

# Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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.

December 2023

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Our Annual General Meeting

More than 30 guests attended the meeting on 21 November, including Mayor Heather Cunsolo, Edler Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and several newcomers, all captivated by our guest speaker, Amanda Young, a dynamic woman whose experience stretches across Indigenous affairs, the law, government economics and climate change. Amanda is Executive Director of the Pollination Group (Victorian office in Middle Park) and sits on the board of several not-for-profits. On the business side, the following members were re-elected to the PPCfR Committee: Co-Chairs - Dennis Fisher and I; Secretary - Deb Stewart; Treasurer - Fiona Olney-Fraser; Committee Members - Jo Bond, Joy Bandy and Fiona Darroch-Green. Together, we're a remarkable team.



Guest speaker Amanda Young, in green, with AGM attendees.

### Resetting The Agenda

Following the Referendum results, Indigenous leaders and campaigners recommend we stay engaged and reset the agenda. Encouragingly, the Macnamara electorate recorded the 7th highest Yes vote in the country - 64.6% Yes against 35.4% No. Every electoral booth recorded a majority of Yes votes: Elwood total 80.77% Yes; St Kilda 81.83% Yes, and Windsor 82%, and with 6.2 million Australians saying 'Yes', it's a strong base to work from. Reconciliation Victoria and ANTaR's AGM on **Saturday 2 December** focuses on Referendum recovery and Reconciliation; I'll be keen to hear about their plans.

### Congratulations

To Indigenous health pioneer, Janine Mohamed, Victoria's Australian of the Year; to the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services, celebrating 50 years of service; to Mutti Mutti man Kutcha Edwards, inducted into the Music Victoria Hall of Fame; to Dja Dja Wurrung senior journalist, Yorta Yorta woman Bridget Brennan, joining ABCTV/ABC News; to 3KND Kool 'N' Deadly, awarded the CBAA National Media Award for Excellence. (PPCfR's Co-Chair Dennis Fisher is one of their presenters).

### Looking Ahead

Thank you, wonderful members. Your ongoing support ensures PPCfR remains effective and respected. My thanks also to the Council, particularly Jordan Sutardy, and I encourage people to attend the We-Akon Dilinja Mourning Reflection event, 6.00 am on **Saturday 26 January** in Alfred Square, St Kilda; see COPP's website for details. In the meantime, I'd like to wish our members, friends and families a safe and happy festive season and look forward to reconvening in February.

### Last Meeting: End-of-Year Barbecue

at Gasworks Park, Richardson Street, South Melbourne, **Tuesday 19 December, 6.00 pm**, BYO food and refreshments and a chair. **All Welcome!**  
Enquiries: 0418 685 734.

*Rosemary Rule*

## AFTER THE REFERENDUM

*“Stay engaged, enthused, committed and patient for what comes next,”* Dean Parkin, Director from the Heart, told the thousands who participated nationally in two debriefing webinars, hosted by the YES23 campaign last month. The fact that over 6 million Australians voted ‘Yes’ for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament in the Referendum, including many Indigenous communities, makes a solid base to work on and reset the path to recognition. *“We all need to be patient, to listen, temper our expectations about what to do next and allow time for things to unfold as we all move forward. Rejection of constitutional recognition will not deter us from speaking up to governments, parliaments and to the Australian people,”* Dean said. *“We have an agenda for justice in pursuit of our First Nations rights that sorely needs a Voice – we will continue to follow our law and our ways, as our Elders and Ancestors have done,”* - unnamed signatories’ Open Letter to the Parliament sent immediately after the Referendum. Respected leaders are suggesting various projects to focus on, including reinvigorating the Closing the Gap agenda through the Coalition of Peaks and development of a new body, similar to the Voice, to represent First Nations interests and advocate for strengthening democracy and truth in public life.

## MELBOURNE LEADERS MEET PM

Last month, MP’s Linda Burney and Malarndirri McCarthy and a delegation of Victorian Indigenous leaders held a series of private meetings with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The visit was organised by Victorian Labor Senator Jana Stewart, a Mutthi Mutthi and Wamba Wamba woman - and PPCfR member focusing on how to close the Indigenous disadvantage gap. Fifteen organisations attended, including the Victorian First Peoples’ Assembly, Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, health and family violence prevention services along with the Taungurung and GunaiKurnai Land & Waters Councils.

