

# 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.



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June 2024

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Sorry Day Lunch

During our 2024 commemorative Sorry Day lunch, 100 guests quietly listened to Bunurong Elder Mark Brown's eloquent and informative Welcome to Country and to Mayor Cr Heather Cunsolo's speech about why we acknowledge the Stolen Generations, Reconciliation Week, council's activities for the local community to come together in the spirit of Reconciliation and development of their third Reconciliation Action Plan. MC Den the Fish asked Albert Park College and Mac.Rob Girls' High students what Reconciliation means to them and what they want to do after leaving school, and received thoughtful and inspiring responses. Den got other guests to reveal where they came from, and the replies showed representation from many different countries. Merilyn Duff's impromptu 'show and tell' about her possum skin cloak was another highlight. Later, Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Jordan Sutardy and Xabier Briggs handed out prizes to winning raffle ticket holders.



(Above) Lunch guests.  
(Below) MC Dennis Fisher chats with students from Mac.Robertson Girls' High and Albert Park College.

Heartfelt thanks to Paisley Blank for organising the 'Treaty' cookies; Bili Indigenous Nursery and Bartley McGowan for native plant gifts; Gael Wilson for flowers; Fiona Olney-Fraser for catering, gifts and budgets; Jacek Przyblski, venue supervisor, and all our wonderful volunteer members who work hard to ensure things go smoothly. *See inside for more photos of the day!*

### Reconciliation Week

The 2024 theme, Now More Than Ever, reminds us that the Reconciliation process and the fight against discrimination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples goes on. The City of Port Phillip is presenting an expanded program, **Monday 27 May to Friday 14 June**. Events will be held at St Kilda Esplanade Market, St Kilda Film Festival and the St Kilda Town Hall; details inside.

### Guest Speaker Uncle Shane Charles

In May, twenty-five group members were treated to an inspiring talk from Uncle Shane Charles, a metro member of Victoria's First Peoples' Assembly. A passionate advocate for his people and Victoria's historic Treaty negotiations, he said it was time for a change and for non-First Nations people and people from multicultural backgrounds to work together and help develop a meaningful relationship with the government. *"To be a nation with Treaty is the ultimate"*, Uncle Shane noted. More inside.



Elder Aunty Judith Jackson, Jordan Sutardy, Uncle Shane Charles and Maggie Smith at our 21 May meeting.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 18 June, 6.30 pm,** South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place (off Park Street), South Melbourne.  
**All Welcome.** Enquiries: 0418 675 734

## RECONCILIATION WEEK

The City of Port Phillip events include Mabo Day celebrations at St Kilda Esplanade Market, **Sunday 2 June**, featuring captivating performances from First Nations musicians John Wayne Parsons and Amos Roach and dance performers Haryne Uta and Bandok Tati, as well as market stalls from First Nations artists and makers. The St Kilda Film Festival Reconciliation Week screenings include two dedicated First Nations sessions on **Friday 14 June** at the Alex Theatre, which bring together personal tales of gender, poetic political statements and provocative social commentary, told through bold storytelling that runs the cinematic gamut. The session will also include a live Q&A with the filmmakers. On **Saturday 15 June**, Through the Moving Lens of Protest and Resistance is on at the Espy Hotel's Gershwin Room. This 'In Conversation' Q&A will be facilitated by Tasha James with Lisa Maza, Richard Frankland and Jungaji, with special song and storytelling performances from Richard Frankland and Jungaji. <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/reconciliation-week-events> For details of the wide range of Reconciliation Week activities in and around Melbourne: <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/act/reconciliation-week>

## VICTORIA'S FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is co-hosting the AIATSIS Summit in Naarm, **3-7 June**. Ngarra Murray will give the opening address and members will be talking about Treaty. This year's theme is Celebrating Indigenous Brilliance: Then and Now. See <https://aiatsis.gov.au/whats-new/events/aiatsis-summit-2024>. We are all encouraged to "collaborate, educate and advocate" and to become a Treaty Ally. Sign up and receive regular bulletins and news: [www.firstpeoplesvic.org](http://www.firstpeoplesvic.org).

## RECONCILIATION NEWS

Reconciliation Victoria welcomes Maria Fletcher-Dugan as the new First Nations Board Co-Chair, joining Professor Andrew Gunstone. She is a proud Islander woman with connection to land and sea from Sai Bai Island in the Torres Straits to Papua New Guinea. A human resources business partner with over 10 years' experience working across public, private and not-for-profit sectors, Maria has been a valued RV non-executive Board member since 2022.

