

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.

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.



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

June 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Sorry Day Lunch

It was a pleasure to host this year's lunch, catching up with people for the first time in two years. Among the 90 guests were groups from local early learning centres, South Port Community Housing, Galiamble, Winja Ulupna, the Salvation Army's Access program, Vincent Crisp Architects, Randstad, St Michael's Grammar and Sacred Heart Mission. Other guests were Nicole Lindsay, Reconciliation Victoria's CEO, two City of Stonnington councillors, City of Port Phillip councillors Louise Crawford, Heather Cunsolo and Peter Martin, and officers Todd Condie and Jordan Sutardy. Bunurong Land Council & Aboriginal Corporation Elder Aunty Dyan Summers gave a heartfelt Welcome to Country. A Chair of the Bunurong Land Council & Aboriginal Corporation, she shared her own personal journey, how her great, great, great grandmother was taken by sealers from Point Nepean, but stressed that today, Bunurong People are still very much alive and remain strong in their culture. Master of Ceremonies, Dennis Fisher, engaged everyone with his poetry recitation and stories of his early life, learning about Reconciliation through meeting PPCfR members. Hearing St Michael's Year 12 students Mairead and Anna read his poem was a highlight.



Bunurong Elder Aunty Dyan Summers gives her Welcome to Country. (More photos last page.)

Renown singer/songwriter/guitarist Monica Weightman also shared personal anecdotes and sang her own composition. Popular local Elder Judith 'Jacko' Jackson and Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, handed out door prizes to the lucky raffle ticket winners - a fitting end to a very special day, and I'd like to particularly thank the venue hire manager Jacek Przbylski and the PPCfR team for their wonderful work.

National Reconciliation Week & Mabo Day

Reconciliation Week culminates in Mabo Day on **Friday 3 June**, the 30th Anniversary of the historic Mabo decision, giving the first formal recognition of Indigenous land rights in Australia. The City of Port Phillip is organising a display in St Kilda Library, and on **Sunday 5 June** as part of the St Kilda Film Festival, *One Night The Moon: A Day of First People's Film, Music and Conversation* featuring actor Kelton Pell. See filmfest@portphillip.vic.gov.au. Elsewhere, Todd Condie, COPP's Indigenous Policy Officer, is participating in RecVic's RAP Leaders in Local Government webinar, looking at how Council Reconciliation Action Plans are helping to create positive cultural change in workplaces and across municipalities.

Our group was invited to present two talks, so Dennis Fisher and I recounted our own journeys, firstly during an informal monthly meeting for 50 sales team members working for Mondelez Australia (Cadbury), a large international food manufacturer with a portfolio of well-known confectionery brands, and then for a group of residents living in Australian Unity's The Grace Albert Park Community luxury retirement apartment complex.

Writing Competition

Our writing competition has been launched. I encourage people to submit entries on the NAIDOC theme, *Get Up, Stand Up, Show Up*. See flyer below for details.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 June, 6.30 pm
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne. All Welcome.

ELECTION NEWS

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land he stood on to make his first major policy announcement saying: *“On behalf of the Australian Labor Party, I commit to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We can answer its patient, gracious call for a Voice enshrined in our constitution because all of us ought to be proud that amongst our great multicultural society, we count the oldest living continuous culture in the world.”* The country’s first referendum in more than 20 years would be needed to enshrine the Voice in the constitution, in line with the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The 47th parliament brings in ten First Nations politicians, a record number in both houses of parliament with Wiradjuri woman Linda Burney appointed as the first female Indigenous Affairs Minister. She will be joined by Marion Scrymgour, Labor, Lingiari NT; Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Country Liberal, NT; Dr Gordon Reid, Labor, NSW; Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Labor, NT; Senator Lidia Thorpe, Greens, VIC; Senator Dorinda Cox, Greens, WA; Senator Jana Stewart, Labor, VIC and Tasmanian Aboriginal Senator Jacqui Lambie.

In another historic move, the Prime Minister added the



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags behind the podium.

