

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.



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DECEMBER 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

"I had a sense of great things beginning in that hall – really special" - Thomas Mayor.

Around 200 people attended our Forum on the Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament at the St Kilda Town Hall on 3 November for an informative evening. Following Elder Judith Jackson's Acknowledgement of Country, MC Leila Gurruwiwi introduced the speakers: Uncle Shane Charles, Co-Chair, RecVic, Ian Hamm, policy analyst and board director, and Thomas Mayor, an Uluru Statement from the Heart signatory and Voice to Parliament campaigner. Articulate, engaging, with different perspectives, they spoke of the significance of having an Indigenous Voice



enshrined in the constitution as well as Victoria's Treaty process. Guests included Martin Foley, the now retired Member for Albert Park; Cr Peter Martin; COPP's Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy; RecVic's Alex Mackay; Rec Stonnington's Keith Gove and Ro Bailey; Mike Smith from Stonnington Council, faith groups, community organisations and local service providers.



Thomas reciting the Uluru Statement from the Heart was a poignant ending to the evening.

(Above) Elder Aunty Jacko performing the Acknowledgement of Country at the Forum. (Below) Uncle Shane Charles, Ian Hamm and Thomas Mayor answering questions from the audience.

Many people helped put on this forum: Fenton Stephens' Ruth Watson and Randstat's Madeline Hill and their colleagues; Avenue Bookstore; Campaign from the Heart; RecVic; Initiatives of Change and City of Port Phillip. Our amazing and willing volunteer members - Fiona, Deb, Gael, Jo, Joy, Janine, Sushena, Moira, Maureen, Sean, Tirralee and Helen - ensured the event went smoothly.

PS: Thomas Mayor has changed his surname to Mayo, explaining: *"When I was back on T.I. recently for my Grandma's tombstone ceremony, I decided along with my family that we would change our name back to Mayo, the same as on my Grandma and other Elders' tombstones."*

What's Ahead

Some activities suggested: engaging with local schools/early learning centres, faith groups and businesses; promoting the Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament campaign; hosting a Sorry Day lunch on 26 May; a tour of the Botanic Gardens with our Co-Chair and Indigenous guide, Dennis Fisher; and supporting the Council and their RAPS. Suggestions always welcome. And do check the City of Port Phillip's website for details of their special 'mourning of morning' ceremony on **Thursday 26 January**.

Thank You

I'd like to thank Martin Foley, the recently retired Member for Albert Park, and his electoral office staff for their long-time support of our group and look forward to connecting with incumbent Nina Taylor. Thanks also to our members and friends and wishing you all a very happy festive season.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 December, 6.00-8.00 pm. End of year barbecue at Gasworks Art Park, Richardson Street, South Melbourne. BYO food/drink/chair. **All Welcome.** Enquiries: 0418 685 734.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Uluru Statement from the Heart, winner of the 2022 Sydney Peace Prize; to Victoria's Aboriginal Honour Roll 2022 inductees: Albert 'Pompey' Austin (posthumous), Collin Hood (posthumous), Elaine Taylor, Eva Jo Edwards, Francis Laxton, Graeme Austin, Lola James, Marion Hansen and Patrice Mahoney; to Victorian Young Australian of the Year Darcy McGauley-Bartlett; to Antoinette Braybrook, Melbournian of the Year (First Aboriginal recipient).

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN

The Uluru Statement from the Heart campaign is gaining momentum with new advertisements featuring a diverse range of supporters sharing information about the Voice plan. It tells viewers that "*History is calling*" and that Australians from all walks of life have an opportunity to play a part in a highly significant moment in our nation's history, encouraging all Australians to learn more about the Voice proposal and sign-on to support it. From the Heart has released a raft of education material and tool kits as momentum builds to provide a consultative body that gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians the ability to speak directly to the country's political leaders via a referendum that the Prime Minister wants to be held in the current parliamentary term. Check out From the Heart's resources which break down all the big questions about the Indigenous Voice, <https://fromtheheart.com.au/education>

Note: In late November, a Reconciliation Australia survey found 93% of Australians want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have a say in their own affairs; that 80% of all Australians believe the creation of a national representative Indigenous body is important and 79% believe such a body should be protected under the constitution.