## FIRST PEOPLES’ ASSEMBLY AND TREATY

Victoria’s Truth and Treaty process is the furthest advanced in Australia, and the First Peoples’ Assembly is making great progress on the journey to Treaty, establishing processes for negotiating Treaties to put power directly into the hands of Aboriginal communities at a local level. Guidelines about the First Peoples’ Assembly’s Self-Determination Fund for Traditional Owners, wanting to start preparations for Treaty negotiations with the Victorian Government, are available to support Traditional Owner groups through the first two of five phases of Treaty-making. <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/>

## RECVIC AND ANTAR AGM

RecVic and ANTAR’s joint AGM on **Saturday 2 December** is at Djerring Flemington Hub, followed by a panel discussion on the theme *Where To From Here?*, facilitated by Uncle Charles Pakana with representatives

from the hosts, First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria, and Yoorrook Justice Commission. <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au>

## RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

Although it’s sad and frustrating that No won the Vote, there were some positives to come out of our work for Yes to win, and one of those things was lots of bonding, as three members explain.

**Jett:** My campaigning experience leading to the Referendum was mostly positive. I particularly enjoyed door-knocking in St Kilda West and handing out flyers at the Vic Market and found these activities more meaningful through face-to-face engagement. The Long Walk was another highlight; such an honour to be part of, and I will treasure the memory of that day forever. I really appreciated being out on the campaign trail with other RecSton members and Yes23 volunteers; it was a real confidence-boost, especially during moments of uncertainty as many of us stepped out of our comfort zones. On Referendum day, handing out and later scrutineering at a polling booth for Isaacs, I felt heartened and humbled to be involved. It was terrific to work alongside other volunteers and the organised AEC team, who ran a very tight ship. As it became clear that No had won, I felt shattered... and profoundly embarrassed. How could my values be so out of sync with the majority of a country that I hold so dear? And if I’m feeling this way, what must it feel like for our First Nations Peoples? Post-Referendum, I have experienced a gamut of emotions, but I hope that this is the beginning of significant change. There is much work to be done, and I will continue to listen and learn from First Nations Peoples and take my cues from their leaders when they call on us for support.

**Kaye:** I’m a non-Indigenous person living on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri WoiWurrung people. As a member of RecSton for a few years, I felt prepared to become a Yes23 volunteer and was proud to join people who supported the Voice to Parliament. It was the first time I had handed out materials in the street, door-knocked, phone banked, worked at a pre-poll and scrutineered, not the first time I’d marched in the streets but the first time I’d made signs and made it on TV. The beautiful memories of 17 September and the Walk for Yes help me when I feel sad and disappointed. I felt concerned about the impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. What a lost opportunity, losing Yes, but I have a much deeper understanding of our constitution, our democratic processes and the community. I was proud to have the courage of my convictions and be part of a values-based organisation that took the high road. We’ve built a strong community that supported the Voice and I look forward to continuing to work for justice and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. I’ll keep listening, learning and having conversations.

**Michael:** There is much to say about our activities leading up to the Referendum; like many involved, looking back, the feelings are mixed. There was never a doubt that we needed to show support and solidarity with the leaders of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and Yes Campaign. We had enough conversations in the streets of Prahran, at doors in Middle Park and over the phone to Queenslanders and Sandgroppers to encourage me that not everyone had made up their mind. The thumbs ups, thank-yous and good on yous certainly outnumbered the 'it should be called the Invoice' angry admonishers and middle fingers. We were the fortunate ones to mostly operate in sympathetic surroundings, and as scrutineers, see the pile of Yes votes eclipse the Nos. At our November meeting, we met Ned Valent, Stonnington's new Aboriginal Liaison Officer. I had a great yarn with Ned and look forward to ongoing contact with him at our meetings. Two of our ex-vice presidents are moving up in life. Cr Mike Scott has been appointed Deputy Mayor of Stonnington, and Alex McKay is moving on from Reconciliation Victoria to become a Policy Officer in the Treaty Development area of state government. Congratulations to both. It's exciting to think of them being involved in such important work now.

