

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.



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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May 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

National Reconciliation Week

This year's National Reconciliation Week theme is *Now More Than Ever*, a compelling reminder that, no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People must continue. Many events are being held between **Monday 27 May to Monday 3 June**, so check out the Council's website for details:

www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/first-nations-community-information/reconciliation-week, as well as Reconciliation Victoria: <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/>.

Sorry Day Lunch

We are hosting a community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day **on Tuesday 28 May** (after the actual Sorry Day). Features include a Welcome to Country, Mayor's speech and entertainment from singer Maylene Yinarr - she performed at St Kilda's First Peoples First Festival. Our MC is the wonderful Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish. Boxed lunches and refreshments are provided as well as door prizes. Free event - gold coin donation welcome. Limited space, so please RSVP by **Wednesday 22 May** via this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQULZ>



Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Kuku Djungan and Gangalidda singer Maylene Yinarr will perform at the Sorry Day Lunch on Tuesday 28 May.

Congratulations

To Archie Moore, winner of the Golden Lion for Best National Participation at Venice Biennale, the first Australian artist to receive this award; to Katie Kiss, new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner; and to the eleven leaders inducted into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

April Meeting

At last month's well-attended meeting, we welcomed Joshua Burgess, Educational Leader at St Kilda and Balaclava Kindergarten, and Samuel Crocket, Assistant Principal - Teaching, Learning and Development, at Mac.Robertson Girls' High School. Both are keen to engage with the group and explore relationships with First Nations providers and the council.

Next Meeting

Our May meeting Guest Speaker is Uncle Shane Charles; Yorta Yorta, Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung



Elder, Metro Member of the First Peoples' Assembly, educator and facilitator.

Uncle Shane Charles will be our Guest Speaker at the May meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 May, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,
Ferrars Place (off Park Street), South Melbourne.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 675 734.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY ELDERS

Aboriginal Elders from across Victoria have been selected for an historic Elders' Voice group to help guide the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria towards Treaty negotiations. With gender and geographic representation, the 20 Elders were selected to become the Elders' Voice Standing Group due to their experience, wisdom and standing in Community, following an open process. These respected Elders will provide wisdom and cultural authority on the journey to Treaty as the Assembly begins negotiating a statewide Treaty with the Victorian



Government later this year.
<https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/the-assembly/elders-voice/standing-group/>

Elders Voice Standing Group member -
Bunurong Elder Uncle Anthony Egan.

YOORROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Yoorrook Justice Commissioners acknowledged the Victorian Government's response to the *Yoorrook for Justice* Report, with 28 recommendations being accepted in full or in principle. Agreement on these recommendations demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of truth telling. Commissioners expect to see progress on the 15 recommendations under consideration in the months to come. There are 46 recommendations in the Report after a year-long inquiry into systemic injustice within Victoria's child protection and criminal justice systems, finding both systems remain broken for First Peoples, and that the present-day failures of these systems are deeply rooted in the colonial foundations of the state. First Peoples' Assembly Co-Chair Ngarra Murray said she was frustrated by how long the government had taken to respond and disappointed about the disrespect shown to Community members who participated in the truth-telling process.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S VOICE IMPLEMENTED

The Government of South Australia has committed to a state-based implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart - Voice, Treaty and Truth, commencing with the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament, following elections held in March. This is different to the federal Voice and only relates to SA. The SA Voice will be a direct and independent line of communication for First Nations People to SA's parliament and government, made up of six local First Nations Voices and a state First Nations Voice.
<https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/first-nations-voice>

NEW CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

The government will establish a National Commissioner dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families to help address critical issues facing First Nations youth. Recognised by SNAICC

CEO Catherine Liddle as a transformative initiative, this new role promises to advocate for systemic changes that are deeply needed to ensure First Nations children can grow up in environments where they are safe, respected and connected to their cultural heritage.

JUNE OSCAR'S LEGACY

June Oscar's term as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner ended in March. The first woman to hold the position, her legacy continues in the way she has amplified the voices of First Nations women and girls. June travelled around the country, listening to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for the Wiyi Yani U Thangani - 'Women's Voices' in Bunuba language - which continues as the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice at the ANU, supported with a \$3 million grant over four years.



June Oscar AO has completed her term as Social Justice Commissioner.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

Our group will have an information table at City of Stonnington's Reconciliation Week that includes a Welcome to Country by a Wurundjeri Elder and entertainment from by John Wayne Parsons, proud Yugerra and Ugarem Le man, **Tuesday 21 May**, 2.00 pm, Malvern Town Hall. We returned to Prahran Place for our April meeting, and inspired by our visit to Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place, changed the seating arrangement to a yarnning circle. We had a rich conversation about how the Reconciliation process could benefit from non-Indigenous people reckoning with their culture and history; how it has shaped their behaviour, values and ultimately interactions with First Peoples. As part of Reconciliation Stonnington's commitment in 2024 to deepen our cultural understanding and build relationships, we have booked Koorie Heritage Trust's Birrarung Wilam Walking Tour for early May.
Michael Sullivan & Ro Bailey

RECONCILIATION NEWS

Reconciliation Victoria (RV) hosted 20 Reconciliation leaders at the Australian Reconciliation Network (ARN) in Naarm at the Koorie Heritage Trust last month. Discussions focused on the next steps for Australia's Reconciliation journey, how to collectively support truth telling, influence societal change, push for justice, advocate for Treaties, increase Reconciliation awareness and erase racism. For the latest news, see <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/>

REFERENDUM FUNDING STATISTICS

Data released by the Australian Electoral Commission show a spending and donations gulf between the two sides of the Voice to Parliament referendum. Yes campaign organisations received millions more in donations than their No counterparts, with equivalent results in their spending. Australians for Constitutional

Recognition, the main Yes campaign body, received more than \$40 million in donations; the closest No campaign rival, Australians for Unity, received more than \$10 million in donations, ultimately spending almost \$12 million. Combined with Advance Australia, the other prominent No campaign, some \$22 million was spent advocating against the Voice, less than half the \$53 million spent by the major Yes campaigns. The data, however, doesn't provide a full picture of donations.