YOORROOK TRUTH-TELLING COMMISSION

The nation's first independent body to oversee First Nations Treaty negotiations has been enshrined in law, with Victoria's parliament passing landmark legislation for its creation. The legislation has made Victoria the first jurisdiction to establish an Indigenous Treaty Authority that will act as an independent umpire to oversee Treaty negotiations and resolve disputes between Traditional Owner groups and the state government. Marcus Stewart, Co-Chair of the First People's Assembly of Victoria – the body democratically elected to develop the Treaty framework – said the authority will be completely independent from government. Geraldine Atkinson, Co-Chair of the First People's Assembly of Victoria, said the independence of the authority would help Indigenous communities trust the umpire.

Currently the Commission is investigating the impact of the child protection and criminal justice systems on First Peoples in Victoria and will be holding public hearings in early December including evidence from about 40 witnesses, who will provide insights into the harm done to First Peoples by unjust laws and practices within the criminal justice and child protection system. The hearings

will be live-streamed from **Monday 5 December** via yoorookjusticecommission.org.au

RECONCILIATION NEWS - AGM

The Edge in Federation Square was an impressive venue for this year's combined RecVic and ANTaR Victoria's AGM on 5 November which I attended with fellow PPCfR members Helen Bennett, Sean Scully and Tirralee Bywater. Uncle Shane Charles played a masterful didgeridoo, setting the scene for speakers including RecVic's CEO, Nicole Findlay, and ANTaR's Peter Lewis and Sue-Anne Hunter. There was a panel discussion with Reuben Berg, First People's Assembly of Victoria; the Member for the Metropolitan Region and Uluru Dialogue Member, Geoff Scott; Aunty Vicki Clark OAM, RecVic Cultural Council and former Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Coordinator (Vic); Commissioner Prof Maggie Walter and Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter, Yoorook Justice Commission. It was interesting to hear the different views put forward by these Aboriginal leaders and change-makers who encouraged Reconciliation supporters to not ask what 'can' I do to support the Voice, Truth and Treaty, but rather what am I 'prepared' to do? And to be prepared to take specific actions and keep focused on this year's NRW theme to 'Be Brave and Make Change'. RecVic's three Tool Kits support the wider community to meaningfully engage with Treaty and provide specific information, support and actions for local government, community organisations, schools and Early Learning Centres, outlining ways they can support Treaty advancement in Victoria.



Reconciliation Victoria CEO, Board members and staff at the 2022 AGM and Forum at Fed Square.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

Rec Ston were invited by Prahran Community Learning Centre, whose building we hold our meetings in, to join them as a partner, so at our November meeting, we discussed this possibility with their CEO. We see

opportunities to strengthen the relationship by including 'Reconciliation' in their community education program and building on their networks and marketing stream and have agreed to be auspiced by them but will retain our autonomy. We plan to develop sessions for the public in 2023 to educate the Stonnington community about the Uluru Statement From the Heart, the Voice Referendum and related developments in Victoria. The learning centre will promote these as part of their programs and are keen to have us assist them in learning more about Reconciliation and First Nations culture. At its RAP Advisory Committee, of which Rec Ston is a member, the City of Stonnington advised that they are embarking on a major transformation of Chapel Street to re-imagine what it could be as a creative and unique cultural destination. Excitingly, First Peoples will be engaged in this major project. We look forward with anticipation to this new development.

Keith Gove and Ro Bailey.

Note: At our December meeting, we will discuss possible activities for next year. Our first meeting for 2023 will be on Wednesday 8 February. All welcome; enquiries to ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au.

ARCHIE ROACH REMEMBERED

A State Memorial Service to celebrate the life and music of Uncle Archie Roach AM will be held at the Myer Music Bowl on the evening of Thursday 15 December, time to be confirmed, free; refer <https://www.vic.gov.au/state-memorial-service-uncle-archie-roach-am>. Archie, a storyteller, singer and songwriter, a cultural figure, survivor and icon, was a proud Gunditjmara and Bundjalung man who carved a unique path through Australian music and culture over four decades. He and his wife, the late Ruby Hunter, will be commemorated with a statue in Naarm/Melbourne next year. The statue's Fitzroy location holds weight for the pair's relationship. They both lived on the streets of inner-city Melbourne, following years spent on reserves and missions as members of the Stolen Generation.

