

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.

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May 2023

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

National Sorry Day Lunch

Members and friends are invited to our lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day. It will be held on **Thursday 25 May**, 12.30-2.30 pm, in the South Melbourne Community Centre, cnr Ferrars Place and Park Street, South Melbourne. Highlights include a Welcome to Country, entertainment by John Wayne Parsons, Yuggerabul and Kemer Kemer Meriam vocalist, accompanied by a guitarist, our wonderful MC, Dennis Fisher, aka Den the Fish, door prizes,



box lunches and refreshments. It's free, but donations are always welcome. Please book by 19 May, T: 9699 8804, E: rosemary.rule@gmail.com.

The man with a powerful voice, John Wayne Parsons, will perform at our Sorry Day Lunch on Thursday 25 May.

Reconciliation Week

The 2023 theme is *Be a Voice for Generations*. To celebrate, there are a host of interesting events taking place between **27 May to 3 June** - details inside. The City of Port Phillip activities include a Mabo Day event on **Sunday 4 June** at the Esplanade markets. Being interested in developing closer relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in our community, Damian Rocks, Wellbeing Planner at Australian Unity's Albert Park precinct, has invited me to speak to residents of The Grace retirement facility on **Monday 29 May**. I've also been invited to speak at Holy Trinity, Port Melbourne.

Events and Forums

A good crowd gathered at St Kilda's Pride Centre on 27 March for the Delivering the Voice: Yes Community Information and Networking Forum. Listening to personal stories from Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and Shelley Ware about growing up Aboriginal and why they think it's so important to vote 'Yes' was moving - and motivating. The Member for Macnamara, Josh Burns, outlined some of the key points of the Yes campaign. His office will continue to support and provide material for people



wanting to reach out and help inform friends, family and community groups. As Shelley reminded us, 'Voting YES is a first step' in the Indigenous Voice for Parliament Referendum process. It's up to each of us to keep informed via reputable sources such as YES23, Thomas Mayo and Reconciliation Victoria.

(L-R) Speakers at the well-attended Delivering the Voice: Yes Community Information and Networking Forum at St Kilda's Pride Centre on 27 April were Josh Burns, Member for Macnamara, Shelley Ware and Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson.

Farewell

Father Bob Maguire, social justice campaigner, charity worker and media personality, died on 19 April aged 88. Parish priest of St Peter & Paul's Catholic Church, South Melbourne, from 1973 to 2012. He launched the Father Bob Maguire Foundation to provide food relief, social inclusion and educational support services "so that no one is left behind" and was often seen out and about in Victoria Street, Albert Park. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1989 for services to homeless youth and Victorian of the Year in 2011. Father Bob will be honoured with a state funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Storage Space Needed

PPCfR has to move our office-related files and papers, amassed over 25 years, out of the South Melbourne Town Hall community room by early June. We're in desperate need of a new space, so if you can help out, please get in touch.

Rosemary Rule

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

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (NRW)

The 2023 theme is *Be a Voice for Generations* #NRW2023 – **27 May - 3 June**. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving Reconciliation in Australia. Reconciliation Victoria's NRW activities are aimed at supporting Reconciliation advocates to open and progress YES discussions; keep updated on the [NRW Page](#). Rec Vic's major NRW event is a Voice Breakfast being held on **Tuesday 30 May**, 7.30-9.00 am at The Centre, Ivanhoe, bringing together Reconciliation supporters and champions to hear about the importance of voting YES in the Voice to Parliament Referendum and this year's NRW theme. Special guest speaker Aunty Jill Gallagher AO will present the inaugural Maggolee Awards to local governments who support First Peoples' voices and strong partnerships. Later, view the *Walk the River* exhibition by Uncle Jim Berg, and *Voices of Reconciliation* painting activity with Aunty Karen Lovett at the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/nrw-2023-breakfast-tickets-59738>

COMMENTS FROM SOME YES AND NO VOICES

"I hold myself together most of the time, though I am not devoid of feelings. After all, it is predominantly love that keeps me focused, as it is love that moves us to march on the streets in protest against the all-too-regular injustices, the failed policies and harmful laws. It is the love we have for our children that gives us the courage to try something new – we have never before had a constitutionally enshrined Voice."

Thomas Mayo.

"The proposed Voice to parliament will be a 'new arm of the government', requiring thousands of new public servants and costing billions to run, without improving outcomes for Indigenous Australians. Plenty of Indigenous people in this country are completely opposed to the Voice because they don't believe that a Canberra voice is going to provide support."

Peter Dutton.

"It is about local community designing their regional Voice and then the regional Voice selecting people they want to represent them in Canberra. It's not a Canberra voice. It is not elite. It is people from the grassroots."

Ken Wyatt, former Indigenous Australians Minister.

"I will be voting 'No' in the Indigenous Voice Referendum; a constitutionally enshrined national voice will add bureaucratic layers to government and not deliver practical outcomes. If you look at the Closing the Gap figures, you will see the biggest problem is not between black and white. The biggest problem is between regional Aboriginals and city Aboriginals. I support the coalition's push for regional and remote communities to be able to do the practical outcomes that need to be done."

