

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.

APRIL 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

As a representative member of the Council's RAP committee, I was invited to attend a meeting held on 1 March. Discussions focused on ways to evaluate their previous RAP and how to "*build and deliver a culturally appropriate and responsive service and enhance accountability and transparency to Bunurong, Boonwurrung, Wurundjeri and all First Nations people.*" Attendees included Jordan Sutardy, Maggie Smith and other Council staff, representatives from Launch Housing, Better Health Network (formerly Star Health), Access Health, Sacred Heart and Ngwala. There's much work to be implemented, and I'll report on developments in the coming months.

New Memorial Seat

N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs warmly welcomed people attending the unveiling of a new seat in memory of Elder Jude Hanley, a woman who dedicated 25 years to serving as a First Peoples support worker and liaison in the City of Port Phillip. The beautiful seat, handcrafted

by members of Jude's family, faces the bay and Jacka Boulevard in Cleve Gardens, St Kilda. There were many friends and colleagues of Jude's in the crowd, including her sister Christine Moore, Council staff, representatives from Access Health, Salvation Army and Brotherhood of St Laurence. The seat is the latest included in a new Her Story map, celebrating Port Phillip's women, compiled by the Council, see item below.

Education Focus

Education is emerging as an area our group is keen to put effort into this year. We're investigating ways to support work being done by Early Learning Centres in particular, and we welcome ideas and suggestions.

Congratulations

To Electric Fields, Australia's entrant in the 2024 Eurovision Song contest, singing *Milkali* (One Blood) in language – a first; to Melbourne Fashion Festival, dedicating a show solely to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander designs.

Diary Dates

A Special Guest Speaker from the First Peoples' Assembly has been invited to our **Tuesday 21 May** meeting, and we're hosting a community lunch to commemorate Sorry Day on **Tuesday 28 May**. Details next month.

Rosemary Rule

Christine Moore, the late Elder Jude Hanley's sister, shares the memorial seat named in Jude's honour with Elder Judith Jackson.



Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 April, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3
Ferrars Place (off Park Street), South Melb.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 685 734

STATEWIDE TREATY GATHERING

The First Peoples' Assembly is hosting a Statewide Treaty Gathering at the GMHBA Stadium on Wadawurrung Country, Geelong. The three-day event will be a cultural celebration and corroboree, where mob can come together, yarn about Treaty, share feedback and ideas and help shape the next steps on the journey to Treaty. For mob only. Includes talks, workshops, free feeds and entertainment on the Friday and Saturday nights.

NEW FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY SEAT

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria voted to create a new reserved seat for Traditional Owners of Country in north-west Victoria, the Wamba Wamba/Wemba Wemba peoples. The Wamba Wamba Aboriginal Corporation is the first Indigenous group to hold a guaranteed seat on the Assembly, without recognition from the government; a major step forward in First Nations decision-making powers in Victoria. Corporation Chairperson Lowana Moore said it was a historic moment, after the group had worked hard to highlight that they met the criteria needed to sit in the chamber. *"The decision will give hope and paves the way for other Traditional Owner Groups that are not recognised by the state. It's due recognition of the hard work of our Elders."* The new seat will bring the number of seats in the Assembly to 33; 22 elected by the Victorian Indigenous community based on their regions and a further 11 seats elected by Traditional Owner groups with Recognised Aboriginal Party (RAP) status. RAP status is awarded through the Aboriginal Heritage Council after an evaluation. Legislation provides holders with responsibility for implementing various cultural features, including assessing Cultural Heritage Permits and the evaluation of Cultural Heritage Management Plans.

HER STORY MAP CELEBRATES PORT PHILLIP'S WOMEN

Her Story celebrates the lives of women who have been recognised in our city via place names (street names, park names, building names etc), monuments and significant works of art. An illustrated map of City of Port Phillip (COPP) highlights the places that are named after women, including short descriptions about their lives and achievements, with links to more detailed information, including why the place is named after them. First Nations women commemorated are Maria Starcevic, Alma Roach and Louisa Briggs and recently, Judy Hanley. Hopefully more women will be recognised in place names and monuments. The Her Story map is available in hard copy through COPP's libraries and Assist offices and in digital form on [our website](#).

CITY OF MELBOURNE'S FIRST NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In March, a First Nations Advisory Committee was established for self-determination and a voice on strategy, policy and programs within the City of

Melbourne. It is a 12-person body, appointed to represent 'Traditional Owners, residents, workers and visitors' among the wide spectrum of the Indigenous Community. Nine selected First Nations representatives would be appointed as members of the committee alongside the director, lead and deputy lead positions of council branch Aboriginal Melbourne – who are currently GunaiKurnai man Jason Eades, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councillor Dr Olivia Ball. There are no current Indigenous City of Melbourne councillors, but in future, First Nations councillors could be elected. Committee member appointment recommendations will be presented in the coming months.