YOUTH DETENTION – AN APPALLING RECORD

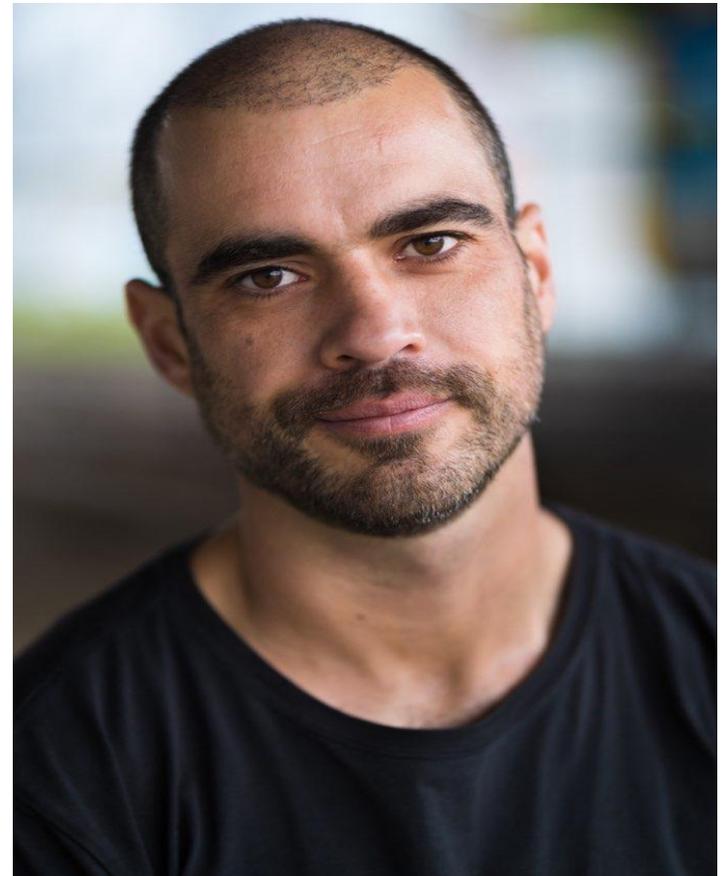
Victoria's political leaders are facing mounting pressure to raise the criminal age of responsibility after a Four Corners investigation revealed that a report, provided to states and territories, urged the change two years ago. The review, prepared for the Council of Attorneys-General in 2020, said criminalising children as young as 10 only compounded pre-existing trauma and created "*life-long negative outcomes*". Its recommendation for the age to be raised to 14 "*without exception*" was backed by a majority of justice departments around the country. Young people are around ten times more likely than non-Aboriginal counterparts to come into contact with the justice system; recently, there were six children in Victoria's youth justice system aged 13 and 14, and no children aged 10, 11 or 12. The state's commissioner for children and young people has argued that the evidence exists for Victoria to make reforms without delay, noting the ACT had already taken action. The Aboriginal groups set up to lead

Victoria's Treaty and truth processes urged whoever wins power in the November elections to make urgent reforms.

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP NEWS

Ned Valent has joined the Council as Gathering Place Development Officer, engaged to provide a range of services and share ideas for and with the local First Nations community, working in collaboration with Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy. A Masters of Television and Filmmaking (Narrative) graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts, Ned is an accomplished actor with a string of credits to his name. He has also worked with Galiamble Men's Recovery Centre as an AOD Support Worker and is very passionate about First Nations community.

Introducing Ned Valent - COPP's new Gathering Place Development Officer.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Here are some useful resources:

- Uluru Statement from the Heart and History is Calling campaign - The First Nations groups campaigning for a Voice have created excellent new educational resources for everyone, including an interactive digital learning platform, produced in partnership with From the Heart and the Uluru Dialogues - <https://ulurustatement.org>
- First Peoples' Assembly - Includes fact sheets, info packs, reports and up-to-date news and

covers the conversation from 'how' should Treaties be negotiated to 'what' should Treaties deliver. If you're mob, make sure you're enrolled with us so you can help decide the next steps on the journey - <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/category/reports-resources/>

- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register - Holds information about known Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects within Victoria; <https://www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/victorian>
- Change the Record - Australia's only First Nations led coalition of legal, health and family violence prevention experts who campaign to end the incarceration of and family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women - <https://www.changetherecord.org.au>
- Aboriginal Melbourne - Learn about places of Aboriginal historical and cultural significance within the City of Melbourne using an interactive digital map created with Traditional Owners and the City of Melbourne. <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-culture>.

