

Mungo...



Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation Inc.

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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.

September 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Group News

Once again, the Covid-19 pandemic torpedoed our plans to host a community lunch, scheduled for Monday 9 August, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and it was such a shame, missing out once more on the chance to catch up with friends. However, on a positive note, good things are still happening. We have received wonderful feedback on our project, donating a copy of Fay Stewart-Muir's book *Respect* to every local Early Learning Centre, with several people subsequently making contact. There seems to be a strong desire to learn more about Indigenous heritage and culture, and we're only too happy to answer their questions or respond to requests as best we can.

Elsewhere, we continue to host meetings via zoom while in lockdown, to welcome new members and initiate projects within the community. I'll participate in RecVic's forthcoming forum, will invite a special guest speaker to our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for **Tuesday 19 October**, and will continue to discuss the idea to host an online event later in the year, focused on a key issue such as Treaty, Truth Telling or the Uluru Statement from the Heart campaign. We've also been invited to participate in Linden New Art Gallery's Postcard Exhibition, presenting a First Nations Community Art Prize sponsored by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, and will be encouraging Indigenous artists to enter. I welcome ideas and input into our proposed activities and will include updated news in *Mungo* and via our website, ppcfr.org.

Let's Reconnect

RecVic are hosting an online forum, inviting local group members to come together and discuss their work, trends, transformations and initiatives. **Saturday 11 September**, 11.00 am-12.30 pm, via zoom. Details inside.

Dilin Duwa Centre

I was among many who tuned in to the launch of the Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership last month. See below for details of this joint initiative of the Faculty of Business and Economics and the Melbourne Business School which aims to support three main streams – programs, research and engagement.



Associate Professor Michelle Evans, Head of the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership.

Congratulations

To human rights lawyer Professor Megan Davis, elected Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People, leading a team of experts to protect Indigenous human rights across the globe; to Wiradjuri woman Denni Francisco whose label Ngali won the 2021 Fashion Design Award at the National Indigenous Fashion Awards; to Pitjantjatjara artist Timo Hogan, winner of the Telstra Art Award; to Archie Roach whose memoir, *#TellMeWhy*, is shortlisted for the 2021 National Biography Award and to Kyra Mancktelow, Telstra Emerging Artist at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 September, 6.30 pm
Covid-permitting at South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place (off Park Street), South Melbourne; if not, via zoom. Details: 0418 685 734.

CLOSING THE GAP UPDATE

Government announcements made in August include a new billion dollar 'implementation plan' aimed at Closing the Gap in health, education, justice and employment by 2031, and a \$379 million redress scheme for Stolen Generations members from the NT and ACT. Last year, all Australian governments committed to seventeen new targets to improve the lives of Indigenous people after the previous Closing the Gap scheme failed. But the first report card on the new targets' progress shows only three are on track: improving birth weight, early education attendance and reducing the numbers of Indigenous teenagers in youth justice. Aboriginal organisations have warned that Indigenous children in crisis "*can't wait*" for the nation to move. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were "*at the core*" of Closing the Gap. He said the country's "*ultimate test*" is to enable every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boy or girl to have the same opportunities as "*any other Australian child*". The government has also committed hundreds of millions for new remote boarding schools, renovating and building new health clinics and boosting alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs. See <https://www.niaa.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/closing-gap>

THE REDRESS SCHEME

The Federal Government's redress scheme for Stolen Generations survivors in the Northern Territory, ACT and Jervis Bay Territory is a \$379 million reparations scheme, aiming to compensate survivors of the Stolen Generations, with individuals eligible for \$82,000. Survivors who were aged under eighteen when they were forcibly removed from their families will now be eligible for a one-off \$75,000 payment with another \$7,000 as a 'healing assistance payment'. The scheme was welcomed by peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations including the Healing Foundation which works with Stolen Generations survivors.

NEW CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

The Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership, a joint initiative of the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Business and Economics and the Melbourne Business School, was launched in August. The Centre is led by Associate Professor Michelle Evans, supported by a team of Indigenous academics and practitioners and an Indigenous Advisory Group who will guide the Centre's strategy and ensure it meets the priorities of the communities served through three main streams – programs, research and engagement. Also announced were two foundation scholarships for Indigenous Australians wishing to undertake an MBA at the Melbourne Business School.



The design concept for the Dilin Duwa Centre visualises the convergence of the three work streams - Research, Programs and Community Engagement - that flow within the overarching Centre.

RECVIC FORUM

Let's Reconnect is the forum for Local Reconciliation Groups to come together and share their news. RecVic believes it is crucial for the work of their organisation to know and understand how groups work, and they are asking each group to answer these questions: What are your key areas of work and projects? How do you feel the Treaty process and the Yoo-rook Justice Commission are being received in your local area? What positive changes have you seen happening? What are the big challenges for your local area in Reconciliation? How can RecVic assist you to meet these challenges? Experiences will be shared with RecVic CEO Diana David, Co-Chairs Shane Charles and Aislinn Martin, board members and staff during the online forum on **Saturday 11 September**, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm. For further information and zoom registration details, contact RecVic: info@reconciliationvic.org.au or phone 9016 0657.

