

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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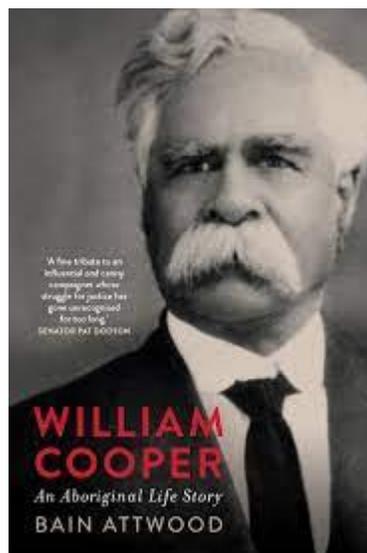
December 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR Linden Postcard Show

Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and I were delighted to announce the winner of the First Nations Community Art Prize Supported by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation as part of the Linden Postcard Show. Unfortunately, this happened after the deadline for this issue of *Mungo* so don't know the name! Our group also supported artist Shannon Bausch's entry – one of over 1000 works measuring exactly 8" x 10" entered this year. I'm very grateful to Fiona Olney-Fraser for overseeing this project on our behalf. The exhibition runs from **Saturday 4 December to Sunday 27 February** at Linden New Art, 26 Acland Street, St Kilda.

Rec Group Meetings

I attended Rec Stonnington's AGM via zoom on 10 November – you can see a report below – and the combined AGMs and Forum organised by RecVic and ANTaR Vic with the theme - Slacktivism into Activism: Youth Participation in the Reconciliation Movement.



Please see inside for PPCFR member David Jago's review of this new book about his esteemed ancestor, William Cooper.

Congratulations

To stellar basketballer Patty Mills, named the 2022 ACT Australian of the Year; to Jessie Lloyd, Victorian winner, IBM Awards Regional Business Excellence Category, sponsored by the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership; to Leah Purcell for her efforts in writing, directing,

producing and starring in the feature film *The Drover's Wife: the Legend of Molly Johnson* and winning the

Jury Grand Prize at the 14th Annual Asia Pacific Screen Awards; to The Torch, winner of Aboriginal Melbourne's Kommargee Ketherba Award; to tennis player Ash Barty, only the fifth woman in history to finish the year as World Number 1 three straight times.

Good News

I'm happy to say that we will resume our face-to-face monthly gatherings next year. Meetings will be held in the South Melbourne Community Centre on the third Tuesday from February and are open to anyone interested in our work. The details will be posted in the February issue of *Mungo*, on our Facebook page and via ppcfr.org. (We take a break in January). Many thanks to Deb Stewart who has done a sterling job managing our zoom meetings for many months, and it has been encouraging to see so many attending. My thanks also to our wonderfully supportive committee members - Denis Fisher, Deb, Fiona Olney-Fraser, Jo Bond, Denis Frankel and new member Penelope Demos and to many others whose interest and involvement in the group ensures our presence as an effective community group, continuing to help promote Reconciliation.

Looking Ahead

We have plans to present our Reconciliation Writing Competition for students and adults, to do some follow-up work with Early Learning Centres and to organise some events including a public forum on a topical subject, and we will be delighted to have your support and participation. In the meantime, I'd like wish everyone a happy holiday season and trust that we can go on to enjoy a pleasant, enjoyable and not-too-eventful 2022! Our next formal meeting will be held on **Tuesday 15 February**.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: End-of-year BBQ at Gasworks Arts Park, Richardson Street, South Melbourne
Tuesday 14 December from 6.00 pm. BYO food, refreshments and chair. All Welcome. If the weather's poor, ring 0418 675 734 for alternative arrangements.

CHANGE THE RECORD ADVOCACY

Change the Record, a coalition of Indigenous advocacy and legal services, has launched a campaign - National Safety Plan - seeking to provide solutions to domestic violence within First Nations communities. It says a lack of government resourcing, over-reliance on policing and mainstream services, and the failure of successive governments to invest in adequate housing and social security have left Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in danger. The group's co-chair, Antoinette Braybrook, said: "*We know how to keep our children and communities safe,*" and urged the Morrison Government to listen to First Nations women with lived experiences. In nearly all domestic and family violence related deaths of Aboriginal people, the deceased was recorded as both a respondent and as the victim prior to death, according to findings from a Queensland Domestic Violence Death Review and Advisory Board. This was blamed on racial stereotypes, discriminatory policing and a lack of cultural safety within mainstream institutions. Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety found that this cruel phenomenon of women being assumed as the perpetrator was because Indigenous women "*very often do not fit the ideal victim stereotype*" and were more likely than other women to engage in self-defence. An ingrained mistrust of police due to colonialism and frequency of brutality also lead to First Nations women often being "*named on domestic violence orders (DVOs), charged with contraventions of DVOs and significantly more likely than non-Indigenous people to receive a sentence of imprisonment for a contravention of a DVO, compared to non-Indigenous people,*" according to the research. Change the Record's campaign, Pathways to Safety, has put forward 15 recommendations to address the problem.

