

# 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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August 2022

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Breaking News

#### Vale Archie Roach

Archie Roach, singer, songwriter, storyteller, mentor, died 30 July, aged 66; our condolences to his family.

#### PM Reveals Draft Referendum Question

"Do you support an alteration to the constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?" During his address at Garma Festival, PM Anthony Albanese revealed draft wording for a Referendum, which has been welcomed by Uluru Statement from the Heart senior leaders.



Guests at the book launch hosted by Galiamble Men's Recovery Centre at St Kilda Town Hall during NAIDOC Week.

Elsewhere, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Melbourne City Council are reassessing their approach to Australia Day being celebrated on 26 January; more details below.

### NAIDOC Week Recap

How wonderful was NAIDOC Week this year! So many people from diverse backgrounds *Getting Up, Standing Up and Showing Up* at events, talks, marches, films, at exhibitions, on TV and radio. There seemed to be such a positive groundswell of interest in all manner of topics relating to First Australians throughout the community. I attended ANTA's forum where Chairman, Uncle Richard Frankland, detailed his *Tomorrow Australia* campaign, calling to change the flag, anthem, date and culture; find out more at [antarvictoria.org.au](http://antarvictoria.org.au). I was inspired listening to a talk by Pat Anderson AO, Chair of the Lowitja Foundation, clearly outlining a timeline to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart and pathways towards a Referendum. Pat says history is calling all Australians to come together to achieve a positive 'yes' result. (See inside for an update about the Campaign from the Heart).

### City of Port Phillip Council News

COPP held a successful week of events during NAIDOC Week, including a book launch by Galiamble at St Kilda Town Hall, a community BBQ at Access Health, featuring Monica Weightman, and a food stall by Mabu Mabu at St Kilda Esplanade. Planning is well underway for the development of Council's next Reconciliation Action Plan, and work is continuing on trial venues for a proposed Aboriginal Gathering Place in Port Phillip. A 'Have Your Say' survey will be conducted in coming months to collect feedback and input into the RAP development process.

### Our Group

It is encouraging that – after 25 years – we continue to attract people and greet newcomers at our lively monthly meetings. To carry on our work within the community, we rely on a Council grant and revenue from membership fees (see the form attached) for which I'm most grateful, so please consider maintaining and/or renewing your links with PPCfR; there's still much to look forward to.

### Congratulations

To the 2022 National NAIDOC Awards recipients: Person of the Year Award - Ash Barty; Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr Stanley Grant Snr; Female Elder Award - Dr Lois Peeler AM; Male Elder Award - Uncle Jack Charles; Sportsperson Award - Buddy Franklin; Youth Award - Elijah Manis; Creative Talent Award - Lowell Hunter; to Victorian NAIDOC recipients: Miss NAIDOC - Naomi Bamblett; Mr NAIDOC - Yemurraki Egan; NAIDOC Sportsperson - Nikita Rotumah; NAIDOC Care for Country - Stevie-Lee Ryan; Patron/Elder - Uncle Henry Atkinson; to Wayne Quilliam, winner 2022 National Photographic Portrait Prize; and to Elder Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin, awarded the \$100,000 Hadley's Art Prize, the country's richest prize for landscape artworks.

### Rosemary Rule

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

## CHANGING THE DATE

Major changes could be coming to Australia Day celebrations in Melbourne with the City of Melbourne council reassessing its approach to the polarising holiday. In late July, the council voted in favour of a motion brought by Lord Mayor Sally Capp, with City of Melbourne management now set to review how 26 January is celebrated. From as soon as next year, the usual events, communications and community engagement experienced on Australia Day in Melbourne could change, with the review seeking to identify alternative options. Traditional owners and state and federal governments will be contacted as part of the consultation process. Cr Capp said Aboriginal cultures are “essential” to Melbourne’s identity. *“What are the ways we can celebrate being Australian, and can we find ways to create more unity than division on 26 January? That is the process we are undertaking, with options to come back on 6 September.”* Cr Capp acknowledged that Australia Day was a “polarising issue” and “views are mixed”, but believed it was important for local government to be involved in the discussion. *“I believe it’s important for local governments, as the level of government closest to our people, to be active participants in this important debate,”* she said. Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, the city’s Aboriginal Melbourne deputy portfolio lead, said that 26 January, as an anniversary of the arrival of the British colonisers, *“heralded an avalanche of harm to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.”* Any decision to change the date must be made at a Commonwealth Government level.

## PM ENDORSES ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese recommitted to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, during the Welcome to Country ceremony at the beginning of the first day of the 47th Parliament sitting in July, calling the Uluru Statement from the Heart — which he recommitted to in his speech — a sign of “manners”. *“When you have issues that are affecting people, particularly people who have a history going back 65,000 years, that offers us a continuous source of great national pride here in Australia, why wouldn’t you? Why wouldn’t you grasp that generous and gracious offer which is about Reconciliation, which is about acknowledging dispossession and colonisation and all of the tragedy and injustice that occurred as a result of the First Fleet arriving in 1788?”* Mr Albanese urged his parliamentary colleagues to not “miss the chance”. Auntie Matilda, a Ngambri and Ngunnawal woman, asked her son, Paul House, to speak on her behalf. He called on the parliament to commit to all three key elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including a national Treaty and truth-telling, however, the Federal Government hasn’t yet confirmed a date.