GOOD VACCINATION RATES

First Nations peoples in Victoria are leading the country in vaccination rates as more than 42,000 people have received at least one dose of the vaccine and just under 25,000 are fully vaccinated; meaning that 40 percent of Victoria's Indigenous population are vaccinated so far (at the end of August). CEO of Victoria's peak body for Aboriginal community health organisations, Jill Gallagher AO, said the success is due to partnerships forged between the Victorian Department of Health and community-controlled Aboriginal health services. Ms Gallagher also said the most obvious factor contributing to the success was access to the vaccines. "*The answer is having access to the vaccine and that's what I think has been missing in (the NSW) case,*" she said. Federally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are listed as priority vaccination groups due to a prevalence of underlying health conditions.

PROPERTY COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation member Penelope Demos is the General Manager of Demos Property Services and was recently elected, in her professional capacity, as a committee member for the Property Council of Victoria's Inclusion & Diversity Committee. She was inspired to invite a First Nations representative to be involved. In July, Yorta Yorta man Ian Hamm held a meeting with Penelope and her fellow Culture, Faith and Reconciliation subcommittee members to discuss opportunities for young Indigenous people in the property and construction industries. Ian holds a number of leadership positions with federal and state government bodies, is Chair of the First Nations Foundation and a former President of the Western Region Football League as well as being the Head of Aboriginal Affairs for a number of years. Penelope and the committee were interested to hear Ian report that, currently, the demand to employ Indigenous staff by employers far exceeds their availability.

The Property Council of Australia is in the process of implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan and, in August, presented a virtual forum in Melbourne as part of their Reconciliation series. Keynote speaker was John Paul Janke, co-owner of Indigenous construction company Rork and an NITV/SBS presenter. He talked about his cultural heritage, highlighting the opportunities that have helped his career. John Paul also spoke about some of the roles that non-Indigenous people can play in inclusion, building relationships and providing equal opportunities. Penelope Demos was also a panelist and mentioned her membership of our group. She spoke about her business which is committed to Reconciliation and is in the process of having their second RAP (Innovate) endorsed. She talked about their journey over the past decade and conveyed the challenges of finding genuine Indigenous suppliers. In addition, Penelope announced Demos Services' partnership with the Cathy Freeman Foundation and participation in Team Freeman's Melbourne Marathon and Sydney's City 2 Surf events as well as

'plugging' Indigenous Literacy Day fundraising and events, something she's passionate about.



Penelope Demos, General Manager of Demos Property Services and a Property Council and PPCfR member.

YALINGUTH REALITY APP

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history of Gertrude Street, Fitzroy (Ngár-go), as told by Elders and artists such as Uncle Jack Charles and Uncle Archie Roach has been launched. Yalinguth - *yesterday* in the Woi Wurrung language - is a new augmented reality app designed to connect the user with past accounts of the area from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, providing today's generation with an insight into this popular Melbourne meeting place. Some stories and soundscapes recreate pre-colonial times whilst others walk users through a 'Black GST' protest or a personal reflection on finding family and community on the streets and in the pubs of Fitzroy. The concept has grown through the efforts of a committed and creative working group of project partners including Uncle Bobbie Nichols (Yarnin' Pictures), Uncle Robbie Bundle (Melbourne Community Indigenous Film Collective), Uncle Colin Hunter and Charley Woolmore (Wurundjeri), Janet McGaw and Jillian Walliss (Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne), Pip Chandler and Zoe Dawkins (Storyscape) and Chris Barker, Kate Crawley and Max Piatoni (RMIT Masters of Animation, Games and Interactivity). Twenty young people were employed to interview and record the stories and young Aboriginal artists Larna Massari and Graham (BJ) Braybon were also involved. yalinguth.com.au for updates; facebook.com/yalinguth

REC STONNINGTON NEWS

One of our members, Montana Slavik, is a preschool educator at Renown Kindergarten in South Yarra. She speaks to her pupils about the change in boundaries for the local Traditional Owners and also works with the children on the Uluru Statement from the Heart campaign. In our group we have several preschool educators who do great work in Reconciliation. Through our involvement in the Boroondara Reconciliation Network, we recently had a preschool educator from Boroondara join our monthly zoom meetings to learn how to introduce Reconciliation activities into her work. It is rewarding to have the expertise in our group to offer to others. Also, it is exciting to report that the previously very conservative Boroondara Council is now Acknowledging Country at meetings and drawing up a Reconciliation Action Strategy for the City of Boroondara, which is along the same lines as a RAP but will not need to be approved by Reconciliation Australia. These actions have come about because of meetings that Keith Gove and I had with newly elected councillors and by lobbying by the Boroondara Reconciliation Network. Our next meeting on **Tuesday 14 September**, no doubt by zoom, will consider our AGM which we have postponed to October or November in the hopes of being able to meet in person. We will further discuss

the implications of the changed boundaries and how to improve our system of communication with members. All welcome.
*Ro Bailey,
Rec Stonnington*



In class with preschool educator Montana Slavik, a member of Rec Stonnington.

