

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 Nina Taylor MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for their ongoing support.

November 2023

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Referendum

At our meeting on 17 October, held shortly after the Referendum results were announced, we respected the request from Indigenous leaders asking for a 'week of silence', curtailing our agenda accordingly. Some of the positive outcomes recalled included the Yes23 campaign galvanising over 100,000 volunteers nationally and organising over 230 campaign events, including some in the Macnamara electorate where the result was 63.8% Yes and 36.2% No, compared with Victoria -

44.9% Yes and 55.03% No; the country's smallest margin. We will wait for further guidance from our respected leaders, Elders and peak organisations then review our activities for 2024.



Council News

At the Council Meeting on 4 October, a motion was passed to support the Yes vote in the Referendum. It supported the Uluru Statement from the Heart and also supported clear and accurate information for the community to make an informed decision on their vote in the Referendum. PPCfR congratulates the Council, who also reaffirmed its commitment to develop a third Reconciliation Action Plan. Ned Valent, former Gathering Place Development Officer, Community Building and Inclusion, is now working with Stonnington Council; we wish him well.

Film Night

My thanks to Fiona Darroch for arranging an excellent social outing for members last month to watch *Our Voice Our Heart*, a fascinating documentary featuring two Indigenous men visiting communities up north to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The event was hosted by Regen Projects & Regen Melbourne teams at their magnificent premises in The White House, 11 Princes Street, St Kilda.

Annual General Meeting

We're delighted that Amanda Young, Executive Director First Nations at climate advisory Pollination, board director and former lawyer will be our Guest Speaker at our AGM, 6.00 pm, **Tuesday 21 November**.

All welcome. Office bearers will be elected: currently Co-Chairs - Dennis Fisher and myself; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser, Secretary - Deb Stewart, Ordinary Members - Jo Bond, Joy Bandy and Penelope Demos. Refreshments afterwards. A Proxy Form is attached if you can't attend.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: AGM, Tuesday 21 November, 6.00 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,
Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne.
Refreshments afterwards. Enquiries: 0418 685 734.
Note: This is the last formal meeting for 2023.

REFERENDUM AFTERMATH

The outcome of the Referendum calling Australian voters to enshrine an Indigenous Voice in Parliament was that No led Yes 60% to 40%. Following a 'week of silence', prominent Yes campaigner Thomas Mayo said: *"While the outcome was disappointing, in all my years of advocacy for Indigenous rights, I have never felt such levels of solidarity. We are nearly 40 per cent walking together. Almost seven million Australians voted 'Yes'. Both major parties would kill for a first preference vote like that. And we do need an independent voice"*.

A group of unnamed Aboriginal leaders ended their 'week of silence' with an open letter that slammed the 61 per cent of Australians who voted No as having committed a 'shameful act'. The Indigenous leaders have revealed they may push to establish a Voice anyway after 8.6 million Australians voted No. Their statement said that the truth is the majority of Australians have committed a shameful act, whether knowingly or not, and there is nothing positive to be interpreted from it. *"We needed truth to be told to the Australian people. Rejection of constitutional recognition will not deter us from speaking*

up to governments, parliaments and to the Australian people. We will regather in due course and develop a plan for our future direction.”

Dr Jill Gallagher AO, CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and other Aboriginal community leaders in the Yes23 campaign group reached out to the Macnamara team and other local campaign leaders on behalf of the many community leaders in the Yes campaign, noting the campaign has not been in vain and that there will be more to come. Jill asked that we share the video *65,000 Years Strong* produced by Clothing the Gaps and set to Jess Hitchcock’s song *Unbreakable*.

HISTORY IS CALLING FORUM

A crowd of around 800 people filled St Kilda Town Hall on 5 October for this forum, organised by Yes23 and supported by Macnamara for Yes. Speakers were Josh Burns MP, N’Arweet Carolyn Briggs, whose Wominjeka/Welcome to Country included sobering accounts of her family’s history, and keynote speaker Thomas Mayo, a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He asked the audience to imagine if we were in his position and our backyard was taken away and never given back, we were removed from our culture, told it was worthless and not allowed to speak our language; how would we feel? He poignantly suggested people reflect on their attitudes when voting in the Referendum and recited the Uluru Statement From the Heart. Singer/songwriter Paul Kelly’s three songs included *Making Gravy* in honour of First Nations people incarcerated in jail.



