

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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September 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Archie Roach Farewelled

Following the death of the legendary singer, songman and storyteller Archie Roach, Amos and Eban Roach and family took him home in the same hearse that had returned Mungo Man to Country. Escorted by Southern Warriors Aboriginal Motorcycle Club, the cortege travelled through Collingwood, Fitzroy, the city and to the corner of Fitzroy Street and Cleve Gardens, St Kilda. Archie and the late Ruby Hunter had long-standing connections with the City of Port Phillip. *"Remembering that friendship I had with him and his wife Ruby makes me emotional,"* local Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson commented. *"He's an icon in the community, all over Australia. All of his songs are from the heart; how we lived. The words in the songs tell everything of his life and our life."* Fans, friends and members of the Aboriginal community who gathered, shared stories, paid their respects, said goodbye, shed tears. The cortege drove along The Esplanade past Luna Park en route to Archie's final resting place at Framlingham for a private funeral.



Archie Roach's cortege stopped at Cleve Gardens on 22 August.
Photo courtesy of Serge Thomann.

Reconciliation Writing Competition

Have you sent in your entries to writingcomp2022@gmail.com writing on the theme Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up? They're due **2 September**. Entries will be judged by academic and author Associate Professor Jeanine Leanne and writer/broadcaster Bryan Andy and the winners announced on **14 October**. Details next issue.

AGM

I'm pleased to let you know that Nicole Lindsay, Reconciliation Victoria's Chief Executive Officer, will be the special Guest Speaker at our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 20 September** at 6.00 pm in the South Melbourne Community Centre. We will elect our office bearers, who are currently Co-Chairs Dennis Fisher and myself; Treasurer Fiona Olney-Fraser; Secretary Deb Stewart; and Ordinary Members Jo Bond and Joy Bandy, and then hear from Nicole. Members and friends are welcome, with refreshments afterwards, so I look forward to seeing you. A Proxy Form is attached below if you can't attend.

Gift Book Project

Our group has donated another children's book to every Early Learning Centre in the City of Port Phillip: a copy of Fay Stewart-Muir's book *Family*, plus a helpful resources list, compiled by PPCfR member and early learning educator Fiona Darroch. All books were personally delivered.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20 September, 6.00 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre,
Ferrars Place, South Melbourne. **All Welcome**
Enquiries: 0418 675 734.

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

Every State and Territory Minister for Indigenous Affairs has agreed to work towards a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the constitution. Starting with their commitment to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, the Albanese Labor Government said it will renew *“our national commitment to Reconciliation and work in genuine partnership with First Nations people for better. The Uluru Statement from the Heart was a generous offer of a genuine partnership, and a real chance for us to create a reconciled Australia.”* Labor says it will progress a referendum to constitutionally enshrine a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution as a matter of priority and will also establish a Makarrata Commission to work with the Voice to Parliament on a national process for Treaty and Truth-telling. To support the Voice to Parliament, The Prime Minister has proposed three sentences be added to the Constitution if the referendum succeeds:

“In recognition of Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia:

There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to parliament and the executive government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have the power to make laws with respect to the composition, functions, powers and procedures of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.”

Thomas Mayor, a Torres Strait Islander man born on Larrakia country in Darwin and a signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, puts it simply: *“Do you support an alteration to the constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?”*

TREATY HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The Treaty Authority and Other Treaty Elements Bill 2022, a landmark bill to establish a Victorian Treaty authority, passed State Parliament on 16 August unamended, with bipartisan support from the major parties, and will return to the lower house to be rubber-stamped before going to the Victorian Governor for royal assent. It gives the Treaty Authority the powers and legal capacity to operate as an independent body to oversee Treaty negotiations between First Peoples and the State of Victoria, the democratically elected voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in negotiations, and sit outside the usual state bureaucracy. It won't report to a minister, will have its funding safeguarded from election cycles and be led by First Nations people. Assembly Co-chair Marcus Stewart said the authority is the first of its kind in Australia. Five Aboriginal leaders will be hand-picked to manage the body as part of a nationwide search, similar to the approach used for the state's Truth-telling inquiry. *“We’ll go far and wide. We’ll be looking in particular in Victoria for Traditional Owners who can lead us on this journey,”* Mr Stewart said.

He said work on Treaty-making in Victoria could begin as early as next year. Ground rules for negotiations will be set beforehand, with the assembly hopeful an agreement can be struck ahead of the **November 26** state election. Under the legislation, the authority will receive \$60.5 million in funding over the first four financial years of its existence, with funding progressively scaling up to \$20.3 million a year from 2025/26.

Footnote: The Queensland Government says a bill to legalise the establishment of a three-year Indigenous Truth-telling inquiry will come before parliament this year after unveiling steps it will take towards signing a Treaty with First Nations peoples.