**NB:** Our last meeting for the year will include a Christmas celebration on **Wednesday 13 December**. After a break, we reconvene on **Wednesday 14 February 2024**. Happy Holidays to all.  
**Ro Bailey**

### ST KILDA SOBERING UP SPACE

A new Sobering Up unit is operating in St Kilda. The 'safe place' is offered by an outreach service run by Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation, whose outreach teams will visit places where mob gather, with their Ngwala coffee and soup van offering support. Their first step is to offer transport home or to a safe place with friends or family; if not possible, people will be taken to the St Kilda Sobering Up unit, then when they have sobered up and are feeling well, they will be transported back home or to their own place of safety. Ngwala CEO De-Joel Upkett says: "*The decriminalisation of public intoxication is another step forward to reducing the over-representation of our community in prison.*"

### PHILLIP ISLAND'S NEW ATTRACTION

The latest landmark on Phillip Island is Berninneit, a \$30 million Cultural Centre at 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. A 260-seat theatre, Berninneit, which means 'gather together' in the local Bunurong language, is part of the development, which includes a theatre, a new library and art gallery-museum space operated by the local historical society, a customer and visitor centre, an adaptable 400-seat community space and a grand entrance hall. Berninneit's debut exhibition explores the spirit and place of Millowl, the Bunurong name for Phillip Island, presented by Baluk Arts to showcase the diversity of artistically talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in the Bass Coast.



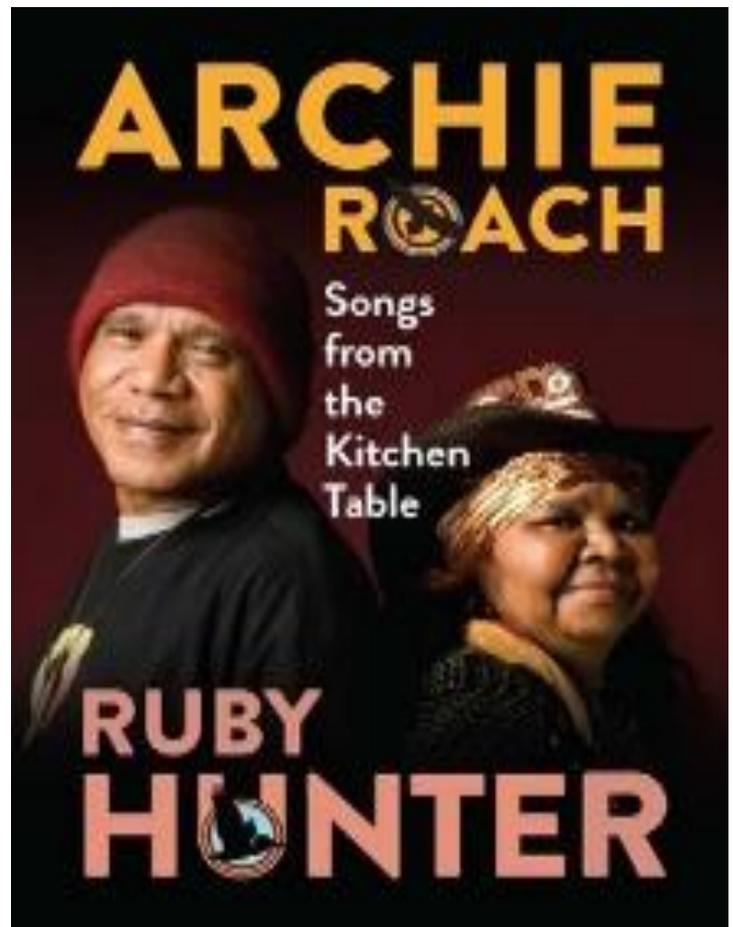
**Berninneit Cultural Centre, Phillip Island's newest attraction.**

### ARTS NEWS

#### **Music:**

*BLAKTIVISM*, back for its third time, features King Stingray, Tasman Keith, Bart Willoughby, Emma Donovan and Deline Briscoe Music - **Friday 1 December**, Hamer Hall.

*Songs from the Kitchen Table*, illustrated commemoration of Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter in songs, stories, photographs and tributes, plus a brand-new song, *I'm Gonna Fly*.



**Books:**

Jane Harrison's *The Visitors*, is audacious, earthy, funny and gritty. It re-imagines a crucial moment in Australia's history when, in January 1788, seven Aboriginal men, representing the nearby clans, gather at Warrane and sight newly arrived ships to the south.

*Edenglassie* is an extraordinary story of early Brisbane by Miles Franklin winner Melissa Lukashenko.

*Women and Children* is the latest novel by Tony Birch and is set in inner Melbourne.

