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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 Martin Foley MP, State Labor Member for Albert Park, for his ongoing support.

July 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

NAIDOC Week

There's a host of events being held between **3-10 July** under this year's theme, Get Up Stand Up Show Up. A flag-raising ceremony at Federation Square on **Monday 4 July**, 9.30 am, features a smoking ceremony, Welcome to Country and a moment of silence for people who have gone before, streamed live on the Fed Square screen and via <https://vicnaidoc.com.au>; NAIDOC Awards announced on **2 July** and ball on **9 July** in Naarm at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. In the City of Port Phillip, an installation by Kent Morris will be on the wall facing St Kilda foreshore. There's a Galiamble book launch, St Kilda Town Hall auditorium, **4 July**, 2.00-4.00 pm; arts, crafts, cooking and solo musical performances at Access Health, **5 July**, 11.30-3.00 pm with live music from Monica Weightman, afternoon tea provided by Mabu Mabu; 3-on-3 basketball competition for youth at St Kilda PCYC, **7 July**, and performances at South Melbourne Market **9 & 10 July**.

Congratulations

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, NT, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health in the Albanese Government; to Lincoln Crowley, Australia's first Indigenous Supreme Court judge; to Deborah Cheetham, winner, 2022 Australian Women in Music Awards and Lifetime Achievement Award; to TV Week Logie Award winners Tony Armstrong, winner of the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Popular New Talent, NITV for Most Outstanding Factual or Documentary Program; to N'arweet Carolyn Briggs and Sarah Lynn Rees, Commendation in the Victorian Architecture Awards small projects category for their installation, Ngargee Djeembana, at ACCA; and to ANTAR Vic celebrating 25 years; details inside.



Dennis Fisher and I enjoyed meeting some of the residents living in Australian Unity's The Grace Albert Park Retirement Community on 27 May during Reconciliation Week.

Events

It was a pleasure to be invited to the gala concert celebrating Sputnik TV's Russian-language programs on Channel 31, presented by Ukrainian-born Gregory and Anna Vaisman for 25 years. Hundreds gathered in the St Kilda Town Hall on 19 June, including politicians Martin Foley and Josh Burns, heard gifted musicians and vocalists, saw montages of their activities covered over the years, including PPCfR events. Donations were given towards the victims of the war in Ukraine. And via zoom, I heard Elder Pat Anderson AO talking about how the campaign for Voice-Treaty-Truth and how a Yes vote for a Voice to Parliament can be won, encouraging all Australians to works towards achieving a successful Referendum in 2023.

Pilbara Visit

PPCfR members Iain Stewart and Mary Anne Noon write about their recent visit to the Pilbara region, rich in Indigenous Dreaming stories and the site of historical and current struggle; article inside.

Rosemary Rule

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

TREATY AUTHORITY MAKES HISTORY

A landmark Treaty Authority bill – the first of its kind in the world, has been passed in the lower house of the Victorian parliament and will now go to the upper house. The legislation, the first of its kind, is designed to ensure a fair and just Reconciliation process for First Nations' people and will be led by First Nations' People and will be grounded in First Peoples' culture and law. The bill will allow the Treaty Authority to be an independent umpire to facilitate Treaty negotiations and resolve disputes between the government and Aboriginal Victorians and follows an agreement with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

NAIDOC WEEK

Events at the Arts Centre include an on-line concert with Mutti Mutti singer Uncle Kutcha Edwards' *Circling Time* launch, 5.00 pm, **3 July**. As the National NAIDOC Principal Media Partner and official Education Partner, National NAIDOC Week will be celebrated across all SBS channels/platforms. An exclusive NAIDOC collection of series and films can be streamed on SBS On Demand and NAIDOC education resources via SBS Learn. Live coverage of the NAIDOC Awards on **2 July**; premiere of the compelling four-part crime drama *True Colours*; documentary series *Off Country* premiere and Australia's all-Indigenous breakfast television program, *Big Mob Brekky* with new hosts. <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/>

YOOROOK TRUTH COMMISSION

Victoria's Indigenous truth-telling inquiry lost its third key member weeks before its interim report was released. Dr Wayne Atkinson, a Yorta Yorta-Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, tendered his resignation as one of the five commissioners, citing personal reasons. The inquiry's chief executive Josh Smith and the director of his office Alexandra Krummel quit in January. Hugh de Kretser, Human Rights Law Centre executive director and Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council director, was appointed as Mr Smith's replacement from July. The commission's interim report will be published early July.

