

# 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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February 2022

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Welcome to 2022

After an unsettling year, when opportunities to meet and interact in person were few, I hope that we'll be able to gather together for meetings and special events, bearing in mind Covid-related restrictions. However, in light of the current health situation, it's been decided to present our February meeting via zoom – details below. This year, some significant milestones will be commemorated. They include the Anniversary of the National Apology Day to Stolen Generations on **Sunday 13 February**, National Close the Gap Day on **Thursday 17 March**, National Sorry Day on **Thursday 26 May** (we hope to host a community commemorative lunch once again), National Reconciliation Week from **27 May-3 June** and National NAIDOC Week from **3-10 July**. Details will be announced as they arise. In the meantime, I'm pleased to report that St Kilda Festival's Yaluk-ut Weelam Ngargee will be held on **Saturday 12 February** on the Foreshore Stage, South Beach Reserve, featuring established and young emerging artists like Benny Walker, Kee'ahn, Izy, Archie Roach, The Merindas and Chasing Ghosts. Free; registrations required at <http://ywnf.com.au/>.

### 26 January

At 6.00 am on this special Wednesday, pink clouds shuddered across the sky and the light began to shine through so that the 500-plus crowd could easily read the program for the We-Akon Dilinja 'mourning reflection' ceremony held in Alfred Square, St Kilda. Presented by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council (BLSC), supported by Port Phillip Council and the National Australia Day Council, guests heard from Parbinata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM, Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann and BLSC N'arweet Jason Briggs. Among other messages, Jason said this year's theme, Healing through Remembrance, Reflection and Recognition, is especially meaningful at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the benefits of community connection. "These inspiring words reflect the extent of the partnership the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council has developed with the City of Port Phillip," he said. "This ceremony is an important step in acknowledging our shared history with other Australians

who've come to our Country. It is our hope that this shared ceremonial acknowledgement will lead to a greater appreciation of Boonwurrung history that has been carried forward by each generation to the present day."

Note: Later that same day, one hundred people from 31 countries were conferred as Australian citizens at the St Kilda Town Hall.

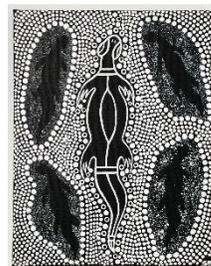


Parbinata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM gave the Welcome to Country as well as a formal tribute to past Boonwurrung Elders during the We-Akon Dilinja ceremony.

### Congratulations

To World Number 1, Ash Barty, a proud Ngarigo woman, on winning the Australian Open; Professor Behrendt AO, Director of Research at the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney, awarded the 2021 Australian Human Rights Awards; to cricketer Scott Boland, player of the match in the Boxing Day Test and awarded the Mullaugh Medal; and to Ashleigh Gardner and Hannah Darlington, both named in the Ashes campaign.

### Linden Postcard Show Winner



Aunty Judith Jackson and I were delighted to announce that Shannon Bausch's painting *Mother Protector* won the *First Nations Community Art Prize* supported by Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation at the Linden New Art Postcard Show. All the entries are on exhibit until **Sunday 27 February**.

### Rosemary Rule

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 February, 6.30 pm** via zoom. To participate, please contact Deb Stewart – [deb.stewart33@gmail.com](mailto:deb.stewart33@gmail.com).

## **ABORIGINAL FLAG FINALLY 'FREE'**

The iconic flag that has become a symbol of Aboriginal Australia is now freely available for public use after its designer agreed to transfer copyright to the Commonwealth, following long negotiations. Luritja artist Harold Thomas created the flag in 1970 to represent Aboriginal people and their connection to the land. Mr Thomas said he hoped Australians would use the flag with respect and pride. *"I hope that this arrangement provides comfort to all Aboriginal people and Australians to use the flag, unaltered, proudly and without restriction,"* he said. Copyright issues with the flag had repeatedly drawn conflict, such as when Mr Thomas handed the rights to use the flag on clothing to a non-Indigenous company, which later threatened legal action against the NRL and AFL for using the flag on player uniforms. Mr Thomas will retain moral rights over the flag but has agreed to give up copyright in return for all future royalties the Commonwealth receives from commercial flag sales to be put towards the ongoing work of NAIDOC. A commercial company will keep its exclusive licence to be able to manufacture Aboriginal flags for commercial use, but the Government said the company would not stop people from making their own flags for personal use. The Government has also agreed to establish an annual scholarship in Mr Thomas's honour worth \$100,000 for Indigenous students to develop skills in leadership and to create an online history and education portal for the flag. Finally, an original painting by Mr Thomas recognising the flag's 50th anniversary and the transfer of copyright will be *"gratefully accepted and displayed in a prominent location"*.

