation* by Thomas Mayor includes post-election views of the Albanese Government and a section with FAQ's and



simple answers: what the constitution is, how referendums work and why a Voice is practical and a priority. All author royalties go to supporting the Indigenous Voice referendum campaign.

Thomas Mayor is the author of *Finding the Heart of the Nation*.

A new First Nations gallery called Djaa Djuwima will be established inside the Bendigo Visitor Centre, hosting three curated exhibitions each year. Aunty Lyn Warren, part of the Wartaka, a creative advisory group established to help develop Djaa Djuwima, said the name of the exhibit space means 'to show and share country' in Djaara. The first exhibition on **Thursday 24 November** will be curated around the theme of *Gutangarr Dja Dja Wurrung Djayi – You are on or in Dja Dja Wurrung Country*.

The Torch is hosting an art exhibition at The Edge, Federation Square, as part of the 10th International Criminal Justice Conference **22-24 November**.

Music

Deborah Cheetham AO and Short Black Opera present *Woven Song*, which is a contemporary chamber series inspired by the Australian Tapestry Workshop Embassy Tapestries, at Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, **Wednesday 2 November**, 7.30 pm.

Melbourne Recital Centre welcomes *Kardajala Kirridarra* for the first time. *Sandhill Women, Kardajala Kirridarra* is the name of a woman from the sand hills behind the community of Marlinja. The band is made up of the descendants of this mysterious bush woman and consists of a collective of strong women from the NT communities of Marlinja and Kulumindini (Elliott). Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, **Wed 30 November**, 7.30 pm.

First & Forever 2022 is hosted by the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung. With Baker Boy, Budjerah, Jessica Mauboy, King Stingray, Sycco, Thelma Plum, Alice Skye, Busby Marou, Christine Anu, Dan Sultan, Electric Fields, Emma Donovan, Tasman Keith, Ziggy Ramo, Barkaa, Birdz, dameeeela, Jess Hitchcock, JK-47, Kardajala Kirridarra, Kobie Dee and more. Co-curated by Briggs with thanks to Paul Kelly. **Sunday 27 November**, The Gathering Place, Hanging Rock, Woodend. Proceeds split between The Archie Roach Foundation and the Adam Briggs Foundation. Info at firstandforever.com.au

TV

The Barrumbi Kids a new coming-of-age kids series, based on Northern Territory author Leonie Norrington's popular 2000s book series *The Barrumbi Kids*, was filmed in the small communities of Beswick and Barun and premiers on NITV in November.

PRESENTED BY PORT PHILLIP CITIZENS FOR RECONCILIATION

THE REFERENDUM FOR AN INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Come and learn from Indigenous speakers about the Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, why your support is critical, and the plan to bring Australians together. Our speakers will discuss what an Indigenous Voice to Parliament means and why we should all care.



Leila Gurruwiwi (moderator), a Yolngu woman, is Education Officer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, a former presenter on the Marngrook Footy Show and a television show producer.



Thomas Mayor is a trusted voice in First Nations communities and a signatory of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He's the national Indigenous officer at the MUA and the author of five books. Thomas will lead discussions on why a Voice to Parliament is important for all Australians.



Uncle Shane Charles is Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Studies and Indigenous Strategies Committee at La Trobe University, an experienced inspirational Aboriginal leader, and a Co-Chair of Reconciliation Victoria and Cultural Integrity Lead at Initiatives of Change Australia.



Ian Hamm has overseen major policy and strategic reforms for government and community organisations. He holds leadership positions, including Chair of the Board of Directors at First Nations Foundation and Chair of the Board of Directors at Koorie Heritage Trust.

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

date

Thursday, 3 November

time

6:30pm – 8:00pm

venue

St Kilda Town Hall
99A Carlisle Street
St Kilda

RSVP

trybooking.com/CDFXT



ppcfr.org
facebook.com/ppcfr

HISTORY
IS
CALLING