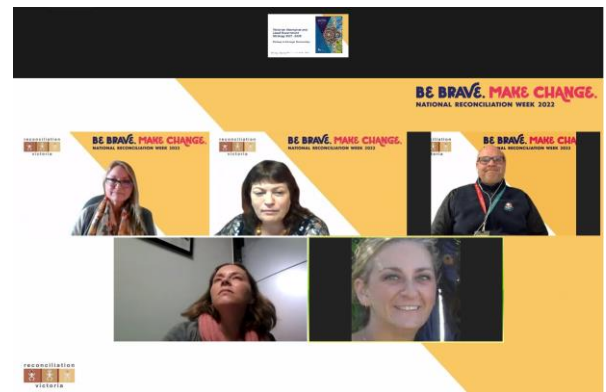
ANTaR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (ANTaR) is celebrating its 25th anniversary with the launch of *Tomorrow Australia Campaign – Truth and Treaty as the pathway to Tomorrow*, **Sunday 10 July**, 2.00-5.00 pm at Collingwood Town Hall. Speakers include Richard J. Frankland (Gunditjmarra), Marcus Stewart (Nira Iillum Bulluk), Sue-Anne Hunter, Deputy Chair, Yoorook Justice Commission and Bonnie Dukakis, Deputy Executive officer, Koori Youth Council. Professor Richard Frankland and Dr Peter Lewis, Co-chairs, ANTaR Victoria say: "*We cannot build a nation, a national identity, a collective home, if we ignore our diversity, our past and the scars and wounds on our nation's soul... Once we unravel this shameful cultural tapestry, once we have this knowledge, this recognition, we can plant seeds, we can begin the long process of stitching together a new cultural tapestry,*

made up of our diversity, our hopes, dreams, aspirations for a collective future. This is nation building, essential to create the foundation for a Tomorrow Australia." Free event, drinks and nibbles provided; <https://antarvictoria.org.au>.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA (RV) NEWS

Todd Condie, the City of Port Phillip's Indigenous Policy Officer, was a panellist at the National Reconciliation Week 2022: RAP Leaders in Local Government webinar in May. He joined Nicole Lindsay, RV CEO, Samantha Buckley, Moonee Valley Council, Fiona Machin, Greater Bendigo Shire and Karen Milward, a Leading RAP Consultant, to discuss how they work with their Council and communities to support Reconciliation and self-determination with First Peoples, issues faced and ways forward. As Todd reflected, "*We are only 3% of the population so we need the other 97% to be on our side and celebrate our culture.*"



RAP Leaders panelists (left to right): Nicole Lindsay, Karen Milward, Todd Condie, Samantha Buckley and Fiona Machin.

Check out RV's Aboriginal Change Makers, a teaching resource for Victorian schools that presents amazing stories of political and social activity, self-determination and empowerment, as well as the struggle for recognition in the face of another more dominant and colonising society into classrooms. View online or download as a free eBook; info@reconciliationvic.org.au

RECONCILIATION IN STONNINGTON

The City of Stonnington is celebrating NAIDOC Week with a Welcome to Country and flag raising with Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Diane Kerr, Torres Strait Islander flag raising with Meriam woman Alana Marsh and Traditional Dance performance with Nhanbu Togip, **3 July**, 2.00-3.00 pm, Balcony L2, Stonnington Corporate Office, 311 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. RSVP to lstaffor@stonnington.vic.gov.au by 29 June. Elsewhere, Reconciliation Stonnington expects the Reconciliation movement to have much to do in the next few years. The state election in November with debate policies on First Nations' self-determination, Treaty and truth telling; and federally, we will need to build understanding in the community about the initiatives from the Uluru Statement from the Heart and so encourage membership - \$20, \$10 for concession/low-or-unwaged, no charge for First Nations individuals or organisations.