CHILD BAIL REFORMS DITCHED

Victoria's Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes' decision to ditch vital bail reforms for children that would have reduced the over-incarceration of Aboriginal children has resulted in the trial of a surveillance project to monitor children. According to the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS), this trial could see kids being subject to monitoring and surveillance without ever being found guilty of anything. The Government's refusal to implement bail reforms which have been recommended by human rights and social justice organisations is backwards and archaic. VALS says the decision is a betrayal of all children and young people, whose experience of abuse and trauma has had undeniable consequences for their emotional development and affected their ability to respond appropriately, rendering them more likely to offend.

STONNINGTON NEWS



RecSton members with Reverend Canon Glenn Loughrey (centre).

On 13 March, the monthly Reconciliation Stonnington meeting was held at Murnong First Peoples' Gathering Place at St Oswald's Anglican Church in Glen Iris.

The reason we asked to meet there was to learn from an Indigenous Community leader and seek understanding and guidance as we look to the future relationship in our city between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous folk. It was a privilege to hear and learn from our host, Reverend Canon Glenn Loughrey, who yarned with us about the origins of Murnong before inviting us to explore the beautiful native gardens. Afterwards, he treated us to a tour of St Oswald's, where we learned about the various artworks displayed on the walls and the stained-glass windows. After touring the church, we sat in a yarning circle in the Murnong Gallery for Aboriginal Art, around a mat (featuring Reverend Glenn's original work [Treaty](#)), heard more stories and gained valuable insights from our gracious host. It was such an honour, and we were very grateful to Reverend Glenn for his generosity and hospitality.

Mike Scott

FIRST NATIONS GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT WINS FEDERAL GRANT

A new \$1.7 million grant will support the East Kimberley Clean Energy project, a First Nations-led clean energy, green hydrogen and green ammonia export project. The grant will fund the Traditional Owners to co-develop and self-determine the energy project and will demonstrate how First Nations groups can have a greater say and a larger stake in Australia's renewable energy. Three native title representative holders along with climate investment firm Pollination formed the partnership two years ago, each with a quarter share. *Note:* Pollination's Melbourne-based Executive Director, Amanda Young, mentioned this exciting project when she was the guest speaker at Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation's AGM last November.

SA'S VOICE TO PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation members Janine and Greg Paslow were recently driving through Port Pirie in South Australia. Stopping for lunch in a park, they met three very enthusiastic young people from the SA electoral commission who had been traveling for five months through rural and remote areas promoting the SA Indigenous Voice to Parliament elections in March*. They said they were very happy to have 113 nominees (many of whom are women) campaigning for 46 regional positions over 6 regions with 12 successful candidates (50/50 gender split) forming the SA Voice. "*It is legislated so government departments and cabinet must listen; here's hoping the other states can follow,*" Janine commented.

**Note:* Provisional Voice campaign results will be declared at the conclusion of the count for each region and made progressively from 25 March and may continue into early April.

INDIGENOUS ARTWORK ON OLYMPIC UNIFORMS

Australia has unveiled its Olympic uniforms for the Paris Games, featuring the largest-ever splashes of Indigenous artwork. The athletes and officials uniforms feature Indigenous prints by artist Paul Fleming from Wakka Wakka Wanyurr Majay, Yuggera Country and Torres Strait Islander artist David Bosun.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Theatre

37 isn't just a play about football; it's about the kind of experiences First Nations people have in this country. Directed by Noongar man Isaac Dardic, the play's main character mirrors Adam Goodes' in terms of standing up against racism, especially when you feel alone. Melbourne Theatre Company until 5 April.

Art

The *Country Road + NGV First Nations Commissions* features works by emerging First Nations artists and designers, paired with esteemed industry mentors such as Maree Clarke, Vincent Namatjira and Tony Albert, creating their most ambitious work to date. Ian Potter Centre, NGV Australia.

The Torch now has a selection of hand-painted boomerangs, stocked in-store at the Melbourne Museum.

Comedy

Deadly Funny National Awards, featuring 2024 national finalists and special guest performers, shine a light on emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander talent for one show, supported by 3KND Kool 'N' Deadly, **Monday 15 April**, 7.00 pm, Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre. Sean Choolburra's *Didj & Dance* show for kids, 3.15 pm, **12-14 April**, Melbourne Museum.

REMOTE HOUSING BOOST

The Federal and NT Governments have announced a landmark joint \$4 billion dollar investment for housing in remote communities across the NT to help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The 10-year commitment to improve remote housing will see up to 270 homes built each year, with the goal of halving overcrowding, and includes continued support for repairs and maintenance. The funding is additional to the NT Government's existing \$40 million per annum investment in homelands, housing and essential infrastructure upgrades. A Partnership Agreement will be established between the Commonwealth, NT Governments and Aboriginal Housing NT and Aboriginal Land Councils. A further \$1 million will be provided to Aboriginal Housing NT over the next two years, to support their role in this Partnership Agreement.