## **TENT EMBASSY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Thousands gathered in the heart of the capital on Ngannawal and Ngambri Country to commemorate, celebrate and honour the 50th anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and protest the celebration of 26 January. Organisers estimated thousands of people turned up to attend the Invasion Day rally which began in the centre of Canberra and marched to the Embassy at the foot of Old Parliament House.

## **AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR 2022 FINALISTS**

Four inspirational First Nations people are among the national finalists for the 2022 Australian of the Year Awards. Each of the national finalists were nominated by the National Australia Day Council due to their impact and achievement in a range of sectors, including science and medicine, social and community projects, human rights advocacy, social entrepreneurship, sustainability and contributions to the pandemic response. The finalists were: Australian Capital Territory Australian of the Year, NBA superstar Patty Mills; Northern Territory Australian of the Year, Central Arrernte woman Leanne Liddle, recognised for her passion and tireless efforts for justice; Queensland's Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Colin Dillon AM APM, the country's first Indigenous police officer when he entered the Queensland Police Force in 1965, a decade before the Racial Discrimination Act

became law; and Tasmania's Young Australian of the Year, Palawa woman Kaytlyn Johnson, an inspiring youth leader.

## **NGURRU – NEW CULTURAL CENTRE**

A new national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural precinct celebrating the diversity of Indigenous Australia will be built in Canberra after the Federal Government committed \$316.5million to developing Ngurru - meaning home, country or place of belonging - into a *"place of national pride and significance"* on Ngannawal land. The new cultural precinct will house the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the world's largest collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and heritage items. Ngurru will also house a national resting place to care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestral remains in a culturally appropriate way, a longstanding call since the National Resting Place Consultation Report was presented to government in 2014. The proposed location is on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, between Old Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial within Canberra's parliamentary triangle.

## **RECONCILIATION VICTORIA'S NEW CEO**

RecVic has welcomed Nicole Findlay as their new Chief Executive Officer. Nicole has been an advocate and ally of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples for the best part of twenty years, building positive relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, promoting respect for culture, supporting truth telling and self-determination and improving socio-economic outcomes and pathways to equity. A long-standing member and ally of the RecVic community, Nicole previously worked as Project Facilitator on the Maggolee website.

## **RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON NEWS**

Rec Ston members including Keith Gove, Ro Bailey and Mike Scott, along with Rosemary Rule from neighbouring Port Phillip, were among the 150-200 people who attended the City of Stonnington's Healing Ceremony on 26 January at the Malvern Cricket Ground. Led by Wurundjeri Elder and gifted orator Aunty Diane Kerr, it included a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation and a traditional dance performance by Nhanbu Togip, who invited the audience to dance with them. The group's next meeting is on **Wednesday 9 February**, face-to-face and by zoom, to plan their program for the year. All welcome. Contact Ro Bailey, Secretary, on 9819 9106.

## **WIYI YANI U THANGANI (WOMEN'S VOICES)**

Wiyi Yani U Thangani is a landmark report from the Australian Human Rights Commission, released late 2021, to end the entrenched discrimination that impacts all women and girls. A Women for Progress Statement was released, calling on all Australian governments to act now to reverse the mounting costs of these issues

through investing in the incredible worth which women bring to society and the economy at every level. The Federal Government has committed \$2.8 million to Women's Voices. It will assist June Oscar, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission, to deliver a First Nations women and girls' national summit and to begin to develop a framework for action to advance gender justice and equality.