An online membership fee-paying option is available to make a financial contribution to support Reconciliation in Stonnington. info@reconciliationstonnington.org.au.
Keith Gove, President

COURSE FOCUSES ON THE ULURU STATEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS

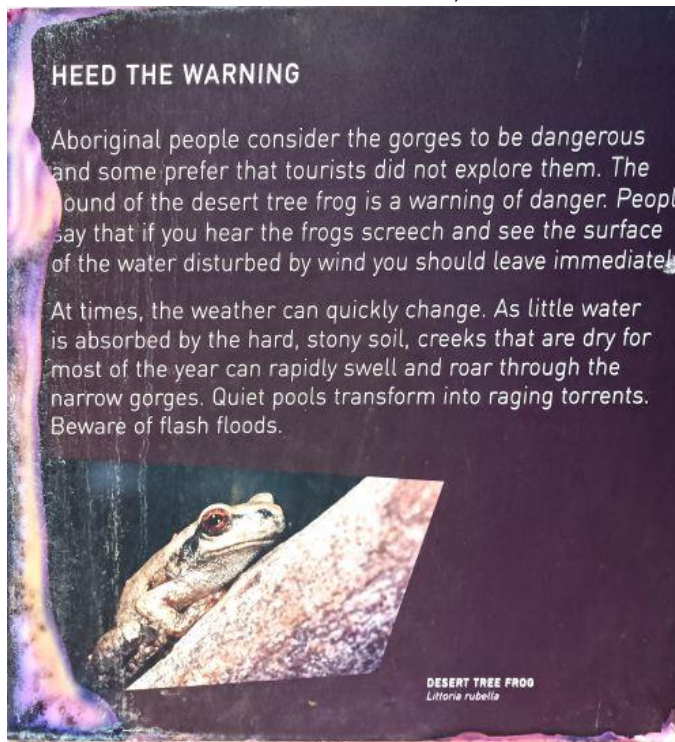
Sue Taffe, teacher, writer and author of the *Collaborating for Indigenous Rights* website hosted by the National Museum of Australia, is presenting a course that builds on *Rethinking Our Story Part 1: Twentieth-century Activists for Indigenous Justice*. The purpose is to provide participants with a structure and an environment which will encourage debate, the sharing of ideas to engage with issues which our society currently faces concerning Indigenous Australians, their representation, recognition as a people and possible future roles within state and federal governments. The Uluru Statement from the Heart, truth, Treaty and Voice, history making will also be discussed. Details from U3A Port Phillip, 224 Danks Street, Albert Park, U3app.org.au

VISITING THE PILBARA

The Pilbara is rich in Indigenous Dreaming stories and the site of historical and current struggle. The Pilbara is also rich in natural resources. The exploitation of those resources provides tax revenue to governments, employment to thousands of workers, mainly Fly In Fly Out (FIFO) workers and businesses who service the mining industry, and fantastic profits for a few. Unsurprisingly there are tensions between competing interests. We were in the Pilbara primarily to walk the gorges in Karijini National Park before moving to the coast to walk and swim the Ningaloo reef area on the turquoise coast. Two weeks before our visit, the Pilbara had

unseasonable and heavy rainfall, so while there we were compelled to shift from a campsite at Yardie homestead to an Exmouth hotel because of approaching cyclonic winds and rain. Despite the conditions, the gorges proved more stunning than expected. Reds, rust and ochre dominate, with the rocks' formations, shapes and sheer vertical drops offering a vivid backdrop while the heavy rains meant much more water than usual in the gorges. Stunning walks through the depths of the gorges required clinging onto ledges above the water level or feeling your way along a submerged ledge. Sometimes the only option was walking through deep water or swimming (particularly for the vertically challenged), walks often leading to a deep pool, waterfall and cold water.

Karijini Park, the traditional home of the Banyjima, Kurrama and Innawonga, was previously known as the Hammersley Ranges National Park. On an information board leading to a gorge, our attention was drawn to the mixed responses of local Indigenous people to the presence of visitors in the gorges: some welcoming them, others preferring that the gorges not be accessible. Those who welcomed stressed the need to be respectful of their import to the culture of the local people, often a further source of tension.



Before starting our tour, we had three wonderful experiences in Perth. The first, an exhibition at the Art Gallery of WA to see *Tracks We Share: Contemporary Art of the Pilbara*.