PRESERVING TRADITIONAL LAND

Culturally significant land in north central Victoria is set to be protected from subdivision and development thanks to a partnership between Traditional Owners and conservationists. Buckrabanyule covers 452 hectares of land between the farming towns of Boort and Wedderburn. It was recently purchased by not-for-profit conservation group Bush Heritage and will be jointly managed with Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA). The land is connected to an important local creation story as the home of Mindi, a great serpent and enforcer of cultural law. Dja Dja Wurrung Group CEO, Rodney Carter, said the land purchase was a big win for protecting connection to Country and the local environment.

RAISING THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

A proposal to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 has been resolved, with further discussion to take place over the timing and implementation of the proposal. However, Change the Record, an Aboriginal-led coalition of legal and health experts, said the proposal did nothing to improve the lives of children. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSIL), the Human Rights Law Centre and the Victorian Aboriginal

Legal Service also condemned the proposal. NATSIL's Jamie McConnachie said: "*Raising the age to at least 14 is one action that Australian governments can take right now that will have an immediate and generational impact to the over-incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids and give them a brighter future.*" More than half of children aged 10-17 in detention on any given day are Indigenous, despite making up only 6% of this group.

INDIGENOUS INCARCERATION

The Federal Government will fund new research that will investigate ways to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in detention by 30% over the next decade. A new Indigenous Justice Research Program (IJRP) has been established to deliver what the government has called a "*solid research and evidence base*" to reduce the number of Indigenous people who are locked up in Australian prisons. The program will be jointly run by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Indigenous Justice Clearinghouse. Researchers are asked to prioritise Indigenous approaches to crime and criminal justice and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contact with and experience in the criminal justice and related systems.

REC STONNINGTON NEWS

Rec Stonnington held our AGM on Wednesday 10 November. Once again it was an online event but, regardless, it was a good meeting. We had the pleasure of welcoming Mayor Kate Healy, MP Sam Hibbins, Cr Mike Scott and Labor candidate Michelle Ananda-Rajah along with our committee and our lovely members. The Mayor spoke of the Reconciliation work Stonnington Council are doing, largely focused on finalising their RAP, and she also spoke about her personal perspective of Reconciliation in Australia, coming from New Zealand where the relationship with Māori peoples is quite different, and how this has impacted her work. Sam Hibbins, Member for Prahran, spoke passionately about how the Bail Act changes have led to over-imprisonment for minor offences, acutely affecting First Peoples communities, and on the importance of raising the age of criminal responsibility. Mr Hibbins encouraged the group to be vocal on these issues by raising concerns with council and MPs. We welcomed some new committee members with the Rec Stonnington committee now as follows: President - Keith Gove, Secretary - Ro Bailey, Vice President - Alex McKay, Minute Secretary - Michael Sullivan, Treasurer - Susan Vincent and Ordinary Members - Maree Sheenan, Montana Slavik and Cr Mike Scott. Rec Stonnington would like to thank outgoing committee members Nathan Horigan and Cr Mike Scott (stepping down from VP but remaining on committee) who have both dedicated much time and knowledge to our small organisation. Unfortunately, our special guest speaker, Charley Woolmore from the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Corporation, was unable to join us at the event. We are holding an in-person meeting to end the year on **Wednesday 8 December**.