*Close to the Subject: Selected Works* is by ABC journalist Daniel Browning and brings together forty pieces of writing including short plays and news reports.

**Exhibitions:**

*Watercolour Country* is 100 works from Hermannsburg including three watercolours by Albert Namatjira; part of more than seventy never-before-seen paintings - NGV Federation Square, until March.

**Media:**

NITV's Blak line-up includes *Little J & Big Cuz*, *Going Places with Ernie Dingo*, *Her Name is Nanny Nellie* and *The Green Veil*. Check SBS/NITV website for details.

ABC Radio National's *Awaye* programs with Rudi Brember are on Saturdays at 6.00 pm. Details <https://www.abc.net.au> listen › programs.

Interactive map/cultural walk: Sharing our stories is what keeps culture strong. Yalinguth app shares stories from Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, narrated by forty Elders including Uncle Archie Roach, Kutcha Edwards, Uncle Jack Charles, Auntie Beryl Booth and Auntie Rieo Ellis: <https://www.yalinguth.com.au>

**GIFT IDEAS**

Welcome to Country has an extensive range of holiday gifts including baubles, homewares, artifacts and jewelry; <https://shop.welcometocountry.com/>

Indigenous Literacy Foundation: Donate \$20, \$50 or \$100 and receive beautiful cards illustrated from ILF books, and put culturally relevant books into the hands of a child in a remote Community. <https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au>

The Torch merchandise includes the Aboriginal Art 2024 calendar for \$25 and a set of 10 greeting cards for \$15. <https://thetorch.org.au>

**SUPPORT FIRST NATIONS ORGANISATIONS**

Evolve Communities combines Indigenous leadership principles with values like collaboration, consensus and Eldership to build cultural awareness and promote Indigenous ways of thinking. Carla Rogers and

Auntie Munya Andrews, Co-Directors of Evolve Communities, hope to inspire ten million allies to create a kinder, more inclusive Australia to further support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the Reconciliation process. Refer: [www.evovesco.au](http://www.evovesco.au)

Children's Ground, led by Chair and 2023 Elder of the Year, William Tilmouth, focuses on prevention, early intervention and empowerment rather than crisis and deficit. They have invested in prevention and the future of children in nine NT communities. Donations are sought to support their work, which is more essential following the Referendum defeat. <https://childrensground.org.au/> or via their Abbotsford office, 0447 903 084.

Yarn Strong Sista offers approved services and a diverse range of resources to enhance kindergarten learning through School Readiness Funding Programs. Designed to ensure VEYLDF alignment, play-based learning, encouragement of imagination and creativity, and ethical and sustainable production methods through a range of resources including puzzles, games, books, small world play sets, gross motor skill equipment, puppets and musical instruments. [www.yarnstrongsista.com](http://www.yarnstrongsista.com)

Melbourne Walking Tours present the Aboriginal history of the Birrarung and the Peoples of the Kulin Nation. Starting at the Koorie Heritage Trust with a guided walk through exhibitions, art galleries and Fed Square, they move on down to the Birrarung Wilam (common ground) Aboriginal art installation. <https://experience.welcometocountry.com/products/birrarung-wilam-river-camp-aboriginal-walking-tour>



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# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation is a voluntary community group affiliated with Reconciliation Victoria and Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation Victoria (ANTaR). We work closely with the City of Port Phillip from whom we receive a small grant, participate in Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week events, host a free lunch for Sorry Day each year, participate in local community festivals and publish an informative monthly newsletter, *Mungo*.

Meetings are held at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

Please help us continue our work by joining the group – or renewing your existing membership. The rate is valid until 30 June 2024.

Date: .....

Membership Fee: \$20.00, \$10.00 concession:

Amount Enclosed: \$..... (Please tick Cash... Cheque... or Deposit...)

EFT Details:  
Bendigo Bank  
Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation  
BSB 633 000  
Account Number 135518546

**Please include your surname in the reference to identify the payment.**

Name: .....

Address: .....Postcode: .....

Mobile: ..... Email: .....

Completed Membership Forms can be sent to: PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, VIC 3182 or emailed to [rosemary.rule@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.rule@gmail.com).

Members automatically receive a free copy of *Mungo* each month. Would you prefer to receive it by email and help save postage – and trees? Yes..... No.....

Are you able to help with events, stalls or mailouts? Yes..... No.....

