

Mungo...



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

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.

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.

September 2023

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Public Forum

I invite our members and friends to come along to our forum, Learn About the Voice to Parliament Referendum, in St Kilda on **Thursday 21 September**. You'll hear from some excellent speakers - Nerita Waight, Ian Hamm and Amanda Young - talking about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament and also enjoy some special entertainment. See the flyer below for all the details. It's a free event, but bookings are required.



Special Guest Speakers at our upcoming forum - Learn About the Voice to Parliament Referendum - Nerita Waight, Ian Hamm and Amanda Young.

South Melbourne Market

Come and say hi to our members and friendly allies, handing out flyers about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, outside Georgie's Harvest stall in Coventry Street on the 20th, 22nd, 23rd and 24th of this month. Many thanks to Georgie Dragwidge for her support.

Early Learners

To celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August, the Astra Early



Learning Centre in Port Melbourne invited Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson to come in and talk to their children and answer questions, but no, she doesn't play the didgeridoo!

Elder Auntie Jacko shows a coolamon to the children at the Astra Early Learning Centre in Port Melbourne.

Congratulations

To the new Chairs/elected members of the First Peoples' Assembly; to Kamilaroi woman Louise Taylor, appointed as a judge on the ACT Supreme Court, the first Indigenous female Supreme Court judge in Australia; to composer and musician William Barton, awarded the Richard Gill Award for Distinguished Services to Australian Music (the youngest-ever and first Indigenous recipient); to Logie award winner Rachel Perkins for Outstanding Factual or Documentary Program for *The Australian Wars*; to Noel Tovey, long-time PPCfR member, who received a letter of congratulations from the Prime Minister for his "enormous contribution" to the arts over many years; to former Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner Jill Gallagher AO, receiving an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Melbourne.

Snail Mail Members

As a way of reducing costs, we're continuing to ask people currently receiving *Mungo* via mail if they can switch to email deliveries. Please contact Jo Bond, jobond10@gmail.com, with your details.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 19 September, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,
Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 685 734.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Dhudhuroa and Dja Dja Wurrung woman Ngarra Murray and Gunditjmara man Rueben Berg have been elected as Co-Chairs for the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria at the first meeting of the Assembly's second term. The Assembly is the elected 'voice' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria, and this term, its members will negotiate a statewide Treaty with the Victorian Government. Ms Murray, who was re-elected to the Assembly, is a community development and human rights expert and has led Oxfam Australia's First Peoples' programs for the last decade.

Mr Berg, also returning to the Assembly for its second term, is a trained architect and was previously a



Commissioner for the Victorian Environment Water Holder and a member of the Heritage Council of Victoria. For details of all the new members by region, visit <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org>.

In other news, Assembly members Aunty Esme Bamblett and Uncle Rodney Carter will be leading the Elders' Voice, bringing Elders together across the state to yarn and share their knowledge. The Elders' Voice is a platform for Elders in Victoria to provide cultural authority and guidance to the work of the Assembly. The Youth Voice initiative will be led by Assembly members Alice Pepper and Jordan Edwards.

REFERENDUM NEWS

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced that the date of the Voice to Parliament Referendum will be **Saturday 14 October**, marking the start of the formal campaign period of about six weeks. The launch is set to take place in Adelaide, between 30 August and 2 September, just days before two sitting weeks of parliament from 4 September and shortly before the PM departs Australia for international summits and meetings in Indonesia, the Philippines and India. SA was chosen as the state in which to launch the campaign because the Yes camp, according to reliable sources, believes the state will be decisive in determining whether the campaign wins the required majority of four out of six states voting in favour of the Referendum. The polls are still fluctuating on the support for the Yes and the No campaigns. However, in Victoria, and particularly locally within the City of Port Phillip, there is a lot of positive energy and campaigning happening, with volunteers from groups such as Macnamara for Yes being actively involved in door knocking, flyering, kitchen table discussions and talking to the wider community; see volunteers@yes23.com.au. Many local businesses, organisations, faith groups and sporting groups are supporting the Yes campaign, and the Australian Electoral Commission has produced an informative booklet, *Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice* – Voice.gov.au.

LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

The Victorian Labor Government has announced Aboriginal language names will be used for all 14 new government schools due to open next year. From the Wadawurrung words 'Nganboo Borron', meaning 'children first, nurturing on your shoulder', to the Bunurong word 'Topirum', meaning 'star', new schools in Victoria are set to be named in various local Aboriginal languages. This is the first time the new school naming process consulted on a short-list of

Aboriginal language names, receiving more than 7000 submissions. The announcement of the school names follows a policy change in March to introduce the new requirements, including mandatory consultation with Traditional Owner groups and extending the use of the Engage Victoria platform for public consultation on new names. There will also be names for four new kindergartens. A full list of translations of the school names can be found on Schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au. (None are in the City of Port Phillip).

PORT MELBOURNE PRIMARY PROJECTS

On 30 July, students from Port Melbourne Primary School and volunteers from Port Melbourne Bunnings planted 250 native plants around the school's main oval. The project is being spearheaded by volunteers Anthony Moran and Melinda Williams, who run the primary school's gardening program. The day also consisted of installing new fencing panels across the front of the gardens to protect the newly planted plants from foot traffic during school recess. This is the first phase of a school-wide project to incorporate local native plants throughout the school grounds. Next steps will include labeling all of the plantings with their Indigenous names and uses.

Paisley Blank - Parent Representative on the RAP Committee, active parent in the school community and PPCfR member



Port Melbourne Primary students getting their hands dirty for the benefit of their school.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA NEWS

Rec Vic is excited to share a place for people to come together on issues with the launch of their new online [membership program](http://membership.program). It's a platform to connect and engage in community forums, access resources and increase the visibility and vitality of the Reconciliation movement in Victoria. By signing up as a Rec Vic member, you are helping to support the work done to advance Reconciliation and realise true self-determination with and for First Peoples. Members and supporters can access member-only discussions, resources and news. Valued members/supporters are helping to sustain the work done with First Peoples via three categories: supporters, educators and associate members. Details: <https://www.recvicmembers.org.au/>

BAIL REFORM DELAYS

Aboriginal advocates along with legal and human rights advocates condemned reports that urgent bail reform in Victoria will be delayed by at least 12 months in a proposal by the state government, despite a coroner in January calling for the current laws to be scrapped and labelling them a 'complete unmitigated disaster.' The Bail Reform bill will be introduced into parliament after months of consultation, sparked by the coroner's report into the death of 37-year-old Gunditjmara, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta woman Veronica Nelson while in custody. Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service chief executive and First Peoples' Assembly member Nerita Waight questioned why a potential delay was necessary. The proposed reforms would remove the controversial reverse-onus test for low-level offenders applying for bail. However, there is speculation the changes would not start for 12 months after they are legislated and won't completely remove the unacceptable risk test. Adults accused of bail-related offences will no longer fall under the provision, in-line with recommendations by the coroner, however all other offences captured by the test would remain. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommended that, along with an increase in access to bail, prison should only be used as a last resort. Currently, over 37 percent of people in detention in Victoria are not sentenced. For women, this figure sits at 40 percent.

STONNINGTON NEWS

Reconciliation Stonnington held its 25th AGM on Wednesday 9 August. Our guest speaker, Ian Hamm, gave a very personal and insightful talk, speaking passionately about the upcoming Referendum. His message on the Voice was simple and straightforward - all that is being asked for is for First Nations peoples to be able to speak to government on matters that concern them. Member Councillor Mike Scott spoke in place of the Stonnington Mayor, Councillor Jami Clisaris, who was unable to attend at the last minute. Mike spoke about Stonnington's progress on RAP events and also on what our group, RecSton, has meant to him over the years; it was most rewarding to hear what Mike had to say. After the meeting, members and guests engaged in drinks and nibbles and further chats about the content of the talks. Since sending out Port Philip Citizens for

Reconciliation's flyer for their forum in September, members have expressed their interest in hearing their guest speaker Ian Hamm again - he will be well worth hearing. *Ro Bailey, Secretary*

Ian Hamm gave an insightful and personal talk at RecSton's recent AGM.