All are welcome. RSVP Ro Bailey - 0438 285 588. We would like to wish all *Mungo* readers, Rec Stonnington members and the wider community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. Here's to a brighter 2022!
Alex McKay, Vice President

WILLIAM COOPER: AN ABORIGINAL LIFE STORY

Last summer, I met with Professor Bain Attwood to discuss family photographs and oral tradition as part of his research for a book he was writing about my Great Great Grandfather, Yorta Yorta activist and community leader, Uncle William Cooper. Professor Attwood asked if I would review the early drafts of the book and provide him with feedback; it was an honour to contribute to my ancestor's legacy in this way. The few previous publications about William Cooper have focused on his activism. This latest book presents a more complete story of his life - from the time of his birth beside Dhungala (Murray River) near the Moira Lakes around 1860 until his passing in 1941. Using colonisation as a backdrop, Professor Attwood explores the events, challenges and tragedies that instilled Uncle William with an understanding of social justice, shaped him into a leader and ultimately inspired him to assemble his kin and allies to begin formally advocating for his people as Secretary of the Australian Aborigines League. Amongst his many letters and petitions, the book suggests that Uncle William's most important project was his 1930s 'petition to the King' advocating for Aboriginal representation in Parliament. Like most of his pleas and demands - that the original owners of this country be granted basic fairness, including the return of some of their own land - the petition was dismissed by the government of the day. Eighty years after his death there are native title claims being settled and calls for a 'Voice to Parliament'. I hope he would feel that progress has been made.

William Cooper - An Aboriginal Life Story by Professor Bain Attwood (Monash University), Melbourne University Press, released 2 November 2021.

David Jago is a direct descendant of Uncle William Cooper - his Great Great Grandfather on his mother's side. He knew about his Indigenous ancestry from a young age but did not become fully aware of his ancestor's activist work and significance to the Aboriginal community until he was 18 in the late 1980s. Since that time, David has spent many hours learning about his Great Great Grandfather's community leadership and fight for social justice and is understandably proud of Uncle William's achievements and his Yorta Yorta ancestry, with both having a profound impact on him. David has particularly enjoyed connecting with family Elders and other Indigenous family members to learn Yorta Yorta culture and spend time 'on Country'. David is a member of Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation.

ABORIGINAL CHANGE MAKERS

Aboriginal Change Makers is 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. Both the online and eBook versions contain the complete resource. This special presentation by Dr Lois Peeler AM, Principal of Worawa Aboriginal College, celebrates the release of Aboriginal Change Makers in July. Dr Peeler is joined by Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Colin Brooks, to recognise the unique collaboration between Worawa Aboriginal College and the Parliament of Victoria that has brought about this much-needed resource. The video provides teachers with a useful context for the Change Maker stories. To view the eBook version, you'll need to use a free eBook reader, like Adobe Digital Editions or Apple's Books. Details: vicparl.news/acm



Dr Lois Peeler AM, Principal of Worawa Aboriginal College.

OYSTER FARMING

There is a plan to bring native oysters back in the waters of East Gippsland through the launch of Victoria's first Indigenous-run oyster farm. The precise locations for the aquaculture project in Lakes Entrance are being finalised as part of a three-year trial, expected to produce up to 30 tonnes of oysters annually. The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and the Victorian Fisheries Authority have entered into a partnership to grow Sydney rock oysters and angasi oysters, both native to Victoria. They're hoping to break into the market that is dominated by other states such as Tasmania which produces almost 3000 tonnes of oysters a year. It can take about 24 months for an oyster to reach full size. As part of the trial, the oysters will be protected by cases that are placed in the water while the shellfish mature. This is different to other small-scale trials in Victoria where oysters are being grown on reefs. The Victorian Fisheries Authority will put up \$40,000 and Gunaikurnai Corporation will also contribute to the project. Gunaikurnai general manager on Country, Daniel Miller, said the project would help create jobs in his community by growing a food source that had long nourished Indigenous people.

ARTS NEWS

Exhibitions: *Still in My Mind* explores the Gurindji Walk-Off which sparked the national land rights movement - at Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum. *Blak Jewellery - Finding Past, Linking Present* and the 9th Koorie Art Show 2021 at the Koorie Heritage Trust, Federation Square. Maree Clarke's *Ancestral Memories* and *Found and Gathered: Rosalie Gascoigne/Lorraine Connelly-Northey*, NGV Federation Square. Shepparton's new \$50m art museum features a new artwork by acclaimed artist Maree Clarke along with 160 other Indigenous artworks and ceramics on show. *Dino Wilson: Warnarringa Jilamara* at Vivien Anderson Gallery until **Saturday 18 December**, 284-290 St Kilda Rd.

