



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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2022-2023 Annual Report

Wominjeka – Welcome

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Annual General Meeting 20 September 2022

Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson gave a warm Acknowledgement of Country before the formalities. My Chair's Report, followed by the Treasurer's, were read and unanimously accepted. PPCfR's Executive Committee members: Co-Chairs - Rosemary Rule and Dennis Fisher; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary - Deb Stewart; Committee Members - Jo Bond, Joy Bandy, incumbent, and Penelope Demos were re-elected. Guest speaker Nicole Lindsay, CEO of Reconciliation Victoria, gave us a lively and informative overview of RV's activities and plans, including the Yoorrook Justice Commission.



AGM guests included Fiona Olney-Fraser, Nicole Findlay, Elder Judith Jackson, Rosemary Rule and Todd Condie.

Activities

PPCfR's community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day, held 25 May 2023 at the South Melbourne Community Centre, attracted a record crowd. It included students from Mac.Robertson Girls' High and St Michael's, service organisations U3A and Winja Ulupna, Councillors Heather Consolo and Robbie Nyaguy, and CEO Chris Carroll. Entertainer John Wayne Parsons was magnificent on guitar and sang a medley of songs.



Sorry Day Lunch guests do the 'Wominjeka wave'.



Elder Judith Jackson and Council's CEO, Chris Carroll.

Reconciliation Writing Competition

Adults and students in Years 9-12 were invited to write on the NAIDOC Week theme 'Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!' Entries were judged by Professor Jeanine Leane, Creative Writing and Aboriginal Literature, University of Melbourne, and Bryan Andy, writer and film maker. The prize winners were announced at a ceremony on 14 October 2022 at South Melbourne Community Centre.

Forum

The 'Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament' public event, held on 3 November 2022 at St Kilda Town Hall, featured Indigenous speakers Elder Judith Jackson, Leila Gurruwiwi, Thomas Mayo, Ian Hamm and Uncle Shane Charles and attracted over 150 attendees.



"I had a sense of great things beginning in that hall," Forum speaker Thomas Mayo.

Early Learning Centres Project

From August 2022, members personally delivered a gift of Fay Stewart-Muir's children's book *Family* to every ELC in the City of Port Phillip, plus a resources list compiled by PPCfR member and ELC educator Fiona Darroch. Feedback was very positive. Several Centres subsequently attended our events and enquired about engaging with local Indigenous providers.

Supporting Reconciliation

Council: We are grateful for COPP's ongoing support and maintain our close ties, particularly with their Indigenous staff members, through regular contact and meetings. We actively support events including We-Akon Dilinja, Mabo Day and Yalukit Willam Festival and promote all Indigenous-related events in *Mungo*.

A member arranged for Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson to speak at Port Melbourne Primary School's assembly. Co-Chairs Rosemary Rule and Dennis Fisher were invited to speak to residents of Australian Unity's Grace retirement complex, Albert Park; both events were held during Reconciliation Week.

Reconciliation Victoria: PPCfR members participated in RV's group network forum, 16 February 2023, and RV and ANTaR Victoria's combined AGM, 6 November 2022, at Federation Square. RV news is regularly featured in *Mungo*.

ANTaR Victoria: Rosemary attended their annual forum in July.

NB: PPCfR is a member of RV and ANTaR.

Stonnington Reconciliation: PPCfR members attended their AGM. Their group news is included in monthly *Mungo*.

Networking

U3A Port Phillip: Rosemary Rule was invited to facilitate an online talk by Senator Patrick Dodson, 8 October 2022, with record attendees.

PPCfR members attended the Homeless Memorial at the Peanut Farm, 11 October 2022.

Sputnik TV: Rosemary was invited to the 25th anniversary celebration of Sputnik TV's Channel 31 Russian language programs, St Kilda Town Hall, 19 June 2022.

Farewells

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of legendary figures, Uncle Archie Roach on 30 July and Uncle Jack Charles on 13 September. Many members attended their respective public memorials.

Office-related Matters

Having to move out of our COPP-allocated office space in the South Melbourne Town Hall, members sorted through more than a decade's worth of material and historical memorabilia. We were fortunate (finally) in securing some storage space in the St Kilda Baptist Church, thanks to PPCfR member Helen Hoffman; however, we remain without any 'official' office space.

Mungo Newsletter

We gratefully acknowledge help received for *Mungo* from the office of Nina Taylor, Member for Albert Park, printing 11 issues, and we strive to reduce the numbers of snail-mail recipients. Many thanks to Jo Bond who kindly oversees the snail mail business. Thank you, Todd Condie, Ned Valent and Jordan Sutardy, who send out the online version on the group's behalf. Thanks also to Nick Margiolakis. He posts the issues onto ppcfr.org.au and diligently maintains and updates the website.



(Left to right) Our Reconciliation Writing Competition 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*.

Membership

PPCfR continues to attract new people, many of whom attend our vibrant, monthly meetings and help with our various activities.

Looking Ahead

Much of our focus had been on supporting the campaign - Referendum for a Voice to Parliament. Following the results, we will re-group, support recommendations of the peak Indigenous organisations and then align our activities for the coming year accordingly.

We remain a strong, active group, thanks to the commitment of our volunteers, guided by Committee members Dennis Fisher, Deb Stewart, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Jo Bond, Joy Bandy and Penelope Demos. I cherish the support of Elder Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Todd Condie, Jordan Sutardy and all the other key PPCfR members too numerous to mention.

Rosemary Rule, Co-Chair, 21 November 2023