

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boonwurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land.

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.

May 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Boonwurrung Word of the Month:

Yirramboi – tomorrow

Meeting

Despite wet and wintry weather outside, inside, PPCfR's April meeting, our first face-to-face since February 2020, was warm and welcoming. It was great to see Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy again and hear about their work at the Council, and to welcome newcomers Penelope Demos, David Jago and Paisley Blank, along with some of our valued regular members. We'll continue to meet in the Koolin-Ngal Family Centre in Napier Street (details below) and welcome anyone interested in learning about the group.

Sorry Day

I invite our members and friends to join us for a lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on **Wednesday 26 May**. While there are a few changes this year there are sure to be plenty of memorable moments. The venue is the hall at St Peter & Paul's Church, 377 Dorcas Street on the corner with Montague St, South Melbourne – enter on Montague St through the courtyard and the hall is to the right. There will be an official Welcome to Country and interesting interactions with mercurial MC Dennis Fisher. Guests will include Elders, friends, community members and councillors, and there will be time to catch up and share stories with one another after a long absence. Boxed lunches and soft drinks will be provided, plus we'll have some terrific door prizes. Covid-related space restrictions will limit numbers to 80 guests, so RSVP's are essential: T: 9699 8804 or E: rosemary.rule@gmail.com



PPCFR Co-Chair Dennis Fisher is the MC for our Sorry Day lunch on Wednesday 26 May.

National Reconciliation Week

All Reconciliation Week events held between **27 May-3 June** will incorporate key messages from this year's focus theme - More Than a Word. Reconciliation Takes Action. The theme reinforces the idea that we all have a role to play when it comes to Reconciliation, and in

playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, histories and cultures. The theme also encourages us to be braver and more impactful in our Reconciliation work. On **Saturday 22 May**, the City of Port Phillip is hosting *Filming Country*, a session on First Nations intellectual copyright with lawyer and academic Terri Janke, part of the St Kilda Film Festival, 12.30-2.00 pm; on **Thursday 27 May**, a Flag-raising and smoking ceremony featuring the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, and on **Saturday 29 May**, 12.30-2.00 pm, an in-conversation retrospective on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander actor and activist Bob Maza, presented by his daughters Rachael and Lisa, entitled *A Tribute to Bob Maza*. Contact Todd Condie, Indigenous Policy Officer, COPP: t.condie@portphillip.vic.gov.au for information.

Mabo Day

Marked annually on **3 June**, Mabo Day commemorates Mer Island man Eddie Mabo and his successful efforts to overturn the legal fiction of *terra nullius*, or 'land belonging to no-one'. COPP is hosting a Mabo Day Flag-raising organised by Fred Gesha – fgesha@portphillip.vic.gov.au Details: <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/commemorating-mabo-day/>

Congratulations

To the *Koori Mail* celebrating 50 years of publishing; to Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta goalkeeper Jada Whyman, named Player of the Match in the W-League Premiership; to Albert Park Primary forming the Wurru Wurru Sustainable Schools Alliance helping them to become carbon neutral by 2022; to didgeridoo player extraordinaire William Barton, winner of the 2021 Australia Council Don Banks Music Award.

Rosemary Rule

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 May, 6.30 pm, Koolin-Ngal Family Centre, 400 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne – entry in Napier Street. Please RSVP if you'd like to attend: 0418 675 734. All Welcome.

RECONCILIATION WEEK

A host of events will be held around Melbourne and beyond between **27 May-3 June** so check RecVic and ANTaR Victoria's website for details about some of them. Elsewhere the Victorian College of the Arts is presenting an online Arts Forum with Lisa Radford and Yhonnie Scarce, both lecturers in Art at the VCA. Yhonnie is a visual artist and a descendant of the Kokatha and Nukunu people from South Australia, whose hand-blown glass objects often reference the ongoing effects of colonisation on Aboriginal people, and comment on the social and political motives of historical and contemporary Australia.

Thursday 20 May, 12:30-1:30 pm.

Check for events at the Wilin Centre at <https://finearts-music.unimelb.edu.au/about-us/wilin>.