Books: *Writing in the Sand* by Yothu Yindi's authorised biographer, Matt Garrick, is the epic story of one of Australia's most original bands and tells how *Treaty* gave voice to Indigenous Australia's hard-fought struggle for recognition. Featuring photos from the band's archives never previously published and based on extensive interviews with current and former band members, including mainstays Witiyana Marika, Stu Kellaway and Jodie Cockatoo, family members such as Yalmay Yunupingu, Mandawuy's widow, and collaborators/fellow artists like Garrett, Kelly, Neil Finn, Joy McKean, Bart Willoughby and Andrew Farriss. The release marks 30 years since the band released *Treaty*.

Another Day in the Colony by Dr Chelsea Watego is a collection of essays exploring colonial violence and racism in Australia.

Welcome to Country - 2nd Edition by Marcia Langton and five researchers outlines Aboriginal identity - past, present and future - to inform travellers about Indigenous places, festivals and culture.

Drop Bear by Evelyn Araluen and *Flock: First Nations Stories Then and Now* by Ellen van Neerven are poetry collections.

The First Scientists by Kamilaroi man Corey Tutt of Deadly Science is for kids aged 7-12 years to nourish a love of science and develop their respect for Indigenous knowledge at the same time. Illustrations by Blak Douglas.

Music: Winners of the National Indigenous Music Awards are: The Kid LAROI - Artist of the Year; JK47 (aka Jacob Paulson) - Album of the Year and Unearthed Artist of the Year; Miesha - Song of the Year; and Budjerah - New Talent of the Year. Baker Boy took out Film Clip of the Year for *Ride*. Guwanbal Gurruwiwi and Netanela Mizrahi took out the Indigenous Language Award for *The Djari Project*. Legendary songwriter Kev Carmody was inducted into the NIMA Hall of Fame.

ARIA Award winners include Kamilaroi superstar The Kid LAROI - Artist of the Year; Budjerah - Michael Gudinski Breakthrough Artist of the Year; and Archie Roach - Best Blues & Roots Album for *The Songs of Charcoal Lane*.

TV: *Araatika: Rise Up!* is a new film by academic, writer, director and broadcaster Larissa Behrendt about NRL legend Dean Widders who set about creating his own pre-game dance, drawing on the experience and wisdom of Elders like Aunty Fran Bodkins and Uncle Max Harrison

and others in the community, highlighting strong male roles. On NITV in January.

Another outstanding NITV program is their flagship current affairs program, *The Point*, Tuesdays, 7.30 pm or SBS On Demand.

GIFT IDEAS

The Torch's 2022 calendars feature 12 deadly artworks created by men and women participating in their Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program. \$12 (small) or \$15 (large); see thetorch.org.au/gifts and support artists to paint a brighter future. The Torch is a not-for-profit organisation; all artists featured receive a licence fee and remaining proceeds go towards running the program.

Check out the official merch from singer-songwriter Archie Roach. All proceeds are donated to the Archie Roach Foundation. See <https://www.archieroach.com/about-the-foundation>.

Welcome to Country not-for-profit organisation sells fashion, jewellery and accessories created by First Nations people – <https://www.welcometocountry.com>.

Mabu Mabu has a range of food products created with native ingredients. <https://www.mabumabu.com.au/shop>

SOME USEFUL RESOURCES

The Uluru Statement from the Heart - details of the ground-breaking 2017 National Constitutional Convention <https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement>

Campaign to promote and progress The Uluru Statement from the heart - <https://fromtheheart.com.au>

Yoo-rrook Justice Commission - First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria - <https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/our-work/truth-telling/yoo-rrook-justice-commission/>

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council - <https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au>

Truth and Justice in Victoria - [https:// www. Aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/truth-and-justice..](https://www.Aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/truth-and-justice..)

Reconciliation Victoria - [http:// www. Reconciliationvic.org.au](http://www.Reconciliationvic.org.au)

ANTAR Victoria (Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation) <https://antarvictoria.org.au>

National Congress of Australia's First People - <https://humanrights.gov.au>

DHUWA COFFEE

DHUWA (pronounced 'dee wah' and meaning *to feel alive* in Bidjara language) is Australia's Indigenous-owned coffee brand, developed by an Indigenous-owned, managed and controlled business. They source premium beans from the world's finest growers and make coffee in Naarm on Wurundjeri Country within the Kulin Nations. Their exclusive launch partner is Woolworths who supports the company as an Indigenous start-up, and their coffee bags are REDcycle certified. DHUWA donates 5% of every product sold to charity partner Dreaming Futures who in turn support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care to experience Country, Culture and Connection. See <https://dhuwacoffee.com.au/>

