

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.

March 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Up and Running

It was a privilege to have Elder Judith 'Aunty Jacko' Jackson do an Acknowledgement of Country at our well-attended, productive February meeting. Also present was the Council's Tanja Heil, Coordinator - Housing, Safety and Reconciliation, and Maggie Smith, newly appointed Aboriginal Gathering and Development Advisor (details inside). We will wait for feedback from Elders about the status of Reconciliation and Treaty and will host a lunch for National Sorry Day on **Tuesday 28 May** and possibly another public event to engage the broader community. We're always keen to hear ideas, so please keep in touch and check out ppcfr.org. We're the grateful recipient of a Council grant funding our activities and appreciate receiving annual membership fees - \$20 (\$10 concession).

City of Port Phillip

Todd Condie has officially left the Council. As Indigenous Policy Officer since 2013, Todd's contribution to and advocacy for the community was enormous. A wise, knowledgeable counsellor, he always supported PPCfR and engaged in our activities. On behalf of the group, I want to acknowledge the outstanding contribution he has made and to wish him all the best for the future.

Jordan Sutardy continues his excellent work as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Building and Community Broker.

In other news, I've been invited to participate in meetings to develop CoPP's Reconciliation Action Plan 3 (RAP3) and will post updates in forthcoming issues.

Congratulations

To Thomas Mayo, appointed to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Board; to Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts award winners: Ngali Shaw - Brian Walsh Emerging Talent award; *The New Boy* film's Best Actor - Aswan Reid; Best Supporting Actress - Deborah Mailman, Best Production Design - Amy Baker, Best Cinematography - Warwick Thornton; to playwright Dylan Van Den Berg, Australian Writers Guild Award winner.

Memorial Seat

On **Friday 8 March**, a memorial seat in memory of the late Judy Hanley will be unveiled in Cleve Gardens, St Kilda. A qualified social worker, Jude dedicated her life to helping marginalised people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, via her work with Access Health, the Salvation Army and Brotherhood of St Lawrence. PPCfR supported her family's application to Council to establish this memorial.

Rosemary Rule

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



VALE DR O'DONOGHUE

Renowned Indigenous leader Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC, CBE, DSG died in February, aged 91. She was a former Australian of the Year and Indigenous rights activist, South Australia's first Aboriginal nurse, a branch member of the Federal Office of Aboriginal Affairs and founding chairperson of the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC). In 1992, she became the first Australian Aboriginal person to address the United Nations General Assembly, urging "*that the Australian constitution be changed to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the continent's original inhabitants*". Dr O'Donoghue helped create, and later chair, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). After retiring from ATSIC, she oversaw research into Aboriginal health policy and chaired the Sydney Olympic Games National Indigenous Advisory Committee. Dr O'Donoghue's legacy continues through the Lowitja Institute, a health research body, the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation and the annual Lowitja O'Donoghue Orations at the University of Adelaide.



Lowitja; Her Authorised Biography by Stuart Rintoul was published in 2020.

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NEW JOBS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

A new federal Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program aims to help close the gap in employment outcomes by creating 3,000 jobs in remote Australia. The \$707 million investment replaces the failed Community Development Program (CDP) and aims to provide real jobs, proper wages and decent conditions. The RJED program starts mid-2024 and offers self-determination through economic and community development. It will be implemented in partnership with First Nations people to build skills and experience and deliver the services that communities want.

The government is also establishing a National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People to help achieve progress under the Closing the Gap agreement. Indigenous children are almost eleven times more likely to be in out-of-home care than non-Indigenous children. The Commissioner will focus on working with First Nations people on evidence-based programs and policies to turn those figures around.

WORK NEEDED TO BUILD BRIDGES

The Productivity Commission found governments have largely not fulfilled their commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, making four recommendations in their final report. "*To date, most government actions and plans to implement the agreement relabel business-as-usual or simply tweak existing ways of working,*" said Commissioner Natalie Siegel-Brown. "*The agreement can and should be a*

blueprint for real reform, but governments will need to address the entrenched attitudes, assumptions and ways of working that are preventing progress." The report's four recommendations are: to share power; to recognise and support Indigenous Data Sovereignty; to fundamentally rethink mainstream government systems and culture and to implement stronger accountability.

TREATY UPDATE

During 2024, Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly will start to negotiate a statewide Treaty to tackle overarching statewide issues and transfer decision-making powers from government to Community. Treaty Day Outs will be held in Ballarat on **Saturday 2 March**, followed by a statewide Treaty Gathering, **Friday 5 April-7 April** at the GMHBA Stadium, Geelong. It's a three-day cultural celebration event 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. <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/events/statewide-treaty-gathering/>

INTRODUCING MAGGIE SMITH

Maggie Smith is the City of Port Phillip's new Aboriginal Gathering and Development Advisor. Her role is to lead and foster a local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, to engage with First Peoples, to generate support and commitment to the findings of their Gathering Report: *An Exploration of Gathering for the Aboriginal Community in Melbourne's Inner Urban South* and also to provide specialist advice in relation to building strong working relationships with Traditional Owner Groups within Port Phillip. A Torres Strait Islander (Saibai Island- Koedal) with paternal kinship connections to Gunditjmara Country, Maggie has worked for over 30 years in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, recently for Courts Services Victoria, designing and developing the *Dhumbumana Healing Strategy 2021-2023* for the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal to ensure this specialist court function is culturally safe and supports First Nations peoples through the court process. She's also worked in Cultural Safety within organisations to reflect the needs of First Nations people in the community and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

"I am passionate about my community and culture and work towards advocacy for First Nations women and their children, who are at high risk of homelessness caused by family violence."