ILF'S PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) won this year's Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, receiving \$725,000.

"In close collaboration with Communities, they highlight the value of all people's own languages and stories. By spreading books and stimulating reading, storytelling and creativity, Indigenous Literacy Foundation builds the desire to read and fosters pride, self-confidence and a sense of belonging. Every child has the right to their language and their stories."

CHILD BAIL REFORMS

In March, Victorian Attorney General Jaclyn Symes announced the government would not go ahead with plans to implement a presumption of bail for children, claiming the reform was not needed. She said "99%" of children accused of crimes were granted bail, as they were able to demonstrate to the courts exceptional circumstances or compelling reasons why they should not be put into custody. "If that's what's happening in practice, changing it and creating concern that we are weakening bail, when it's not necessarily the case, is not something that we need to do", she said.

CULTURAL WALK

Wurundjeri Educator Uncle Bill Nicholson Jr joins the Abbotsford Convent's cultural walk program during Melbourne Design Week, sharing knowledge of land, history and ecology. Follow the Birrarung (Yarra River) through place to reflect on the relationship between land and story and past and present histories.

23 and 25 May.

ARTS EVENTS AND NEWS

Music

The Recital Centre's inaugural First Nations curator, Yorta Yorta poet, musician, activist and broadcaster Neil Morris, will curate *Future/Present*, showcasing First Nations artists; **Saturday 31 August**.

<https://www.melbournerecital.com.au/events/series/futurepresent/>

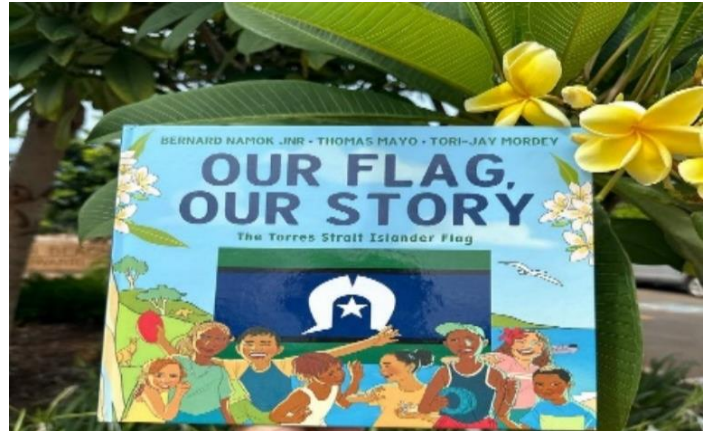
Theatre

Ilbjerri Theatre's production of *Big Name, No Blankets* celebrates the phenomenal journey and impact of Australian music icons Warumpi Band, inspired by stories from founding member Sammy Tjapanangka Butcher. Part of the RISING Festival, **31 May-2 June**, Melbourne Town Hall.

Art

The Torch's *Confined 15* opens on **Friday 3 May**. Work by artists from across the state will be available to view and purchase on The Torch website from 8.00 am on **Friday 3 May** and at Glen Eira City Council Gallery, 10.00 am on **Friday 3 May** until **Sunday 2 June**.

Books



Our Flag, Our Story: The Torres Strait Islander Flag Told through the words of Bernard Namok Jnr and Thomas Mayo and the illustrations of Tori-Jay Mordey, this is a story of the Torres Strait Islander flag; a symbol of unity, shared identity and pride for all Torres Strait Islanders. Magabala Books.

Reflections on the Voice Professor Andrew Gunstone, a leading authority on Reconciliation, reflects on the 2023 referendum campaign and on the outcome of the referendum and the implications of both for Australia's ongoing Reconciliation journey. Arcadia.

Fight for Liberty and Freedom Professor John Maynard's revised edition delves into the origins of the Australian Aboriginal Progressive Association and the fight for self-determination, led by his grandfather, Fred Maynard. AIATSIS Shop

Media

Living Black, hosted by Walkley Award-winning presenter, Executive Producer and journalist Karla Grant, Mondays, 8.30 pm on NITV and SBS On Demand.

ABC Radio National's *AWAYE* program is presented by Rudi Bremmer and *Speaking Out* with Larissa Behrendt.

OLDEST ABORIGINAL POTTERY UNCOVERED

Scientists have uncovered close to 100 small pieces of pottery on Jiigurru (Lizard Island) that are dated to between 3,000 and 1,800 years old. The pottery may have been made locally by First Nations People, making it the oldest - and one of the only - examples of Aboriginal pottery, made thousands of years before European colonisation. Experts agree more archaeology in the area needs to be carried out.

SORRY DAY

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation

Invite you to a Lunch to Commemorate



National Sorry Day
TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024



12.30-2.30 pm

South Melbourne Community Centre
Cnr Ferrars Place & Park Street, South Melbourne

Welcome to Country

Master of Ceremonies:
Dennis Fisher
aka Den the Fish

Entertainment:
Maylene Yinarr
Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri, Kuku Djungan and
Gangalidda Victorian song woman

Door Prizes

Box Lunches & Refreshments Provided

Free Event - All Welcome

Gold coin donation appreciated

RSVP BY 22 MAY VIA TRYBOOKING : <https://www.trybooking.com/CQULZ>

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