

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.

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.



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FROM THE CO-CHAIR

The Referendum

On **Saturday 14 October**, voting-age Australians will be asked to vote 'Yes' or 'No' on a single question: "A Proposed Law: To alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?" See the Government's 'Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Through a Voice' information booklet - Voice.gov.au.

Our Forum - Learn About the Voice Referendum

An attentive crowd of around 160, including Nina Taylor, Member for Albert Park, and four councillors, attended our forum at St Kilda Town Hall on 21 September. Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson's personal recollections and warm Acknowledgement of Country was a perfect start, followed by the uplifting, often hilarious, Men In Suits acapella group. Deb Stewart introduced speakers Ian Hamm, Chair of the Board of Directors, First Nations Foundation, and Amanda Young, Executive Director, First Nations at Pollination. Ian explained what the Referendum is *not* about, saying rather it's a chance to see who we are as a country. He suggested we ask ourselves questions like whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be able to speak, do they deserve a fair go, before deciding whether to vote Yes or No, and then think how we'll feel about our choice on 15 October. Amanda, who is of Pacific Islander descent, believes the Referendum is an opportunity to pass the baton on to future generations, that the results will reflect what we want to do together as a nation. My thanks to Sputnik TV and to the fantastic PPCfR team members

for a wonderful evening. (Nerita Waight, CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, was unable to attend.)

Men In Suits
performing *Treaty*
by Yothu Yindi.



Amanda Young and Ian Hamm engaging the audience at our Learn About the Voice to Parliament Forum.

Congratulations

To Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton, appointed by London's Tate Modern as adjunct curator, specialising in First Nations and Indigenous Art; to Ilbijerri Theatre Company, teaming up with Melbourne Theatre Company for a series of stories, illustrating a diversity of First Peoples voices, cultures and experiences; to Alexis Wright, winner of the Creative Australia Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literature.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is on **Tuesday 21 November** with a special guest speaker; details next month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 October, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3
Ferrars Place (off Park Street), South Melbourne.
All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 685 734.



REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

Tens of thousands of people walked for Yes across the country on 17 September, marking a positive point in the campaign, reinforced by a series of ads across TV, digital, radio and print, e.g., John Farnham's *The Voice* and an ad featuring a young Indigenous boy asking if he will "grow up in a country that hears my voice". As Kirstie Parker, a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and strategic adviser to the Uluru Dialogue, said: "A successful Referendum will give our people the dignity of being heard on the things we know, from lived experience, will work in our communities. We know best how to fix the deeply entrenched problems that governments of all political persuasions have failed to remedy or – even worse– have created." Locally, the Macnamara For Yes campaign has attracted hundreds of volunteers who are helping promote the Yes campaign throughout the City of Port Phillip as well as hosting a forum, History is Calling, with speakers Thomas Mayo, N'Arweet Carolyn Briggs, Josh Burns MP and a live performance from Paul Kelly, on **Thursday 5 October** at St Kilda Town Hall; https://www.yes23.com.au/macnamara_for_yes.

Elsewhere, the Together Yes hello@togetheryes.com.au has made available translations of their Open Letter in 11 languages; visit www.togetheryes.com.au/open-letter to access the letter in your preferred language.

The Recognise for NO Campaign's Warren Mundine AO, backs a Treaty process, claiming it's more likely to succeed if the No vote is successful, reiterating his previously expressed personal support for changing the date of Australia Day from 26 January, despite that being one of the fears raised in the No campaign pamphlet. He acknowledged that "people on my side don't agree with me on these two issues and that is *Treaties and that is changing the date. We've got to recognise Aboriginal culture, Aboriginal culture is our First Nation and the first thing we learn about life is one nation cannot talk about another nation's country,*" he said His comments are at odds with much of the conservative No campaign, which has warned that the Voice would be a gateway for "costly" Treaties.

It has also been revealed that No volunteers have been instructed to tap into fear and warn Australians that the Voice would be seeking to change the date of Australia Day.

Note: More than 17.67 million people have enrolled to vote, ensuring 97.7 percent of eligible Australians will have their say.

YOORROOK

In September, the Interim Report from the Yoorrook Justice Commission was released, giving primacy to Elders' voices and laying the groundwork for Treaty. Victorian Elders highlighted the urgency of truth-telling to prevent injustices being repeated further, citing experiences of ongoing pain and harm to Victorian First Peoples at the individual, family, community and state level. "The Yoorrook Justice Commission has heard from Elders across Victoria. We have recorded their truth and

their stories. This first Interim Report relates how important it is to act on the issues they have raised," Yoorrook Justice Commission Chair Eleanor Bourke said. "This is why the Yoorrook Justice Commission must offer a very different forum for truth-telling and include new ways to bring about change in a contemporary environment, primarily through Treaty". In addition to the issues of concern raised by Elders, the first Interim Report outlines the foundational work of the Commission in establishing culturally appropriate and trauma-informed processes to ensure participant safety and wellbeing and identifies significant issues warranting urgent and ongoing attention. A second report will make recommendations for consideration in the process of negotiating Treaty with the State; <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au>

RECONCILIATION GROUP NEWS

Reconciliation Victoria has partnered with the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice in a new project, Roads to Reconciliation - Activating Multicultural Victoria. Generously funded by the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, it will engage with Victorian metropolitan and regional multicultural communities on Reconciliation. The project is led by Maria Dimopoulos AM and Shankar Kasynathan, both Adjunct Senior Research Fellows at the National Centre for Reconciliation, Truth and Justice and former commissioners with the Victorian Multicultural Commission. It involves a series of workshops across 25 Victorian local government areas and projects delivered by 10 community fellowship recipients, representing a diverse cross-section of Victoria's multicultural community.