ULURU RESPONSE FORUM

In March, Thomas Mayor, signatory and advocate for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, launched the Our Uluru Response program from Initiatives of Change (IoC) at Armagh in Toorak, presenting a challenging agenda of *Voice, Treaty, Truth. Where has it got to? What next steps can we take?* During a forthcoming 90-minute online forum, Thomas will give an update from Darwin on the national campaign and introduce his new book, *Dear Son: Letters and Reflections from First Nations Fathers and Sons*. **Tuesday 7 September**, 7.30 pm. Free, but donations to support IoC's Our Uluru Response welcome. Contact IoC Australia, Communications. 9822 1218.

COP CAR ART

Two new Victorian Police vehicles feature artwork by Wiradjuri Elder and artist David Dunn, following a state-first move to build better relationships between law enforcement and First Nation communities. The vehicles, launched with a smoking ceremony in Wodonga, are seen by many including Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation as a step in the right direction of a long journey.



HUMAN RIGHTS' AWARD

Barapa Barapa woman Apryl Day and her siblings have been honoured with the Voltaire Human Rights Award for their work to reform the system and stop Black deaths in custody. Tanya Day, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, tragically died after being arrested for public drunkenness - a law that the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody had recommended be repealed 30 years earlier. Her children - Apryl Day, Belinda Day, Warren Day, and Kimberly Watson - undertook a sustained effort over a number of years to fight the injustice that Tanya experienced, highlighting the inappropriateness of public drunkenness laws and advocating for justice for First Nations people, especially those in custody.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Charcoal Lane, the pioneering social enterprise restaurant, is closing on 16 September after twelve years of providing hospitality training and employment to aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chefs. Building owner, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, is returning to the site to provide increased services to its community in the wake of the pandemic. (The health service originally occupied the building between 1979-1992). Charcoal Lane was established as a social enterprise with profits from the restaurant reinvested to provide up to 30 young Indigenous people with vocational skills and accredited qualifications each year. More than 300 young people were part of the program with the venue acting as a platform showcasing Indigenous ingredients and providing fine-dining Indigenous dishes.

Big Esso is the latest restaurant from Mabu Mabu's Torres Strait Island creator Nornie Bero. According to Bero, "Esso is how 'thank you' is said in the Torres Strait, and Big Esso is slang for 'the biggest thank you!'"



The 130-seat dining room and bar next to the Koorie Heritage Trust brings Indigenous food and culture back to the banks of the Birrarung

(Yarra), a river that was once an eel breeding ground where shark, dolphin and stingrays could be found. Nornie Bero's first food outlet was in the South Melbourne Market before moving to Yarraville.

BOOKS

Two new books by Tony Birch - *Whisper Songs*, a poetry collection, and *Dark As Last Night*, a book of short stories - are published by University of Queensland Press. *Albert Namatjira* - written and illustrated by Vincent Namatjira, winner of the 2020 Archibald Prize - is about his famous great grandfather. Magabala Books.

Design: Building on Country by Alison Page focuses on the ecological necessity to redesign our future, soundly based on successfully caring for Country for 60,000 years. Thames & Hudson.

EXHIBITIONS

Maree Clarke's *Ancestral Memories* is the first major retrospective of the Melbourne-based artist and designer, a Yorta Yorta/Wamba Wamba/Mutti Mutti and Bunurong woman. Maree has a passion for reviving and sharing elements of Aboriginal culture that were lost or lying dormant as a consequence of colonisation. Covering more than three decades, the exhibition traverses Clarke's multidisciplinary practice across photography, printmaking, sculpture, jewellery and video. NGV, Federation Square, until October.

MUSIC

Uncle Archie's Kitchen Table Yarns video project pairs Archie Roach in conversation with some of Australia's best emerging First Nations artists. Filmed from Roach's home in regional Victoria and released on the first Wednesday of each month, twelve different First Nations musicians chat about culture, community, song writing and language. On YouTube through The Music Network.

Circling Time is the fifth studio album from Kutcha Edwards, singer, songwriter and Mutti Mutti man.

First Nations playlist - *SovReign Sounds* - curated by Allara features 85 tracks from over 80 First Nations artists from across Australia, telling First Nations stories, old and new, through heartbreak, healing, survival, resilience and growth. See Arts Centre Melbourne - Together With You.