### Potential Dates:

First Nations’ leaders have put forward either **27 May 2023**, the anniversary of the 1967 Indigenous referendum, or **27 January 2024**, the day after Invasion Day/Australia Day. Does this give the campaign time to secure the support it needs?

*“We’ve already done 15 years of work on this- we’re not starting with a blank page,”* says Quandamooka man and From the Heart Director, Dean Parkin. *“Our conversations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across the country show they understand that a Voice to Parliament is both practical and fair.”* Ian Hamm, a Yorta Yorta man, Chair of the First Nations’ Foundation, the Koorie Heritage Trust and a director of Yarra Valley Water, Australian Red Cross and The National Trust of Australia (Vic), is concerned by the amount of work that needs to be done at a fundamental population level. *“To get something like this across the line, you have to do the hard yards, the old-fashioned stump politicking, speaking at town hall meetings and small remote social groups,”* he says. *“A referendum isn’t something to take lightly. Only eight of the 44 proposals put to Australian electors since federation have been approved. and, personally, I wouldn’t be rushing into it.”* In other developments, NAB has pledged support for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and is providing a \$200,000 donation to the From the Heart campaign. Dean Parkin said corporates have a key role in engaging Australians from all walks of life in the movement for a referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. see <https://ulurustatement.org/> or <https://fromtheheart.com.au/take-action/>.

## YOORROOK REPORT

The interim report from Victoria’s Yoorrook Justice Commission, detailing the experience of 200 Elders, was released during NAIDOC Week in July. It contained two recommendations: the deadline of the final report to be extended to **30 June 2026**, and the government to change how it legislates the storing of information provided to the commission by the end of 2023. Yoorrook Justice Commission Chair, Eleanor Bourke, said that with the release of the interim report, Elders deserved to see change in their lifetime. *“Each of the 200 Elders we spoke to pointed to the ongoing effects of discriminatory policies and racist beliefs, including those that led to the Stolen Generation; policies and beliefs that have not only affected them but continue to affect their children and grandchildren,”* Bourke said. The Yoorrook Justice Commission says a second report will make recommendations on what a Treaty with Victoria will look like. The Victorian Government is considering both recommendations, stating it shares Yoorrook Justice Commission’s commitment to truth and justice.

## MAKING NEWS



**Stamp:** Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls has been recognised for his significant contribution to Australian society, with Australia Post releasing a stamp in his honour.



The stamp commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the knighting of Sir Doug, the first Aboriginal Australian to be knighted. Pastor Sir Doug, a Yorta Yorta man born at the Cummeragunja Aboriginal Mission, began his football career with VFL's Fitzroy Football Club, the only Aboriginal player in the league.

He was appointed Governor of South Australia before resigning due to poor health in 1977. He and his wife, Lady Gladys, were passionate advocates for Aboriginal rights and welfare. Their daughter, Aunty Pam Pederson, said the family had been waiting for years to have the stamp, after her niece, Bev Murray, wrote to Australia Post requesting it.

**Flag:** The Aboriginal flag will have a permanent home atop Melbourne's West Gate Bridge; previously the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were flown on a rotational basis above the bridge during Reconciliation and NAIDOC Weeks. The Victorian Government is exploring ways to fly both alongside Victorian state and Australian flags. Located on Bunurong Country, the 58-metre-high bridge links inner Melbourne with the outer western suburbs. Kelly Lehmann, chair of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, described the decision as a significant first step.

**Intervention:** The end of the Howard-era 'Intervention', which saw unprecedented government control over First Nations' communities in the Northern Territory, has been welcomed. Human rights law centre director and Arrernte man Nick Espie described it as "a *shameful chapter*" in the treatment of First Nations' people in the Territory, which began in 2007. "This is a time for reflection on an era of systemic failures, the dis-empowerment of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and the silencing of our voices," he said. "During these 15 years, we have seen the demonising of Aboriginal people and culture and the erosion of self-determination." While most Intervention laws ended in July, Commonwealth legislation enabling compulsory income management continues. The NT government has already issued liquor licences for people or entities who wish to sell alcohol in a remote community.

## POPULATION CHANGES

On census night in 2021, there were 812,728 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people counted, making up 3.2% of the total people counted, up from 649,171 in the 2016 census, an increase of over 25%. The census recorded a reduction of people over the age of 55 years looking after "other people's children". However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non-parental caregivers, such as grandparents, would likely see children they care for as being "theirs", as this is the way Indigenous family systems work. There are thought to be a significant number of Indigenous kids living in informal kinship care, so these numbers will not be accurate for Indigenous people. More than 47,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identify as being over the age of 65, up from 31,000 in 2016. Traditional languages remain an important part of many Indigenous households, and more than 78,000 people speak an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language at home.

