

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.

ABN: 444 16 152 998
P.O Box 1446, St Kilda South, Vic 3182
Phone: (03) 9699 8804
Mobile: 0418 675 734
Email: rosemary.rule@gmail.com
www.ppcfr.org

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April 2023

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Referendum Question Announced

Australians will be asked to recognise the First Peoples of the nation in a Referendum later this year, after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese unveiled the final wording of the constitutional amendment and question on 23 March: *"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?"* This is exciting news, with more details to come. To help keep informed, PPCfR members have been attending forums, including those presented by MPs Dr Monique Ryan and Josh Burns, the Fred Hollows Foundation and Conversations at the Crossroads. PPCfR is supporting a forum at St Kilda's Pride Centre on **Thursday 27 April** – details inside; and one of our members, Sean Scully, is liaising with the South Melbourne Market to hold some information stalls. If you'd like to help out, or perhaps organise a Referendum-related talk with an organisation you're connected with, please get in touch.

Sorry Day

I'll have news to share next month about plans for our community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day. Due to the availability of the South Melbourne Community Centre, it will be held on **Thursday 25 May**, the day prior to the actual day; so mark the date in your diary.

Congratulations

To Professor Brenda Croft, taking up the ultra-prestigious Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University; to Gooreng Gooreng man Justin Mohamed, appointed as Australia's inaugural Ambassador for First Nations People to lead the Office of First Nations Engagement in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; to Royston Sagigi-Baira, Australian Idol 2023 winner.

Printing Help

If you are able to help our group by printing some material from time-to-time, please let me know; we don't have an office or access to a printer.

Rosemary Rule



Next Meeting:

Tuesday 18 April, 6.30 pm,
South Melbourne Community
Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place,
(off Park Street)
South Melbourne.
All Welcome.
Enquiries: 0418 685 734.

REFERENDUM NEWS CONTINUED

If the Referendum for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament succeeds, three clauses would be inserted into the Constitution that would say:

1. There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
2. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the parliament and the executive government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
3. The parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures."

New details have also been released about how the Voice will work: members of the body will be elected or selected by Indigenous Australians, not appointed by the government, and they will be encouraged to advise the government early in the policy-making process. Members of the Voice will be drawn from each state and territory and the Torres Strait, with additional regional representation and gender balance. They will have fixed terms.

Both sides of the Voice debate have launched fundraising drives, advertising and promotional campaigns. YES23's chief financing vehicle, Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition (AIRC) has been granted tax deductible status, attracting generous donations from the likes of Anthony Pratt and the Paul Ramsay Foundation.

"We are on the cusp of a once-in-a-generation chance to change the course of our nation forever. It's a chance to reset our relationship with First Nations people in this country and accelerate justice and equality," noted Karen Mundine, CEO, Reconciliation Australia.

The Leading No campaigner, Warren Mundine, who heads Recognise a Better Way, says their donors are "ordinary people; no celebrities". NT Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has quit the Committee Australia she launched with Mundine to head the Fair Australia campaign, funded by right-wing activist group Advance.

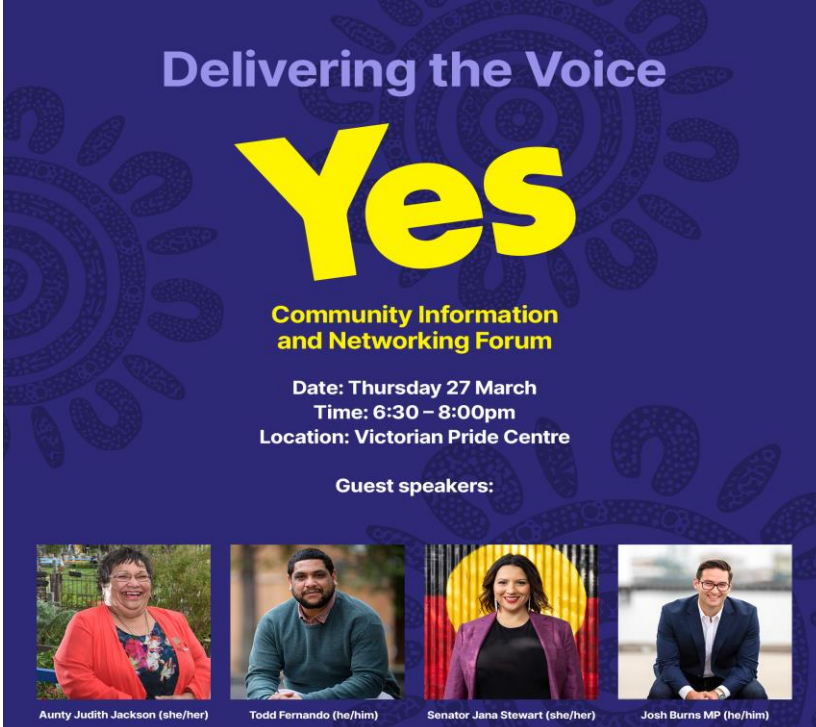
Referendum 2023 Tapes

Victorian Aboriginal News, owned and locally run by Aboriginal journalist Uncle Charles Pakana, is providing an ongoing series of reliable informed broadcasts about the Referendum.

<https://vicaboriginalnews.com.au/>

Many peak organisations, including the First People's Assembly and Reconciliation Victoria, have reaffirmed their strong support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament and launched Voice to Parliament.