### THE ILF AND UNESCO YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

With UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages kicking off in 2022, it is important we continue to listen and support remote Communities as they lead the process of revitalising, maintaining and preserving their languages in books and in audio and visual formats. Along with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation's popular Community Publishing Projects, Book Supply and Book Buzz programs, it is planning a bigger reach in 2022 and invites donations to their Festive Appeal - every \$10 puts a book into the hands of a child in a remote Community. In December, Xavier College's Synergy exhibition, run in collaboration with Everywhen Artspace, raised over \$8000 for the ILF. The students at Xavier College have gone to the Kimberley, Kakadu and Arnhem Land and worked with the Victorian Indigenous Project to continue to develop and maintain links with Indigenous groups both locally and interstate. Learn more - <https://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au>.

### THE LATE DAVID GULPILIL DALAITHNGU AM

In December, shortly after his death, David Gulpilil (as his family have allowed him to be known) received a lifetime achievement award, the Longford Lyell Award, for 'truly outstanding contributions' to the film industry at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts event at the Sydney Opera House. The actor was honoured inside the building and celebrated outside with his image projected onto the famous sails in his memory. Among those paying tribute to him at the awards were Jack Thompson, Rachel Perkins, Baz Luhrmann, Hugh Jackman, Phil Noyce and Leah Purcell. Picked at just 16 years of age for his dancing and hunting skills to appear in the classic film *Walkabout*, the actor became known for his roles in other classics such as *The Last Wave*, *Ten Canoes* and *Crocodile Dundee*. In January, his body was flown into the East Arnhem Land community where David spent many years of his adult life. The NT Government has said a state funeral or memorial service for Gulpilil will take place in Darwin as well as his traditional funeral if it were in line with his family's wishes.



Photo taken with Archie Roach in 2017 at the Adelaide Film Festival for the 15th anniversary of the film *The Tracker*, directed by Rolf de Heer (centre).

### TRUSTBUILDING PROJECT AND THOMAS MAYOR TALK

The Trustbuilding Project from Initiatives of Change (IofC), working and walking with First Nations leaders in an ever-deepening journey of truth telling and truth hearing, continues this year. Uncle Shane Charles, IofC Lead Facilitator - Cultural Integrity says: "Our Trustbuilding Journey of Change will continue in 2022. It will inspire new learnings, grow people's knowledge of First People's cultures and journeys, provide greater opportunities of knowledge, transfer of trust and change, and bring an elevated level of understanding within one's self and spirit." On **Saturday 26 February**, Uncle Shane Charles and Alana Marsh of Wayapa Wuurk will join a panel under the theme of *Knowing Country* in the Regenerative Futures for National Sustainable Living Festival. Thomas Mayor, a voice for a 'refreshed Australia' and signatory to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, will be the keynote speaker, discussing *Next Steps for the Voice in the Constitution*, **Thursday 10 February**, 7.00-9.00 pm. At Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, or on zoom. \$25 in person, \$15 online. Details – <https://au.iofc.org> or call 9822 1218.

### NITV RE-BRANDED

NITV has revealed a new brand position including a new logo, artwork and television schedule as it reaches nearly a decade of free-to-air broadcasting as part of the SBS network. The revised schedule features themed programming slots including a drama night, a movie night, a natural history documentary slot and a regular weeknight slot entitled *Bamay* (an NITV production that showcases the country's most diverse and stunning landscapes from a bird's-eye view).

### NEW BOOKS

*Country: Future Fire. Future Farming* by Bill Gammage and Bruce Pascoe. The third instalment on the *First Knowledge* series, it aims to 'provide accessible material' on Indigenous knowledge and cultures for general readers. It's a call to arms to learn the ways of Indigenous people who have cared for the land and drawn sustenance from it. Thames & Hudson.

### EXHIBITIONS

The Koorie Art Show is an annual event showcasing the diverse talents of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in one inclusive space. KHT, Federation Square until late February.



PPCfR members were happy to finally meet face-to-face at the end-of-year barbecue at Gasworks Arts Park in December. For most of 2021, meetings were held online via zoom. Elder Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, COPP's Todd Condie and PPCfR's Co-Chairs, Dennis Fisher and Rosemary Rule, were among the guests.