**Linda Burney,
Australia's first
female
Indigenous
Affairs Minister.**

STORIES SHARED AT YOOROOK JUSTICE COMMISSION

Victoria's Indigenous truth-telling commission has opened public hearings, with respected actor and activist Jack Charles the first to share his stories as part of Elders' yarning circles. Jack was born to a Wiradjuri father and a Bunurong mother and taken from his mother when he was about four months old as part of an Aboriginal assimilation program. The commission, tasked with establishing an official public record of Indigenous experiences since the start of British colonisation, will recommend reform and redress by June 2024; the findings will guide Victoria's Treaty negotiations. Elders are invited to speak at Yoorook based on their direct experiences, relevant perspectives and preparedness to tell their truths in a public setting; those not selected or unwilling to speak publicly can share their stories in submissions, or Elders' nuther-mooyoop. Yoorook has opted to initially limit public hearings and submissions to Elders to ensure their work is guided by cultural authority, with all Indigenous people and other Victorians able to have their say later this year. The nation's first Indigenous silk, Tony McAvoy SC, is appointed as senior counsel assisting and the release of the commission's interim report is due

Thursday 30 June.

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

“With a long and at times divisive campaign behind us, the new parliament has an opportunity to bring Australians together in a historic moment of national unity,” said Dean Parkin, From the Heart campaign director, after hearing the Labor government's positive response to the movement to give a Voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian law. Prior to the elections, From the Heart launched the first ever election advertising campaign by an Indigenous-led cause, calling for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament with a series of ads administered by Indigenous think tank the Cape York Institute. It asked the major political parties to deliver on their commitments to Indigenous constitutional recognition by holding a referendum in 2023. Dean Parkin said: *“For 15 years we have been talking about constitutional recognition. We have long-running, bipartisan commitments for a referendum. The only way we can achieve this is through an Indigenous Voice to Parliament that is included in the Constitution...It is now time to finally deliver and Australians can have their say in the matter, with a referendum in 2023 – a referendum we are confident will be successful and deliver an important moment of national unity.”*

REC VIC TURNS 20

On 1 May 2002, RecVic became an Incorporated Association and has bravely influenced and supported truth-telling, respect, justice, and Reconciliation with and for First Peoples ever since. They celebrate their milestone during National Reconciliation Week, hosting a broad range of activities to engage and interact with Reconciliation supporters, champions, long-time friends, partners, families and community networks who all stand with them, call for change and take brave actions. On **Thursday 2 June**, RecVic Co-Chair, Uncle Shane Charles, will officially open *Walk the River*, an immersive exhibition with Uncle Jim Berg where *'you can take the memory of these scarred trees with you forever, and share their story'*, Blak Dot Gallery, Saxon St, Brunswick.

NAIDOC 2022

The 2022 Victorian NAIDOC Awards include a special award which coincides with this year's theme *Get Up Stand Up Show Up*. The new Care for Country Award will be given to a First Nations Victorian-based person/s who has been active in caring for Country. Inaugural Patron of the award, Lidia Thorpe, will be present it. Nominations close 5 June. <https://vicnaidoc.com.au/awards>.

WILLIAM BARAK ARTWORKS RETURNED

Descendants of prominent Wurundjeri artist William Barak successfully brought two of his culturally significant artworks from a New York auction house last month. A crowd-funding campaign and last-minute funding intervention by the Victorian Government secured the painting and parrying shield, sold for more than \$600,000. Wurundjeri Elder Ron Jones said the Wurundjeri Corporation would work with the government and other parties to ensure the artwork would go on display.

NEDS CORNER BACK IN TRADITIONAL HANDS

After more than a century of heavy grazing and cropping, an agricultural property, Neds Corner, in north-west Victoria, is being returned to its Traditional Owners. The 30,000-hectare property, purchased by Trust for Nature in 2002, has been restored and will be given back to the Ngintait Traditional Owners in the largest private land transfer of its kind in Victoria's history. The Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation will work to develop legal protection for the site in order to ensure it is maintained sustainably in perpetuity and can become a learning site. Victorian Environment Minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, said the state government was contributing \$2 million to continue conservation works, including building a fenced 'haven' to protect at-risk wildlife from predators.



Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation Chair, Norm Wilson, and Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio. (Photo: ABC Mildura-Swan Hill - Richard Crabtree)

THE ARTS

Books: Tony Birch and Wiradjuri writer and academic Dr Anita Heiss triumphed at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards where judges examined a record-breaking 746 entries across the 12 award categories. Heiss won the Indigenous Writers' Prize and \$30,000 of prize money for her *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray: River of Dreams*. Author and climate activist Tony Birch won the Christina Stead Prize for Fiction and \$40,000 of prize money for his work *Dark as Last Night*. *This All Come Back Now: An Anthology of First Nations Speculative Fiction*, edited by Mykaela Saunders, includes John Morrissey's wonderfully engaging metafiction, *Five Minutes*.