MUSIC:

Blaktivism featuring Yothu Yindi includes five Kulin Nation Songwomen/women sharing the spirit of healing through the power of culture and the richness of ceremonial song. Director Deline Briscoe brings together Bart Willoughby, Emma Donovan, Fred Leone (MC), Kee'ahn, Lou Bennett, Sprigga Mek, Sorong Samarai, Tasman Keith and the world class BLAKTIVISM house band, Arts Centre, **Thursday 8 December**.

At the ARIA Awards in November, Rapper Baker Boy, aka Danzal James Baker, won five Arias, including Album of the Year for the critically acclaimed *Gela*, and Archie Roach was posthumously awarded Best Independent Release for *One Song*.



Baker Boy's award-winning album *Gela*.

TELEVISION:

Still We Rise commemorates the 50th year of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy - 1972, - the year that inspired the next generation. Streaming **Thursday 8 December** 8.30 pm on ABC iView and ABC TV.

GIFT IDEAS AND CATERERS

Calendars/Cards

The Torch calendars feature twelve artworks created by Indigenous artists, participating in The Torch's prison and community programs. \$12 (small), \$15 (large) or \$20 (large square); thetorch.org.au/shop-2.

Make a tax-deductible donation of \$20, \$50 or \$100 to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and receive a beautiful card with illustrations from remote communities, representing the gifting of two, five or ten books to children in remote Australia.

<https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/>

Merch

From the First Peoples' Assembly that supports Victoria's Treaty process -

<https://firstpeoplesvic.myshopify.com/>;

The Uluru Statement from the Heart -

<https://ulurustatement.org/take-action/merchandise/>;

Welcome to Country's range of gifts include homewares, fashion and art and even items for pets -

<https://shop.welcometocountry.com/collections/gift-ideas/>;

The Koorie Heritage Trust has jewellery, cards, artefacts and fashion - <https://korieheritagetrust.com.au/>;

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre -

<https://museums victoria.com.au/bunjilaka>



2023 calendars from The Torch, supporting Indigenous prisoners.

Catering

Bunji is an Aboriginal business using native and traditional produce - bunjicatering.com.au.

Mabu Mabu Indigenous caterers have a flagship restaurant in Federation Square and a catering business, selling products which are all handmade in small batches - <https://www.mabumabu.com.au>

PERMANENT TRIBUTE AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

In 2021, Glenn Loughrey became the first Indigenous Canon in the 142-year history of St Paul's Cathedral in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. Being appointed Canon recognises Loughrey, an artist, author and Vicar of St Oswald's Anglican Church, Glen Iris, for his service to the Anglican church. He has brought together two of his life's passions, designing a series of glass panels for the Cathedral entrance by depicting the traditional lands on which the Cathedral stands.

"They are in-the-moment, contemporary windows; not just showing you something that was here, but what's here now, and that is having a conversation to what's been laid over it," Loughrey said. The panels also include an image of the wedge-tailed eagle Bunjil, the Creator spirit of the Kulin People. Cathedral authorities are hopeful the artwork will get people thinking about the traditional lands on which the building is situated and also the role of Indigenous Australians in the church and in society.



First Nations Vicar Glenn Loughrey at St Paul's Cathedral.

TURNING WASTE INTO GAS

A collaboration between a First Nations entrepreneur and a clean energy company is aiming to bring renewable gas to northern Victoria while stimulating the local Indigenous economy. Yorta Yorta, Wamba Wamba man Daniel Briggs, a criminal lawyer turned businessman, is the managing director of Yurringa Energy. The former Shepparton local wants the region to support the transition from fossil fuels while simultaneously generating Indigenous business and employment opportunities.

Clean energy assets developer Pacific Heat and Power will be pivotal in the success of the proposed Goulburn Murray Woka Yurringa Energy project. *"I thought it would be a great idea for an Indigenous company to develop a renewable energy asset and utilise Indigenous procurement policies ... to be able to purchase the energy,"* Mr Briggs said, adding it was an environmentally friendly solution as well as a chance to *"move away from a cost model and into an investment model"*. *"Historically, we haven't had a lot of Aboriginal men and women in business, so I think if we can start interacting and engaging with the economy in a positive way, that is when you start to get traction,"* he said. The collaboration will leverage Mr Briggs' local expertise and give him a buy-in to the project.