STAN GRANT MOVES TO MONASH

After officially quitting the ABC, Wiradjuri journalist and academic Stan Grant will take up a position with Monash University as the inaugural director of their Constructive Institute Asia Pacific. The centre, headquartered at Aarhus University, Denmark, is a global institute dedicated to changing news culture, rebuilding journalist integrity and encouraging the development of healthy democracies. Grant will steer the Centre's mission in the Asia Pacific region. Stan was formerly Vice Chancellor's Chair of Australian-Indigenous Belonging at Charles Sturt University.

EVENTS

The upcoming Emerging Leaders Summit will include First Nations speakers Kirstine Wallis, Nartarsha Johan, Lilly Bamblett and Leigh Saunders, who will share stories and their spirit in key areas of Environmental Justice, Social Equity and Wisdom Leadership, at Initiatives of Change Australia, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, 10 September, 1.00-5.00pm. From \$45, online & in person. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/.../emergence-2023-tickets...>

Sharing Voices, Belonging, Harmony and Spirituality is presented by the Port Phillip Multi-faith Network. A collaborative gathering of artists and insightful speakers will explore a variety of intersectional themes around the power of place and spirituality, an activity-based event exploring topics of climate change, refugees and asylum seekers, gender equality and First Nations culture. 3.00- 5.30 pm, **Sunday 10 September**, St Kilda Town Hall. Details: 9209 6496.

ARTS NEWS

Music

Songs for Freedom is a concert of soul, blues and unique country music, created by artists in the Leramugadu Community/Roebourne, featuring Kutcha Edwards, Stephen Pilgrim, Shellie Morris, Shane Howard and more. **Friday 15 September**, 7.30 pm, Melbourne Recital Centre in arrangement with BigHART.

Congratulations to the National Indigenous Music Award winners including Budjerah; Best New Talent - Bumpy; Song of the Year - King Stingray - *Let's Go*; Community Clip of the Year - Manwurrk - *Mararradj*, Archie Roach Foundation Award - Madi Colville-Walker; and induction into the NIMA Hall Of Fame - Yothu Yindi.

Film

Keeping Hope Actor Mark Coles Smith sets out on an intensely personal journey around the Kimberley, seeking solutions to the high rate of Indigenous youth suicide. NITV **Sunday 10 September**, via MIFF Play and streaming.

Books

Firelight by award-winning author John Morrissey, a Melbourne writer of Kalkadoon descent, investigates colonialism and identity without ever losing sight of his characters' humanity. Brilliantly imagined and masterfully observed. Text Publishing.

PORT PHILLIP CITIZENS FOR RECONCILIATION PRESENTS
A PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUM

Learn about the VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM

Special Guest Speakers



Nerita Waight, a Yorta Yorta and Narrandjeri woman with Taungurung connections, is CEO of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and a Council Member of the First People's Assembly of Victoria.



Yorta Yorta man Ian Hamm is Chair of the Board of Directors, First Nations Foundation (National), Chair of the Board of Directors, Koorie Heritage Trust and an experienced policy developer and manager.



Amanda Young, a descendant of slaves from Vanuatu, is Executive Director First Nations at climate advisory Pollination, a former lawyer and CEO and a current board director of three non-profits including Oxfam Australia.

Special Entertainment – Men In Suits!

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

date

**Thursday
21 September 2023**

time

6.30 pm-8.00 pm

venue

**St Kilda Town Hall
Carlisle Street
St Kilda**

rsvp

TRYBOOKING

<https://www.trybooking.com/CKTHM>



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation
T: 9699 8804 E: rosemary.rule@gmail.com
www.ppcfr.org



PPCFR acknowledges the support of the City of Port Phillip