Films: *Ablaze* is a feature documentary about the first Indigenous film-maker Bill Onus, a Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri man, an heroic cultural and political figure who revived his people's culture in the 1940s and ignited a civil rights' movement that would, against enormous odds, change the course of history. Check cinemas for screenings.

Music: Kutcha Edwards' solo album *Circling Time* is filled with stories and reflections on the singer's past and inspirations for the present; a profound and timely reminder of the incredible depth and talent of one of the most inspiring voices within the country. Available on Bandcamp.

Dance: First Peoples and inter-cultural dance company Marrugeja bridges cultures, communities and identities as part of the Rising Festival.

Exhibitions: *Barrung-Ngganjin – Our Path, Our Journey* exhibition by Stolen Generations Survivors. Koorie Heritage Trust, Federation Square, until August. *Land/Myth/Lore Spinifex* is the 25th anniversary exhibition at Vivien Anderson Gallery until 18 June. Ground floor, 284-290 St Kilda Road, St Kilda, info@vivienadersongallery.com.

PHOTOS FROM SORRY DAY 2022



Year 12 St Michael's Grammar students Mairéad and Anna reading one of Dennis Fisher's poems.



Guests listen to a Welcome to Country by Aunty Dyan Summers.



PPCfR Co-Chairs Dennis Fisher and Rosemary Rule with City of Port Phillip's Indigenous Policy Officer, Todd Condie.



Reconciliation Writing Competition 2022



Get Up Stand Up Show Up

The Reconciliation Writing Competition organised by the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation is open to all Victorians. Our theme is the 2022 NAIDOC theme *Get Up Stand Up Show Up*, which reflects a proud history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People organising and fighting for their rights and is an ongoing call to action for everyone.

All styles of writing are encouraged, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Work must be original. Open to all Victorians except PPCFR committee, judges and their families.

Word Limits

Adults - 1500 words or 50 lines of poetry
Year 9-12 Students - 600 words or 30 lines of poetry

All winning entries will be published in a booklet which will be available at the Awards Ceremony.

Judges

Wiradjuri Author, Poet & Academic **Dr Jeanine Leane**
Yorta Yorta Writer & Broadcaster **Bryan Andy**

Prizes

Adults 1st \$1000 *donated by Wilson Agents*

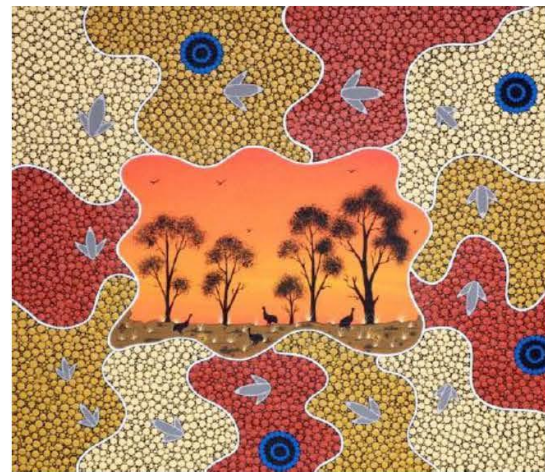
2nd \$600 *donated by Benson Saulo, Australian Consul-General in the United States & Dr Kate O'Brien*

3rd \$300 *donated by Demos Property Services*

Year 9-12 Students The Andrew McCutcheon 1st Prize \$1000 *donated by Future Leaders*

2nd \$600 *donated by Paul Licuria, Board Member & former player, Collingwood Football Club*

3rd \$300 *donated by Deb Stewart, Academic*



Gathering for Nesting by Wiradjuri artist Graham Gilbert, 2014.

Entries close Friday 2 September 2022

Winners will be notified on **4 October 2022** and invited to the Awards Ceremony to be held on **Friday 14 October**.

Submit entries along with your name and for students, your school and year level to

writingcomp2022@gmail.com

For more information, contact Rosemary Rule on 0418 675 734 or visit www.ppcfr.org



Proudly supported by the City of Port Phillip