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company are celebrating their 30 years with a collection of monologues, community testimonials and storytelling, led by a panel of some of ILBIJERRI's founding members, 7.00 pm, **Wednesday 12 May**, at The Pavilion; free, registration required. Yirramboi is curated by Caroline Martin and sponsored by the City of Melbourne. Event details: <https://yirramboi.com.au/programs/yirramboi-com>.

Bungul is a celebration of the legacy of Dr Gurrumul Yunupingu's seminal album *Djarimirri (Child of the Rainbow)*, created on Country in North East Arnhem Land with the Yunupingu's family. In a hypnotic performance, live Yolngu dancers and songmen present the songs, dances and paintings that inspired *Djarimirri*, accompanied by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and directed by Senior Yolngu Don Wininba Ganambarr and Nigel Jamieson. Part of RISING at Hamer Hall, **26-27 May**. \$74.20-\$94.20.

STOLEN GENERATIONS REPARATION SCHEME

The Victorian Government has created a reparations scheme for members of the Stolen Generations. The program – which the government pledged \$10 million towards in 2020 – will be starting later this year but as a forerunner the state is introducing a \$300,000 program to cover funeral expenses for members of the Stolen Generations. The fund, backdated for any death after 1 January 2021, will be accessible until later this year when the broader reparations scheme will become available. Victoria is the last state to introduce a redress scheme for the Stolen Generations, and it had been a key recommendation raised at the first meeting of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. The Interim Funeral Fund will be administered by Connecting Home Limited: CHL at gr@connectinghome.org.au, or 1800 747 732.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY – A NOT GOOD REPORT

"Our mob will continue to die in custody until the legal system changes and police are held accountable," Apryl Day. *"Despite the recommendations of the Royal Commission, we are going backwards. The number of Indigenous people imprisoned has increased 100 per cent in the past three decades,"* Stan Grant.

It is 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, costing \$40 million, took three years

of testimony and evidence and passed on 339 recommendations, yet it's estimated that at best only 64% of these recommendations have been fully implemented. The key finding was that the best way to stop deaths in custody was to end the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Today, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples make up almost 30% of the Australian prison population, yet make up just over 3% of the general population. Since the Commission, 474 lives have been lost; five of these people were killed in March and April. Until the over-incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples stops, until the full list of recommendations from the Royal Commission are implemented, and until we see fundamental change and reform on an individual and system-wide basis, we will not see a reduction in deaths in custody. RecVic supports the aims of the Raise The Age campaign, calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 years of age to at least 14. They support the founding of the Dhadjowa Foundation to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families whose loved ones have died in custody, and they support Change The Record to end the disproportionate incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. To lodge a protest, sign the petition calling on the Prime Minister to meet with families whose loved ones have died in custody; email or ring state and local MPs saying you'd like the recommendations of the Royal Commission to be implemented, and support the aims of the Raise The Age campaign. Sign the pledge of support to #RaiseTheAge of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14. Hear Senator Patrick Dodson's views at <http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au>.

CULTURAL BURNING BACK AT CORANDERRK

After more than 160 years, Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Dave Wandin has returned cultural burning to the iconic Coranderrk Station at Healesville, a place of immense significance. After the mission was closed in 1924, virtually all Aboriginal people were forced off the property, and this was the backdrop to one of the Victorian Aboriginal community's earliest battles for self-determination in the face of colonisation, which only returned the land to Wurundjeri ownership in 1998. In mid-April, Uncle Dave showed a group of Indigenous land management students how a series of small, carefully controlled burns could promote the growth of native seeds and clear away introduced weeds. He said the 'cool' burning should not leave the soil underneath too hot; each burn should only be started if the person running the burns can see where it will peter out. Conservation group

Trust for Nature has been supporting the class of Indigenous students as they obtain their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management.



Cultural burning at Coranderrk Station.