Warren Mundine, Recognise A Better Way.

"Parliament will not be able to 'shut the Voice up' and the Indigenous body will speak to 'all parts of the government' including the cabinet, ministers and public servants as well as statutory offices and agencies from the Reserve Bank to Centrelink."

Megan Davis, Constitutional lawyer, Referendum working group member.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, which represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the journey to Treaty in Victoria, is running 'Meet the Candidates' forums between **13 May to 3 June**. Those elected will negotiate a state-wide Treaty that works to improve the lives of First Nations children through truth telling, better education, more jobs, affordable housing and better health and justice. <https://treatyelections.org/> Elsewhere, the Assembly and the Fitzroy Stars Football & Netball Club are hosting a special Treaty Round on **Saturday 6 May**, with Fitzroy Stars playing Laurimar Power Football Club, from 11.55 am, main game at 2.10 pm. Sir Douglas Nicholls Oval, 2 Watt Street, Melbourne. All welcome.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON - ALLIES FOR THE VOICE FORUM

In April, Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Federal Member for Higgins, hosted an event with Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong on the Referendum for a Voice to Parliament; Uncle Shane Charles provided a Welcome to Country. Speakers included Danae Bosler (Trades Hall Council), Uncle Glenn Loughrey, St Oswald's Church, Margaret Hepworth, Initiatives of Change and Keith Gove, Reconciliation Victoria and Reconciliation Stonnington. In under an hour, each spoke briefly but powerfully; Minister Wong was very impressive. Other speakers focused on the need for and benefits of a Voice for our First People.



L-R: Margaret Hepworth, Dr Michelle Ananda-Rajah MP, Senator Penny Wong, Uncle Glenn Loughrey, Uncle Shane Charles, Keith Gove, Ro Bailey and Danae Bosler.

Keith spoke on how to support the Voice as a non-Indigenous person, emphasising that while the Voice

is significantly for First Nations people, it is also for all Australians; we are all diminished by a false national identity that does not acknowledge the truth of the foundation of our country. It was not terra nullius – not an empty land peacefully settled. The Uluru Statement From the Heart is an invitation to all Australians to join together to create a shared, truthful national identity - to heal the moral black hole at the heart of our founding document. We all gain from an identity that embraces the rich, 60,000 years of deep First Nations' culture. The campaign must create opportunities for First Nations' voices, but we must be mindful of their low numbers and cultural loads and must amplify those voices when we can and do the heavy lifting. We stuffed it up, we must fix it. But this is to be informed by listening to and checking in with First Nations' people. The Referendum is a moral question; not technical, not details. The Federal Coalition have unfortunately politicised this, unlike the 1967 Referendum. Where possible we need to focus on facts, not party politics. The event was very well attended, giving us hope for a YES vote.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 9 May**, 6.00 pm, at Prahran Community Learning Centre. We will continue to discuss aspects of the Voice and the Referendum, particularly how we can promote a YES vote.

Enquiries: 0438 285 588.

Ro Bailey and Keith Gove

DELAYS TO YOOROOK INQUIRY

Victoria's Truth-telling inquiry is delayed due to the Victorian Government's failure to produce requested documents on time. During recent hearings, lawyers for the government conceded the delays would affect the commission's ability to provide an interim and final report within its own deadlines. The inquiry will now run until mid-2025 after being granted an extension by the state government. *"This extension is critical for Yoorrook to deliver on its historic mandate to make bold and transformative recommendations that address the systemic injustices faced by First Peoples in Victoria,"* commission chair Eleanor Bourke said. *"The expectation is that these recommendations will be implemented in full by the Victorian Government."* A two-month extension has been added to the Yoorrook inquiry's second interim report, to August 2023; a further interim report will be handed down in December 2024 and the final report will be handed down 12 months later than planned, on 30 June 2025.

WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

Steps to the Referendum - Initiatives of Change Australia (IoC) will host multiple Steps to the Referendum online forums in the lead-up to this year's Referendum for a Voice to Parliament. Hosted by Uncle Shane Charles, Margaret Hepworth, Uncle Glenn Loughrey and Kathryn Farrell, the forum will map strategies toward this decisive moment and brainstorm

ideas of how your community can raise awareness of issues. **Monday 1 May 7.30-9.30 pm; Tuesday 27 June 2-4 pm; Monday 31 July 7.30-9.30 pm, Tuesday 29 August 2-4 pm.**

Turruk Yarning Circle explores how to feel empowered to make constitutional change in the Referendum over a five-week yarning circle program to better understand how the Voice is interconnected with Treaty, Truth-telling and a Makarrata commission. Each circle is coupled with a masterclass, designed to gain confidence with First Peoples with personal, community and professional development. From Tuesday 2 May, 2-5 pm over five Tuesdays at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak.