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENT







Delivering the Voice

Yes

Community Information and Networking Forum

Date: Thursday 27 March
Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm
Location: Victorian Pride Centre

Guest speakers:

			
Auntie Judith Jackson (she/her)	Todd Fernando (he/him)	Senator Jana Stewart (she/her)	Josh Burns MP (he/him)

To book, visit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vpg2olEin4UvJzTbuTHhaqXcPTnUixTB5PRLdydUnaw/edit>

This event follows the first Macnamara event to support the 'YES' vote for a Voice to Parliament campaign, held at the St Kilda Cricket Club on 14 March, attended by 100 people. The Member for Macnamara, Josh Burn, and Member for Alert Park, Nina Taylor, welcomed Jana Stewart, ALP Senator for Victoria, presenting some key points about the campaign, including: 80% of First Nations people support the Voice to Parliament (including the First Nations Assembly of Victoria) with those under 35 being the largest cohort to say YES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LANDMARK VOICE BILL

South Australia has become the first jurisdiction in Australia to set up an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, following a special Sunday sitting of SA Parliament late March that passed the Bill, creating the Voice, assented to by the Governor in a ceremonial meeting of the State's executive council. The Bill proposes a connected, direct and independent line of communication for First Nations people to SA's Parliament and the Government, to allow important shared communication by locally elected regional members. Representatives will be elected in coming months, with the mechanism expected to be running before the end of the year.

YOOROOK'S NEW COMMISSIONER

Kerrupmara Gunditjmara Traditional Owner Travis Lovett has been appointed as a Commissioner of Victoria's Truth-Telling process, the Yoorook Justice Commission. Yoorook has an important task of shining a light on the lasting damage brought by colonisation and what can be done to repair it, identifying reforms needed to



improve the lives of First Peoples in Victoria, and through Treaty, to pursue those solutions.

Travis Lovett,
recently appointed
Commissioner of
Victoria's Yoorook
Justice Commission.

RECONCILIATION NEWS

Following Reconciliation Victoria's (RV) online forum on February 16, the organisation is keen to come together in-person to continue the conversation and to workshop ways we can stay connected and work together in the lead-up to the Voice Referendum and National Reconciliation Week, which this year has the theme *Be a Voice for Generations*. For the latest news, visit <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au>.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON

Prahran Community Learning Centre (PCLC) invited Keith Gove and myself to present a community education session on the Voice, on 15 March, on behalf of Reconciliation Stonnington. It was rewarding to do and attendees included pre-school educators and public housing organisers who were all very attentive and seemed to be on the YES side - we hope so anyway. Some attendees may ask us to present to their organisations, which we'll be delighted to do if anything eventuates. We were also in the audience for a session run by Prahran Rotary. First Nations Canon Associate Professor Uncle Glenn Loughrey spoke on the Uluru Statement From the Heart and the Voice Referendum, an interesting speaker, bringing a spiritual perspective to the issues. There were some consistent themes coming from audience questions in Uncle Glenn's talk and our PCLC presentation, including: How does a Referendum work? What is needed for success? How would a Voice affect what happens on 26 January? What role would a Voice play in a Treaty process? Why aren't First Nations' views unanimous? We are due to deliver another talk to Stonnington U3A on 29 March and hope it goes as well; another opportunity to address more people, too. It feels like a privilege to educate our local citizens on this most important topic. The next meeting is 6.00 pm, **Wednesday 12 April**.

Contact *Ro Bailey, Secretary*, 0438 285 588.

HEALING CEREMONY

Nicky Winmar's proud stand against racism will be celebrated with a traditional healing ceremony at Collingwood's Victoria Park, 6.00 pm on **Tuesday 18 April**. This free public event involves current and former AFL players, including Winmar. Organisers Nathan Lovett-Murray and Jason Tamiro say it will provide an opportunity for people who have suffered racism to heal through ceremony and for the public to take part in and reflect on their own attitudes towards First Peoples. The healing ceremony or *Ngarra Jarra Noun* (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung for healing) is open to anyone who wants to recognise and celebrate Winmar's stand. Performers include Kutcha Edwards, traditional dance groups Djirri Djirri, Murrundaya Yepenga Dance Troupes, The Fighting Gunditjmara, Koorie Youth Will Shake Spear, Wulumbarra, traditional Aboriginal games by Wanyara and catering by Dardi Munwurro. Funds raised donated to the Dardi Munwurro youth hub. www.indigenous.sports.com.au

THE GREAT BOOK SWAP

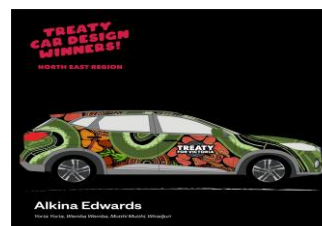
The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) *Great Book Swap* helps celebrate reading locally and raise much-needed funds for remote Communities. Workplaces, book clubs, individuals and all kinds of organisations can host an event to swap a favourite book in exchange for a gold coin (or fiver) donation. Participating in the Great Book Swap actively helps the ILF gift new, culturally relevant books to children in remote Communities across the country. <https://go.greatbookswap.org.au/>

Note: Since 2011, the ILF has worked with over 400 remote communities, gifted 636,000 books, supplied 83 playgroups with early literacy Book Buzz resources and published 143 books, reflecting 26 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

FUTURE LEADERS WRITING PRIZE

The Future Leaders Writing Prize is designed to recognise and reward talented young writers. Expressive and creative entries from Year 11 and 12 students are invited to submit a piece of writing, 800 to 1000 words, fiction, non-fiction, any topic. Writing in support of the Voice is encouraged. The winner receives \$1000 with their work published. Send submissions electronically in a word document by **Monday 1 May 2023** to helen@futureleaders.com.au. Future Leaders is a sponsor of our bi-annual PPCfR Writing Competition.

FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY CAR DESIGNS



Ten winning car designs sponsored by the Assembly's Engagement Team will soon be seen on the road.