## MANDATORY CHANGES TO LABELLING

The Australian Government's Productivity Commission released a draft report recommending the mandatory labelling of inauthentic products. "Inauthentic products can mislead consumers, deprive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists of income and disrespect cultures," Productivity Commissioner and Yawuru man Romlie Mokak said. "Mandatory labelling would steer consumers toward authentic products and put the compliance burden on those producing fake products, not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists." The Productivity Commission has recommended the installation of a new law which would strengthen protections around Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property. The Indigenous Art Code is a voluntary scheme in which artists and dealers provide 'certificates of authenticity' for artworks available for purchase. The Commission also recommended increased financial support for art centres, currently underfunded, and a review of the adequacy and efficiency of current government funding to ensure that it is appropriate in supporting community artists and enables self-determination in a growing industry. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and crafts industry's annual sales sit at \$250 million.

## RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS

Rec Stonnington members attended a flag raising and afternoon tea at the City of Malvern Corporate Offices, presented by City of Stonnington, for NAIDOC Week. A warm Welcome to Country was given by Wurundjeri Elder, Aunty Diane Kerr, after which we were treated to a dance performance by Nhanbu Togip Dance Troupe, which included two of Aunty Di's grandchildren (see photo). At our last meeting, our president, Keith Gove, gave an informative power point presentation and talk about the Interim Report from the Yoorrook Commission. At our next meeting on **Wednesday 10 August**, we will be planning our AGM; we hope to have a guest speaker from the Yoorrook Commission. All welcome. Enquiries to Ro Bailey, Secretary, 0438 285 588.



City of Stonnington NAIDOC Week celebrations included Cr Polly Morgan (left), Aunty Diane Kerr (seated) and the Nhanbu Togip Dance Troupe.

## THE ARTS

### Theatre

The Arts Centre Melbourne and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company's *Heart is a Wasteland* by the company's multi-award-winning Artistic Director, Rachael Maza, brings John Harvey's humorous and deeply heartfelt script to life as part of activities celebrating 30 years of ILBIJERRI, giving voice to First Nations' cultures through the ongoing creation of innovative works by First Nations' artists. Fairfax Studio, **25-27 August**.



### Dance

*SandSong* is a journey into ancient story systems, framed against the backdrop of ever-changing government policy and the survival of people, determined to hold strong to their Culture, created by Bangarra Dance Theatre in consultation with Wangkatjungka/Walmajarri Elders from the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions. **25 August-3 September**, Arts Centre Melbourne.

### Music

Uncle Shane Charles' Didgeridoo Healing. Monthly sessions of didgeridoo healing with Uncle Shane and Dylan Charles. **9 August**, 7.00-8.30 pm at Initiatives of Change, Toorak. Details: [info.au@iofc.org](mailto:info.au@iofc.org).

The National Indigenous Music awards – NIMAs - take place at Darwin Amphitheatre on **6 August**. First Nations' performers include King Stingray, Thelma Plum, Emma Donovan & The Putbacks, Yirmal, J-MILLA and Birdz, joined by his cousin and Butchulla songman Fred Leone.

### Books

*Sixty-Seven Days* by Yvonne Weldon is an intense and mesmerising story of first love, culture and belief. Weldon is the current Deputy Chairperson of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, an independent councillor for the City of Sydney, the first Aboriginal councillor in its history, and NSW's Aboriginal Woman of the Year 2022. Penguin.

*My People* is the second book by AFL star Eddie Betts, aiming to educate Australians on Aboriginal culture. Published through the Eddie Betts Family Trust.

*Another Day in the Colony* by Chelsea Watego is a groundbreaking work that exposes the ongoing colonial violence experienced by First Nations' people. Deeply insightful and powerful essays examine the ongoing and daily racism faced by First Nations' peoples in so-called Australia. UQP. *Marrul, Aboriginal Identity & the Fight for Rights* by Inala Cooper is an exploration of what Reconciliation and truth-telling look like, and how do we, as a nation, find justice for Indigenous people? **Monash University Publishing**.

### Exhibitions

An installation of *Banumbirr* by Morning Star custodian Paul Buwang Buwang Gurruwiwi in association with Elcho Island Arts. Vivien Anderson Gallery, ground floor 284–290 St Kilda Road, St Kilda, in August.

*Tyama* (Chah-muh) is an immersive, multisensory experience, transporting the viewer to Victoria's nocturnal worlds. Breathtaking effects and exquisite soundscapes, developed in collaboration with Keeray Woorroong knowledge holders Yoolongteeyt Dr Vicki Couzens and Yaraan Bundle, *Tyama* incorporates First Peoples' storytelling to convey the link between land, language and culture. Melbourne Museum.



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Meetings are held at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday each month.

Please help us continue our work by joining the group – or renewing your existing membership. The rate remains unchanged and is valid until 30 June 2023.

Date: .....

Membership Fee: \$10.00, \$5.00 concession:

Amount Enclosed: \$..... (Please tick Cash ..... Or Cheque.....)

**EFT Details:**

Bendigo Bank

BSB 633 000

Account Number 135518546

Please include your **Surname** in the reference to identify the payment.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode:..... Mobile: .....

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Completed Membership Forms can be sent to:  
PO Box 1446, St Kilda South VIC 3182