LAKE BOLAC DESTRUCTION

Traditional Owners say the partial destruction of an Aboriginal stone arrangement shaped like an eel in western Victoria has left them traumatised. The 176-metre structure at Lake Bolac curves across the landscape and is believed to have been created more than 1,500 years ago. The stone arrangement at Lake Bolac had been a major gathering place prior to European colonisation. It is situated on private land and is registered with Aboriginal Victoria and known as the Kuyang Stone Arrangement. The Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area and the organisation's cultural heritage manager, John Clarke, said an inspection of the arrangement from the fence in early April showed up to 60 metres of the stones had been removed to make way for a path. He alerted Aboriginal Victoria to the damage and the organisation has launched an investigation. It is an offence to cause harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Aboriginal Heritage Act. Substantial penalties can apply and people who breach the act can face fines close to \$300,000; corporations more than \$1.65 million. The National Trust of Australia said the reported incident also further highlights the need for the State Government to act to strengthen protections for Aboriginal cultural heritage, and further the rights of Traditional Owners to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *Note:* The volcanic plains of western Victoria are home to the oldest aquaculture system in the world, with a series of stone-lined channels and pools in the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape established to harvest eels.

RECVIC UPDATE

After a year of working from home, RecVic has a new office in a co-working space called TOMS Place at 1 Tripovich Street, Brunswick; visitors welcome. From **Saturday 1 May**, the RecVic team will consist of Diana David (CEO), Sofia Rios (Operations Manager), Lily Dixon (Communications Officer), and Otis Heffernan-Wooden (Projects Officer). Sadly, their Education Officer and long-time LRG member, Lisa Moloney, has moved on. In other news, RecVic Forums will be back with announcements included in their eNews bulletins. Contact: info@reconciliationvic.org.au

YIRRAMBOI FESTIVAL

YIRRAMBOI means 'tomorrow' in the shared local languages of the Boonwurrung and Woiwurrung People. This future focused First Nations celebration of arts and culture will be held **6-16 May** with over one hundred free events. These include commissioned pieces such as *Our Fight for Survival - Professor Gary Foley and the Northlands Collective*, *Soul of Possum* by Brodie Murray and *Invisible Lines* by Harley Mann. The world premiere of *Yulendji* explores the past, present and future of the ancient and evolving Birrarung-marr (Yarra River) in a soundscape created by a trio of accomplished sound creatives. At the Arts Centre's covered walkway between Theatres Building and Hamer Hall, **6-15 May** (except Sundays).



Soul of Possum by Brodie Murray is part of the Yirramboi Festival.

STONNINGTON EVENT

The City of Stonnington's next Book Chat at Home (via Zoom), organised by Stonnington Libraries, will feature a conversation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writing. While taking place outside Rec Week, it's part of the Council's monthly Book Chat at Home series.

INDIGENOUS NEWSPAPERS

The *Koori Mail*, founded in May 1999 and published fortnightly, is written and owned by Indigenous Australians and reports on issues that matter to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders via subscription and newsagents. Every cent of their profits goes to Indigenous Australians in the form of dividends for owner organisations, scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and sponsorship of Indigenous community events. The *Koori Mail* has about a dozen staff, several general and sports columnists, a network of correspondents and contributors from throughout the country. Their back archive is available free-of-charge and fully searchable through the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). <https://koorimail.com/about-koori-mail/>. The *National Indigenous Times (NIT)* started as a print newspaper in 2002 and has expanded and evolved into a prestigious online news medium. The *NIT* strives to be the most comprehensive Indigenous online news site in Australia by offering rigorous reporting on the issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, celebrating positive stories and achievements, advocating for Reconciliation, and offering a balance of stories across news, politics, business, the arts and sport. <https://nit.com.au/>

ARTS

Confined 12 features over 350 artworks by Indigenous artists currently in or recently released from Victorian prisons, and is the biggest exhibition ever presented by The Torch. Glen Eira City Council Gallery, cnr Glen Eira/Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield, **Monday 3 May**. Works available to view or purchase online from 1.00 pm and launched live via Facebook at 6.00 pm - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1339843506402117/> Yhonnie Scarce's new sculpture *Missile Park* is part of her retrospective exhibition at ACCA, Southbank, until **Monday 14 June**.

Koorie Heritage Trust's *Deadly Narratives: Recent Collection Highlights* brings together Victorian Aboriginal narratives represented by five years of art collecting by the KHT since moving to the Birrarung (Yarra) Building at Federation Square in 2015. The deadly narratives are told through a range of media including acrylic on canvas and board, prints, ceramics, textile, pokerwork possum skin, weaving and jewellery. Until **Thursday 13 May**.