Details: Initiatives of Change, 9822 1218;

<https://au.iofc.org/>

Talk: Thomas Mayo in conversation with Shelley Ware about the Uluru Statement, Bellfield Community Hub, 15 Daphne Cr, Bellfield, **Thursday 4 May**, 1.30-2.30 pm, free. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/thomas-mayo-in-conversation-with-shelley-ware>

TORCH MOVES

The Torch has found a new home on Wurundjeri Country at 146 Elgin Street, Carlton, in a heritage building and the former Carlton Post Office. Currently undergoing significant renovation, it will feature a beautiful gallery, creative studio spaces and increased artwork storage capacity. Previously, The Torch premises were located at 46 St Kilda Road, St Kilda. Their new offices open on **Monday 8 May**.

THE ARTS

Stage:

YIRRAMBOI shows include Drag Race Downunder's Kween Kong for a Klub at the State Theatre; Gunditjmarra/ Kokatha singer songwriter David Arden and *Oh My God I'm Blak*, a one-woman cabaret by

founding member of Ilbijerri Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Company, Maryanne Sam. yirramboi.com.au. RISING Festival presents *Jacky* with Declan Furber Gillick, Melbourne Theatre Company, **22 May-24 June**, Fairfax Studio, \$40 - \$122.

Cabaret performer Maryanne Sam.



Books:

The Voice to Parliament Handbook - All the Details You Need, New edition, written by Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien.

Praiseworthy by Alexis Wright is an epic set in the north of Australia, told with the richness of language and scale of imagery for which she has become renowned. Melbourne Writers Festival is on from **4-7 May**, featuring Stan Grant, Marcia Langton, Tony Birch, Yhonnie Scarce and others; bookings mwf.com.au.

Exhibitions:

The Torch's *Confined 14 Exhibition* runs from **5 May-4 June** at the Glen Eira Council Gallery. Over 400 artworks, reflecting the over-representation of First Nations Australians in our criminal justice system. Also view online via The Torch's Online Experience, 8.00 am on **Friday 5 May** or by visiting the Gallery, 10.00 am on 5 May.

William Mora Galleries presents Carbiene McDonald Tjangala's first Melbourne solo exhibition in association with Papunya Tjupi Arts. Opening **Thursday 11 May**, 6-8 pm, with the artist present. 60 Tanner Street, Richmond, until 2 June.



Music:

First Voices First Nations Composer program and Ensemble Dutala Residency premiere two works by First Nations composers, performed by members of Australia's first ensemble for classically trained First Nations musicians along with members of the MSO. **Friday 26 May**, 6.30 pm, Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Southbank Centre, \$15.

LAND BACK FOR THE EASTERN MAAR

Victoria's first native title determination in a decade has been made. It returns the rights to a stretch of land from Ararat to Warrnambool and much of the coastline of the Great Ocean Road to the Eastern Maar peoples in south-west Victoria. The significance of the occasion could not be overstated for the Traditional Owners who had fought for their rights since whalers and sealers first arrived on the beaches in the early 1800s. The determination acknowledged Eastern Maar's ongoing connection and intrinsic relationship with their country which included much of the coastline of the Great Ocean Road and part of the Great Otway National Park. The decision recognised Eastern Maar people's rights to access and use, protection of public land in accordance with their traditional law and custom and their right to be consulted on the use and development of land or its natural resources for the protection and preservation of places and areas with cultural importance.

SOUTH MELBOURNE INDIGENOUS HISTORY GOES DIGITAL

Corroborees where Marvel Stadium and the MCG now stand and Indigenous ceremonial rites on the grounds of South Melbourne Town Hall are among the alternative histories of some of Melbourne's most recognisable sites, now mapped out online. A geo-pin on the South Melbourne location reveals that, before Europeans arrived, what would later be labelled as Emerald Hill was a ceremonial and male initiation site, overlooking a rich delta of wetlands and sand ridges, a Birrarung (Yarra River) and Naarm (Port Phillip Bay). Also displayed is an 1840 painting by W. Liardet titled *Corroboree on Emerald Hill in 1840*, depicting First Nations people practising ceremonial rites. The Aboriginal heritage behind the sites of these post-colonial buildings has been revealed in a new interactive digital map, developed by the region's Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Boon Wurrung/Bunurong, together with the City of Melbourne. The council is working with Traditional Owners to add information to the interactive map and challenge how the public looks at modern-day Melbourne and considers its history. <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/melbourne-profile/aboriginal-culture/Pages/aboriginal-culture.aspx>

SCHOOL NAME CHANGES

From 2025, all new Victorian state schools and campuses will have a First Nations language name. Under the changes, Traditional Owner groups will propose Aboriginal language names, and the education minister will select from them for new state schools and campuses. If an Indigenous name cannot be agreed upon, another name will be chosen by the minister. The number of Victorian state schools with a First Nations language name has surged to thirteen; eleven new and two renamed, plus two new campuses; no Catholic or independent schools have Indigenous names. Professor Mark Rose, Deakin University pro Vice-Chancellor, who is of Gunditjmara heritage, welcomed the change. *"It ties into a history that we're hoping kids are starting to learn more about in the curriculum, so it sits nicely with the intention that the community has been working on for a long time."* Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Gabrielle Williams said: *"How we name things, including schools, contributes to community understanding."* Victoria has two Indigenous independent schools: the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School, a boarding facility for Year 7 students from rural Victoria and remote NT, and the state's only Aboriginal-run school, Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville.