CLOSING THE GAP PARTNERSHIPS PROPOSED

During the meeting of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap on 26 August, the Council agreed on a new policy partnership between early childhood care and social and emotional wellbeing to be established by the end of the year. The Federal Government will provide \$10.2 million in funding, on top of the more than \$8 million previously committed for the partnership, which aims to improve closing the gap outcomes. The Council also endorsed a plan to improve data collection processes in relation to closing the gap reporting. All jurisdictions will incorporate the plan as part of their annual reporting process to help ensure progress on targets is monitored. A new target on community infrastructure has been added to the national agreement on closing the gap. By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households within discrete communities or near to a town must have essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard. Work has also started on a program to train hundreds of First Nations healthcare workers to fill critical workforce shortages in Indigenous services. Up to 500 Indigenous trainees will become accredited in delivering culturally appropriate health services to communities, working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services which provide maternal, childhood, mental, aged care and sexual health care. It's expected the cost of the program would be \$52.9 million over the next five years.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES BOOST

The Government has announced a multi-million dollar funding boost to help safeguard Indigenous culture and languages. Indigenous languages and cultures being strong and supported is one of the targets under the closing the gap agreement, with data showing around 123 Indigenous languages were being spoken in 2018-19. Over the next three years, \$57 million will be invested across more than 80 community activity and language programs with a view to increasing the number of languages being spoken and preserve culture across the country. \$41 million will be distributed to Indigenous language centres across the country, including First Languages Australia, for cultural programs, language teaching and learning, and community workshops.

The remainder of the funding will be divided across cultural preservation, targeted language teaching and learning and developing digital language databases and community workshops.

CHILDREN'S DAY

The theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August was *My Dreaming, My Future*, so the staff and students at Children's Garden Kindercare, Albert Park, rugged up to sit around an open fire, tell tales, bake bread and thanked the Traditional Owners of the Land, Bunjil the Eagle and Waa the Crow. Fiona Darroch, Early Learning Educator and PPCfR



member, said all children's services were encouraged to do something to bring this day into national consciousness.

A morning by the fire with children at Children's Garden Kindercare Children's Day.

NEW HOUSING PROJECT FOR MEN

A contract has been signed for the construction of a Victoria-first housing project for Aboriginal men leaving prison, with hopes of reducing recidivism rates. Warrigunya, a name chosen by Aboriginal inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre, meaning warrior's home, hopes to give men leaving the prison a fighting chance of reintegrating into society. Homes Victoria has granted the Aboriginal corporation \$3 million to build the first stage of the housing at Darriman, near Yarram. The organisation does not yet have funding to operate the housing once it is built next year, with hopes a state or federal agency will provide funds for workers to support the residents. Warrigunya has signed a contract with a builder to start on the first phase of the home, aiming to house four men by next year, increasing to eight, then 16 coming from prison where they can transition and move forward. Warrigunya board members have launched a community fundraiser for the project to build vegetable gardens and a workshop.

IN THE NEWS

Indigenous student enrolments

Aboriginal enrolments in universities has doubled in the past decade, from 7605 to 15,290 in bachelor degrees and from 1285 to 3300 in post-grad degrees. According to the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Indigenous enrolment has increased to 1.41 percent. The University of Melbourne has around 500 students and 139 Indigenous staff.

The Lowitja Institute

The Lowitja Institute, the country's only national First Nations health research centre, has honoured the enduring legacy of their patron and namesake, launching the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation on her 90th birthday. The Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Scholarships will be awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in study, internship and a career in nursing and the public service sector, with the Federal Government contributing \$250,000 dollars towards the Foundation's establishment.



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue

Archie Roach Foundation

Help the Archie Roach Foundation honour the late legendary singer's legacy by making a donation that can help First Nations artists across all creative platforms. www.archieroach.com to donate. Leave a personal message for Archie's family at <https://www.archieroach.com/tribute-page/archieroach>

2022 NIMA Awards

Artist of the Year and Album of the Year - Baker Boy; New Talent of the Year - Jem Cassar-Daley; Song of the Year - King Stingray's *Milkumana*; Film Clip of the Year - *King Brown* by Malyangapa and Barkindji rapper Barkaa; Community Clip of the Year - Indigenous Outreach Projects Community for *Loud & Proud*. Archie Roach Foundation Award to Dobby. Yolŋu singer Gurrumul was inducted into the National Indigenous Music Awards Hall of Fame.

2022 Telstra Art Awards

The \$100,000 Telstra Art Award - Margaret Rarru Garrawurra, Senior Yolŋu artist from Lajarra, Arnhem Land; General Painting Award - Betty Muffler, *Ngangkari Ngura (Healing Country)*; Bark Painting Award - the late Ms D Yunupinju, *The Rock*; Multi-Media Award - Jimmy John Thaiday, *Beyond the Lines*; Emerging Artist Award - Louise Malarvie, *Pamarr Yara*.

The Torch

The Torch has appointed Wiradjuri woman Clare Williams and Bianca Baldwin, a proud Gunnai-Kurnai woman from Bairnsdale, as Indigenous Arts Officers, supporting both In-Prison and In-Community participants.