This huge exhibition covering multiple floors of the gallery is a remarkable survey of Indigenous art including some massive canvasses commissioned for the exhibition, huge in their dimensions, and often political and social. At the Museum of WA, we saw Boola Bardip (<https://visit.museum.wa.gov.au/boolabardip/ngalang-koort-oodja-wirr>), a fine example of how a very contemporary place can be successfully added around an older shell. The first exhibit at the Museum spoke to aspects of Indigenous peoples' culture and its place, physical and spiritual. The advent of modern technology can offer powerful visual, aural and interactive displays, not possible previously. We can read the story of the massacre of Noongar peoples in a book, but the same story rendered by a descendant speaking directly to you via a screen is far more impactful.

The city of Perth City has published a series of walking guides highlighting different aspects of the Indigenous peoples' relationship to the city, e.g. *Aboriginal heritage in the City of Perth before 1829*. In our experience of WA government institutions and elsewhere, we were struck by the strength of the recognition of the harmful impact of the initial colonisation and the subsequent mistreatment of Indigenous peoples. It is not too far back that our grasp of actual history and its effect was less frank, more fluid. Even if there is an element of self-delusion involved in this assessment, we finished our visit with hope.

Iain Stewart and Mary Anne Noone, June 2022

Music:

Southside Live. Young stars and electric performances from the future of First Nations' talent are part of the St Kilda Festival and City of Port Phillip's festival at South Beach Reserve. Briggs, Emma Donovan & The Putbacks on **1 July**; Isaiah Firebrace, Kait, Mitch Tambo and emerging Noongar woman, Bumpy, on **2 July**. Free entry. <https://www.southsidelive.com.au/schedule/>

Led by Ben Northey, Spinifex Gum joins the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Felix Riebl and Emma Donovan in a symphonic version of a show exploring hard-hitting issues of our time, themes of friendship, empowerment, celebrating what can be achieved when we come together as one. Hamer Hall, **9 July**.

William Barton performs *Sky Songs – Apii Thatini Ma Murtu - We carry a coolamon and sing to country together*. He will be joined by song woman/wordsmith Aunty Dalmae Barton, composer and violin virtuoso Véronique Serret, music legend Iva Davies and John Foreman's 60-piece Australian Pops Orchestra. **22 July, 7.30 pm**, Hamer Hall.

Installations:

Unvanishes, a new artwork from Barkindji artist Kent Morris, is his first collaborative 3D creation, extrapolating from his photo-based digital practice. Kent describes *Unvanishes* as an act of Reconciliation in itself that brought him together with creatives including multidisciplinary sound designer James Henry (Jimmy Little's grandson), and the team at Studio John Fish.

A final collaboration with immersive tech studio Phoria incorporates an Augmented Reality filter so people can use their devices to explore the artwork in digital ways, create their own content and share their experience of the artwork via social media.



***Unvanishes* by Barkindji artist Kent Morris, installed in Federation Square during Reconciliation Week in May.**

Lightscape makes its Australian debut at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne with luminous walkways and vistas, vibrant bursts of colour that run up trees like fireworks and large-scale installations, such as the Winter Cathedral with more than 100 000 tiny lights. First Nations' artist Mandy Nicholson is one of three local artists involved. Until **2 July**.

Exhibitions:

Ancestral Memory will transform the façade of Hamer Hall into a digital art projection from sundown to midnight. By Mahoney and his aunty Maree Clarke (Mutti Mutti/Yorta Yorta/Boon Wurrung/Wamba Wamba), this work tells the story of the Spirit Eel: a protector spirit, food source, seasonal marker and timekeeper for the peoples of the Kulin Nation. During July.

Emu Sky, curated by Barkandji woman Zena Cumpston, endeavours to forefront and illuminate Aboriginal voices and perspectives, referencing the dark nebulae that appears in the night sky in the shape of an emu across South-eastern Australia and beyond. Stories told through art, with more than 30 Aboriginal community members joining to share their culture, knowledge and artistic practice. Free, Old Quad on University of Melbourne's Parkville Campus.

Books: Former tennis World No.1 and three-time grand slam winner Ashleigh Barty has released a six-book series of children's books called *Little Ash*, based on the Ngarigo woman's life both on and off the court.