Maggie Smith is COPP's new Aboriginal Gathering and Development Advisor.

RECONCILIATION - LOCAL GROUPS

Reconciliation Victoria (RV) hosted a Reconciliation Groups New Year Check-In forum last month.

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation was among the local groups (LRGs) attending in person at Initiatives of Change Australia in Toorak (others were online). Ideas were exchanged about 'Reconciliation in a post referendum landscape', how LRGs can support Treaty negotiations in Victoria (along with suggestions for a suitable location for RV's statewide forum in September), plans for ongoing consultation sessions and strategies designed to engage the broader community. Meanwhile, RV has appointed new board and team members: Maria Dugan - Aboriginal Co-Chair; Judy Rangi - Office and Projects Manager; Kathryn Farrell - Volunteers Program Coordinator and Anna Van Vliet - Communications Officer. CEO Nicole Findlay says they are laying down plans and generating community campaigns to boost awareness about what Reconciliation is and why it's so important.

Reconciliation Stonnington

At the first meeting for the year, we discussed a paper put together by Vice President Michael Sullivan, exploring what we might do in 2024; a topic to be continued at our next meeting at a different venue, Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place, 100 High Street, Glen Iris.

Ro Bailey

ANTaR VIC (Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation) is a grassroots, membership-driven organisation, focussed on activities and issues specific to First Nations people in Victoria through education, advocacy, land justice and Treaty and offers support to local ANTaR & RV groups. Their online shop sells culturally appropriate products including plaques. [www. antarvictoria.org.au](http://www.antarvictoria.org.au)

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Explore Forgiveness and Reconciliation through the lens of First Nations and Indigenous people's world views through a collaboration between Mana O Kahiko - Spirit Power of Our Ancestors and Initiatives of Change Australia (IOCA). Forgiveness Circle, Welcome to Country, Hawaiian Protocol and Smoking Ceremony; modern story sharing alongside Uncle Shane Charles, IOCA Elder-in-residence, First Nations Larrakia musician Ash Dargan and Warren Mason, Tin Camp Studios. \$40 - \$80. **Saturday 23 March**, 10.00-1.00 pm, plus music, storytelling and hula with Warren Mason, Ash Dargan and Kawika Foster. <https://www.manaokahiko.com/melbourne>; or Initiatives of Change - <https://au.iofc.org>

YARNSTRONG SISTA'S NEW SHOP

A new shop selling quality Indigenous educational items has been opened opposite the Vic Markets at Shop 3/516 Elizabeth Street. Open Wednesday-Friday, Saturday-Sunday, it sells a wide range of Aboriginal early childhood education resources. www.yarnstrongsista.com

THE ARTS

Exhibitions

Making Mun-dirra, the centrepiece of NGV's Triennial, took 13 women two years and more than 5,000 threads to create the 3-metre long multi-panel artwork to become Australia's largest woven sculpture. The installation is a



collaboration between Burarra Art and Culture, the community of Maningrida and the NGV. Displayed until **7 April**.

Twelve Torch artworks with the overarching theme of bringing in healing from the natural world have been installed at the Western Plains Corrections Facility #ArtProject in Lara. Kent Morris's new body of work, *Karta Kartaka* (Pink Cockatoo) at the Vivien Anderson Gallery, 284-290 St Kilda Road, St Kilda, until **16 March**.

Literature

Blak & Bright literary festival, **14-17 March** features workshops, talks, panel discussions with First Nations creatives including Tony Birch, Daniel Browning, Deborah Cheetham Fraillon, Leah Purcell, Kirli Saunders. Wheeler Centre and other CBD venues.

<https://blakandbright.com.au/2024/>

Aboriginal Victorians - A History Since 1800: Second Edition is the award-winning history by Emeritus Professor Richard Broome AM.

Theatre

Goodbye Aunty Flo is a hilarious play presented by Ilbjerri Theatre Company at Gasworks Theatre, Albert Park, **Friday 22 March**, 7.00 pm.

The Hate Race by Maxine Beneba Clarke is an unflinching exploration of the complexities of race in Australia and the universal search for belonging, starring Zahra Newman. Until **17 March** at The Malthouse.

Healing Stories Symposium - How Performing Arts Can Strengthen Health/Wellbeing in First Nations Communities, University of Melbourne and Ilbjerri Theatre Company, live performances, Q&A. **Sunday 21 March** and **Monday 22 March**, Space 28, Performing Arts Building, Dodds Street, VCA.

Music

Jessica Mauboy's new single *Give You Love* features Jason Derulo, while her fifth studio album, *Yours Forever*, is just released.

ALICE'S NEW CULTURAL CENTRE

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has opened a new centre in Mparntwe - Alice Springs. The centre will give Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia better access to more than one million cultural items - the largest collection of its kind in the world, including nearly 800,000 photographic records, 42,000 hours of audio and almost two kilometres of film, all housed at 37 Todd Mall, Alice Springs.