Thomas Mayo delivered a personal, passionate speech at the History is Calling Forum.

RECONCILIATION GROUPS

Reconciliation Victoria

In spite of the outcome of the Referendum, the path to Reconciliation will continue and RecVic will commence work immediately to develop their next 2024-2029 strategic plan. It will be built on strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will set the vision for what First Peoples tell us Reconciliation and self-determination should look like in Victoria.

New Message Tree Alliance - Voice: Truth: Treaty

Formerly Get Out West, the group celebrated its launch last month with a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country by Jaeden Williams, a proud Yalukit Willam man of the Kulin nation. The new name better reflects new priorities and highlights the significance of the Message Tree at the corner of Thompson St and Nelson Place, Williamstown. The tree was removed by the local Council in 1857. Following recommendations in the Message Tree report, Council has agreed to re-planting

the tree in its original location. The project has led to further work uncovering what we call the hidden history of Hobsons Bay and surrounding areas and consulting with the Heritage Librarian at Williamstown Library. Contact newmessagetreealliance@gmail.com

Stonnington Reconciliation

Our president, Keith Gove, took part in a forum for Uniting staff, organised by member Mike Scott, to encourage their staff to vote Yes at the Referendum. It worked well, with Mike and panel members answering his questions and helping inform the attendees. Unfortunately, as we know, the Yes vote was not successful. Elsewhere, Keith and I were invited by Debra Reys, philosophy teacher at Lloyd Street Primary School in East Malvern, to take part in the launch of some art panels in the school grounds. They were painted by Wurundjeri and Yorta Yorta artist Simone Thomson, and we were invited to cut a ribbon unveiling the panels in the school’s playground. We also learned about the symbolism of each panel, explained by different students. Among the visitors attending was local MP Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah. Keith and I have been invited to the school on many occasions to take part in events organised by Debra, who has Wiradjuri heritage. We’ve always been most impressed by these events and the way the school students are invited to participate and learn about many aspects of First Nations culture. Sadly, it was the last event to be organised by Debra who has decided to retire; we wish her all the best in her retirement.
Ro Bailey, Secretary



Panel by artist Simone Thomson at Lloyd Street Primary School in East Malvern.

HOLIDAY SEASON PRODUCTS

The Torch’s range of products for the holiday season includes cards, calendars and gift sets of six holiday baubles featuring artworks by six Torch participants in their community program. Artists receive a 10% royalty fee from every set sold.

THE ARTS

Exhibitions

Wurrdha Marra means 'many mobs' in the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung language, a fitting name for the new permanent First Peoples' gallery space at NGV Australia's Ian Potter Centre. Displaying familiar masterpieces from NGV's collection of First Nations Australian art and design, alongside newer acquisitions, Wurrdha Marra was bestowed to NGV by Wurundjeri Elder/Council member Aunty Gail Smith. The exhibition space in Naarm/Melbourne will showcase artworks from emerging to long-established senior First Nations artists, including Tony Albert, Treahna Hamm, Kent Morris, Amrita Hepi, Marlene Gilson, Dhambit Mununggurr and Gali Yalkarriwuy.

PPCfR 2023 AGM - COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

For the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6.00 pm.

(Name of **Proposer**)

nominate _____
(Name of **Nominee**)

for the Committee position of

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

Signature of **Proposer**

Name of **Proposer** in BLOCK CAPITALS

Signature of **Secunder**

Name of **Secunder** in BLOCK CAPITALS

The **Nominee** is prepared to stand for election to this position.
Consent of Candidate: I agree to the above nomination.

Signature of **Candidate**:

Please note: Proposers, Secunders and Candidates 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 PPCfR, PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182, or to rosemary.rule@gmail.com.

Mungo Newsletter

If undeliverable, please return to:

PORT PHILLIP CITIZENS FOR RECONCILIATION
P O Box 1446
ST KILDA SOUTH 3182