Reconciliation Stonnington had a busy Reconciliation Week with an invitation to Auburn South Primary School. Students conducted the event with Aunty Mer who played her clapsticks and talked to the students; some played guitars and sang the Warumpi Band's *Black Fella White Fella*, and there was a smoking ceremony. It's exciting to see students being educated in a way that we certainly weren't at primary school. At Stonnington Council's event, attended by over 200

locals, we greatly enjoyed the performance by John Wayne Parsons and his band and the very thoughtful Acknowledgement of Country by Deputy Mayor and group member Cr Mike Scott. (The Wurundjeri member scheduled to do the Welcome to Country was unable to attend at the last moment). Our information table attracted much interest and names were added to our mailing list from local people whom we hope to further educate on First Nations matters.

*Ro Bailey, Secretary*



Ro Bailey at the information table.

## CONGRATULATIONS

There are always many First Nations people and organisations to congratulate on their achievements. This month includes: Jana Stewart, elected Chair of the Federal Parliament Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (formerly held by Pat Dodson); Alexis Wright, winner of the 2024 Stella Prize for *Praiseworthy*; Bart Willoughby, *No Fixed Address* singer/songwriter, winner of the APRA Music Awards - Ted Albert Award for Outstanding Services to Australian Music; Tony Birch, winner of *The Age* 2024 Fiction Book of the Year Award for *Women and Children*; Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien, winner of three Australian Book Industry Association Awards for *The Voice to Parliament Handbook*, and Magabala Books, winner of the Australian Book Industry Association's Small Publisher Award.

## LIGHTING THE WILIN

A large crowd gathered in the grounds of the VCA in Southbank on 24 May to celebrate the annual 'Lighting the Wilin' ceremony; always poignant. Afterwards, guests walked to the nearby Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery for the opening of East Arnhem Land artist Paul Maymuru's *Milnjyawuy* (Milky Way) exhibition, during his first visit to Melbourne. His meticulously crafted grey and white paintings are displayed until **Saturday 22 June** at

the gallery, 40 Dodds Street, Southbank. Details: [fsmyer-gallery@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fsmyer-gallery@unimelb.edu.au)



East Arnhem Land artist Paul Maymuru sang in language at the opening of his exhibition.



## ARTS NEWS

Vale Destiny Deacon. Sad news to hear about the passing of trailblazing artist Destiny Deacon, described by Marcia Langton as “a *giant of contemporary art and a superstar in the Australian art scene.*” The NGV holds some of her work.

Rising Festival: Includes The Blak Infinite – a large outdoor exhibition space for sharing First Peoples connections to the cosmos, political constellations and futures. At Fed Square, large-scale installations, new commissions and conversations by First Nations artists and writers, **1-16 June**, various venues.

A retrospective exhibition of artworks by the late Gunditjmarra, Yorta Yorta and Barkindji artist Josh Muir (1991-2022) highlights the strength of his artistic practice. Curated by the Koorie Heritage Trust with Josh’s mother, Justine Berg, and partner, Shanaya Sherida. Birrarung Building, Fed Square, until **Sunday 14 July**.

Castlemaine Film Festival: Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival in Bendigo. Films include *The Australian Dream*, *Sweet Country* and ABC Playschool Reconciliation Week episodes; until **Monday 3 June**. <https://go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/CVIFF>

## Books

*If Everyone Cared* by Margaret Lillard Tucker MBE, aka Aunty Marge, is a new edition which reclaims the original voice of this significant Aboriginal activist and one of the first Aboriginal women to publish for mainstream audiences.

## REDFERN CULTURAL CENTRE OPENS

Sydney’s Redfern is synonymous with Blak activism and community-controlled organisations, working towards improving outcomes for mob. Now, at 119 Redfern Street, a new knowledge and cultural centre has opened with hopes of continuing that legacy. The new centre, purchased by the City of Sydney, is located at the two-storey former post office, with four rooms for weekday use.

## DJARRA ENTERS INTO ‘HISTORIC’ GOLD MINING AGREEMENT WITH CANADIAN MINER

Canadian company Agnico Eagle Mines has signed an agreement with Traditional Owner group Djaara to compensate First Nations people for gold, mined at the Central Victorian based Fosterville Gold Mine. The agreement - bakaru wayaparrangu (in the middle we all meet) - has been seven years in the making and hailed by the two organisations as a first for an active mining company in Victoria. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Chair, Rebecca Phillips, represents her ancestors, the Malcolm family line, and said the mining agreement was significant for all Indigenous peoples.

The CEO of Djarra, Rodney Carter, is also a member of the First Peoples’ Assembly. Agnico Eagle’s CEO said this first agreement with Traditional Owners will ensure Agnico Eagle employs Indigenous people at its Fosterville Gold Mine.

## More pix from our Sorry Day Lunch



Elder Mark Brown from Bunurong Land Council and Aboriginal Corporation, giving a thought-provoking Welcome to Country.



Sorry Day Lunch guests Jordan Sutardy, Xabier Briggs, Maggie Smith and Stewart Taylor.



(Above) Albert Park College students and Assistant Principal Tim Nolan.



(Left) Guest Merilyn Duff shows guests her hand-crafted headpiece and possum skin cloak.  
(Below) Den with guests.