RECONCILIATION VICTORIA NEWS

RecVic's annual On-Country Forum this year is on Dja Dja Wurrung Country by Lake Boort, a significant cultural place for the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples, which boasts the largest scar tree collection in Australia. It's on **Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September** and is open to local Reconciliation group members, key partners and stakeholders. Registrations close **Wednesday 7 September**. For information, contact Projects Manager Alex McKay manager@reconciliationvic.org.au. Elsewhere, RecVic has welcomed two new staff members. Jo Drummond is a proud Murri woman from Yirandali Country, mother of six, who brings experience across public and private sectors in project management and stakeholder engagement roles. Claire Hyett, a proud Gunaikurnai woman, has a degree in Global Studies with a focus on Human Rights and Indigenous Cultures and Histories and takes on the role of Project Support Officer.



New RecVic staff members; Claire Hyett (left) and Jo Drummond.

RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON'S AGM

Rec Stonnington is privileged to be joined by two special guest speakers at their Annual General Meeting, Professor the Honourable Kevin Bell AM QC, Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, who will be speaking about the Yoorrook Justice Commission's Interim Report, released in July, along with the City of Stonnington Mayor, Jami Klisaris. **Wednesday 14 September** at Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Prahran, 6.00 pm. We would love for all to attend in person, but if that is not possible, there will be a Zoom option, so please let us know. RSVP to Ro Bailey ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au by **Wednesday 7 September**.

CALLS FOR CHANGES TO POLICE COMPLAINTS

Victoria Police says it will overhaul how it deals with complaints against its officers lodged by Aboriginal people, but the state's peak Indigenous legal body says it wants to see detailed plans for how police will achieve real change. The announcement comes after Victoria's anti-corruption watchdog handed down a scathing report into how police handle complaints from First Nations people. IBAC, the Independent Broad-based

Anti-corruption Commission, made several findings, including that conflicts of interest were often poorly managed and that a "substantial" number of complaint files contained indications of bias. The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service welcomed the news but raised concerns over how Victoria Police planned to implement the recommendations, saying they'd like to see specific details of the plans and like to understand how they can provide feedback and how progress will be monitored. Victoria Police has formally accepted all the report's ten recommendations, including that it creates a new process specifically to handle complaints from Indigenous people and to hire a specialist staff member to advise on the process. Of the 41 complaints reviewed as part of the IBAC report, 63 allegations of police misconduct were made, almost half relating to assault or the use of force.

INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

This Indigenous Literacy Day celebrates the Stories, Cultures and Languages of First Nations Peoples with a National Digital Event at 10.30 am on **Wednesday 7 September** when a lively group of children in remote Milikapiti and Jilkminggan, in the NT, will joyfully share their Stories, Cultures and Languages. Information and digital bookings - <https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/>

TALKS

Melbourne Writers' Festival is on **8-11 September**. Events curated by First Nations writers include Chelsea Watego, Wiradjuri poet and artist Jazz Money, Evelyn Aralue and Mykaela Saunders. Initiatives of Change Australia is hosting an evening with Richard Trudgen, author of *Why Warriors Lie Down and Die*. Richard has been a pioneering figure in community education and development for 35 years, working alongside the Yolngu people of NE Arnhem Land. **Tuesday 13 September**, 7.30 pm, Zoom. Details: loCA - <https://au.iofc.org>

ARTS & MEDIA

TV: What do we know about the battles fought on home soil? The documentary *#TheAustralianWars* presents a compelling awakening to an Australian history not commonly known or understood. Premieres **Wednesday 21 September** on SBS Australia and NITV. **Film:** ANTaR Victoria are having a film competition, open to all ages, for films between 1-5 minutes. The competition theme is *What Does Tomorrow Australia Look Like in the Context of Reconciliation?* There will be a public big-screen event for finalists who will also get the chance to chat with one or more of the First Nations judges, Minelle Creed (journalist), Tait Brady (film maker) and Richard Frankland (film maker, author) Entries close on **31 October**. Details <https://antarvictoria.org.au/filmcomp#>

PPCfR 2022 AGM - COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROXY FORM

For the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 6.00 pm.

I _____
(Name of Proposer)

nominate _____
(Name of Nominee)

for the Committee position of

(One of Co-Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 2 x Ordinary members)

Signature of Proposer

Name of Proposer in BLOCK CAPITALS

Signature of Seconder

Name of Seconder in BLOCK CAPITALS

The Nominee is prepared to stand for election to this position.
Consent of Candidate: I agree to the above nomination.

Signature of Candidate:

Please note: Proposers, Seconders and Candidates must be current, paid-up members of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation. The Nomination Form must be delivered not less than 7 days before the meeting date to Rosemary Rule, PPCfR, PO Box 1446, St Kilda South, Victoria 3182, or rosemary.rule@gmail.com.