The second workshop was hosted at Reconciliation Victoria in September with keynote speaker, CEO Nicole Findlay, coinciding with the launch of a special issue of the *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues* on the importance of a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Reconciliation Stonnington: For the last four weeks, Reconciliation Stonnington members have been handing out Yes leaflets each weekend at local shopping centres. For the most part, it's been positive, those in favour of voting Yes have been a pleasure, giving encouraging comments or a thumbs up as they pass by, often thanking us for handing out or having a chat about the Referendum. For instance: "Well, I'm inclined to vote Yes, but I'm confused," they have either taken a leaflet or kept talking. One young man told me his father was trying to convince him to vote Yes, but he couldn't care less either way, teaching me that it's a mistake to think younger people are more informed. One member was verbally attacked by some Noers, but then approached by two Yesers, who came to cheer him up. It's been surprising to hear some of the comments made by Noers, e.g., that if I went up to the North and talked to REAL Aboriginals, I'd find out they didn't want the Voice. The best part has been that members feel that they are doing something useful, and it's given us a chance to get

together afterwards for a debrief. A group of us went to the Yes march - the crowds were so great. If First Nations peoples could see the march photos, even if the vote is for No, at least they would know that many of us are on their side. I'm still keeping my fingers crossed for Yes!

Ro Bailey, Secretary.



Reconciliation Stonnington members campaigning.

AUNTY JACKO VISITS PORT MELBOURNE PRIMARY

Popular Port Phillip local Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson was again invited to visit Port Melbourne Primary School at the end of August to wrap-up the Indigenous unit of study the Year 4 cohort engaged in during Term 3 at the school. Better known to the students as 'Aunty Jacko,' she shared stories about her life, her country and her ongoing activism. The students listened intently, asked many questions and also had the opportunity to try 'damper' that Aunty Jacko baked for them. They were very excited to see all of the artefacts she brought along, like her coolamon, didgeridoo and an emu eggshell artefact.

Paisley Blank, Parent Representative on the RAP Committee & PPCfR member



Everyone's listening to Aunty Jacko! Year 4 at Port Melbourne Primary greatly enjoyed hearing Aunty Jacko's story.

HEALTH ORGANISATIONS SURVEY

Indigenous Australians need to be more involved in health policy to ensure outcomes improve for First Nations peoples - that's what 8 in 10 Australian health

workers believe, according to a new survey released by VACCHO - the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. Some 1600 practitioners responded to the survey, with 76 percent saying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples do not currently have enough involvement in health policy. It came as more than 53 leading health organisations announced their support for the Indigenous Voice to parliament, arguing that the Voice will lead to better health policies for Indigenous children and families.

SENIOR ELDERS SUMMIT

To commemorate and celebrate the vital role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders play as the heart and soul of our communities, VACCHO and the Victorian Committee for Aboriginal Aged Care & Disability (VCAACD) are holding a two-day summit in Naarm/Melbourne, **Tuesday 3-Wednesday 4 October**. The summit is in honour of this year's NAIDOC theme, For Our Elders. Senior Aboriginal Elders and leaders from across Victoria, including First Peoples Assembly members Aunty Esme Bamblett and Uncle Rodney Carter and VACCHO's Jill Gallagher, will reflect on the services need to respect the dignity and quality of life that is the entitlement of all Elders. Find out more via <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1086593>

ARTS NEWS

Music

Dan Sultan is performing live, in concert, **Saturday 21 October**, 7.30 pm, Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, Melbourne Recital Centre.

Eumeralla, A War Requiem for Peace with Yorta Yorta soprano, composer and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera, Deborah Cheetham Fraillon AO, the MSO Chorus, Dhungala Children's Choir and soloists will be sung entirely in the ancient dialects of the Gunditjmarra people. **Saturday 14 October**, 7.30 pm, Hamer Hall.

Books

Killing for Country: A Family Story by David Marr is a reckoning with the bloody history of Australia's frontier wars after David was shocked to discover forebears who served with the brutal Native Police in the bloodiest years on the frontier; a war still unresolved in today's Australia.

Fringe Festival

Yalinguthy Live by the Birrarung is an immersive experience, conjuring up the world before the tall ships arrived. Directed and led by Jason Tamiru, DRMNGNOW, Federation Square, until **Saturday 21 October**.

Art

The Torch is partnering with Sofitel Melbourne On Collins and Global Arts Projects to present Robby Wirramanda's first solo exhibition, *Walpa*, in Sofi's Lounge, Level 1, Sofitel Melbourne, 25 Collins Street, until **Friday 2 February 2024**. All artworks available to view and purchase online.

