

Mungo...



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The Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation respectfully acknowledges the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boonwurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land.

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February 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Boonwurrung Word of the Month:

Gareeal – summer rain

Womindjeka

'Welcome - Come with purpose' to another year focusing on Reconciliation-related matters. Following the challenges and disruptions we've faced, I'm looking forward to an interesting year with more interaction between our members and the community, including face-to-face meetings abiding by Covid guidelines, and welcoming newcomers; it was great to see new people at our December BBQ. We hope to present PPCfR's Reconciliation writing competition (postponed from 2020), a community lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on 26 May, and to participate in the Council's Reconciliation Action Plan developments.

26 January

Despite rain and Covid restrictions, various events took place on Invasion, or Survival, Day to acknowledge the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Over 450 people attended the We-Akon Dilinja (very early) Morning of Mourning, Remembrance, Reflection and Recognition ceremony in Alfred Square, St Kilda. We heard messages from Boon Wurrung Elder Parbin-ata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM, Josh Burns MP, Father Turi Hollis, Rabbi Yaakov Glasman, COPP Mayor Cr Louise Crawford and others, plus a smoking ceremony.



The We-Akon Dilinja - Morning Reflection ceremony on 26 January.
Photo by Jordan Sutardy

Reconciliation Barometers

2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia (RA) and almost three decades of the Australian formal

Reconciliation process. Over this time, support and engagement for Reconciliation has steadily grown, with far greater awareness of the complexity and magnitude of First Nations culture and knowledge. Read more about this below, along with RA's racism 2020 barometer report.

Linden Postcard Exhibition Results

The winner of the \$500 cash prize for Best Artwork by an Indigenous Artist, supported by PPCfR, was Kent Morris for his work, *Never Alone, 2020*. Among the entries were three fabulous works by Christianaray Weetra, a friend of PPCfR whose entry we supported, along with three other postcards entered by Warren, an artist from Galiamble. The winner of the Best Landscape Award was Indigenous artist Ashleigh Pugh.

Congratulations

To Senior Australian of the Year Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM, an Aboriginal Elder from Nauiyu (Daly River) and founder of the Miriam Rose Foundation (South Melbourne's Children's Garden Kindergarten is a supporter); to Boon Wurrung Elder Parbin-ata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM who received her Doctorate in Philosophy (Media and Communications) from RMIT; to her daughter Jarra Steel for her Master of Arts (Art in public space) from RMIT; to Jarra's niece and fellow graduate Amina-Jarra Briggs; and to Bundjalung man and Gardening Australia presenter Clarence Slockee, 2020 Horticulturist of the Year.

City of Port Phillip News

COPP has announced a grant of \$1000 for local Indigenous artists to create a Boon Wurrung visual language mural along Jacka Boulevard embankment.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16 February, 6.30 pm,
Koolin-Ngal Family Centre, 400 Clarendon Street,
South Melbourne – entry in Napier Street. Covid-safe
restrictions in place. Ring 0418 675 734 if needed.

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

After months of discussion, the project to design an Indigenous Voice representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples reached a milestone when an interim report proposing models for a Voice was released to the public early January. It was handed to Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt in October by Co-chair of the senior advisory group for the Indigenous Voice co-design process, Professor Tom Calma. Over 12 months, a group of 52 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people met to consider models for a Voice, letting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples engage with parliament and the government on issues, legislation and policies affecting them. The interim report proposes models for a National Voice, and a framework to enhance local and regional decision-making and regional governance for First Nations peoples. A period of consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians will follow the release of the interim report; a process the co-design project's leaders said would refine the proposed models before a final report to the federal government this year. The report proposes a National Voice to advise Parliament on national issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It would also provide advice to the government on policies, ideally in the earlier stages of policy design. The National Voice would not administer programs and would not be able to veto laws made by parliament or overturn government decisions.

There are two main models in the interim report for the membership of the National Voice. In both, members are chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Both include between 16 and 18 members to be selected from states, territories and the Torres Strait Islands, and would have gender balance. Under one model, local and regional Voices at the state or territory level would select National Voice members. Alternatively, members would be chosen by state, territory or Torres Strait Islander level assemblies where they exist. Another alternative is a combination of these approaches. The second model would involve directly electing members to the National Voice in each state, territory and the Torres Strait Islands. Under another option for this model, National Voice members would be drawn from state or territory assemblies where they exist, to avoid duplicating elections. The co-design process is not considering constitutional enshrinement of an Indigenous Voice, Professor Calma said. In a joint statement on Saturday, Labor MPs Linda Burney, Warren Snowdon, Patrick Dodson and Malarndirri McCarthy said many people would be disappointed with the government's refusal to consider a constitutionally-enshrined Voice to the parliament. First Nations leaders in the Uluru Statement from the Heart had clearly expressed their desire for an Indigenous Voice enshrined in the constitution, the statement said. A consultation period is underway until March, involving a survey, webinars and facilitated discussions. The groups involved in the co-design will submit to the government their final report and recommendations for an Indigenous Voice in April. Updates at www.indigenous.gov.au

Note: Minister Wyatt has made it clear he only wants to legislate for a Voice, not put it in the constitution, echoing the government's position; this is disheartening.

RECONCILIATION BAROMETERS



2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of the Australian formal Reconciliation process. Over this time, support and engagement with Reconciliation has steadily grown, with far greater awareness of the complexity and magnitude of First Nations cultures and knowledges.

Reconciliation Australia's 2020 barometer report released late last year revealed a growing number of people believe Australia is a racist country, with the latest Australian Reconciliation Barometer report revealing a rise in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing racism. Fifty-two per cent of Indigenous people had experienced at least one form of racial prejudice in the past six months, up from 43 per cent in the 2018 barometer report. Reconciliation Australia CEO Karen Mundine said this rise could be due to an increasing awareness of racism but added that there is still work to do to curb the discrimination Indigenous people face. *"We take this as a positive because more people are aware of things. What it means is that we're uncovering things that I think were already there, people are just more aware of it and I think that's a good thing,"* she said. The barometer also revealed 60 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people agree that Australia is a racist country - up from 51 per cent in 2018. 43 per cent of non-Indigenous people also agreed that Australia is a racist country - up from 38 per cent in 2018. 89 per cent of non-Indigenous people and 93 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people said they believed it is important for Australia to undertake a formal truth-telling process about Australia's history. A majority of respondents - 86 per cent non-Indigenous and 91 per cent Indigenous - also believe it is important to establish a representative Indigenous body. Ms Mundine said this could also be attributed to Black Lives Matter rallies in Australia which, she said, raised awareness of racism faced by Indigenous people in this country. *"We know anecdotally people are more prepared to call-out racism, and more Australians are having those conversations, and if we're going to address these issues going forward, we need to start talking about this."*

REC VIC NEWS

Nominations for the Narragunnawali Awards 2021 are now open for schools or early learning services demonstrating exceptional commitment to Reconciliation in education. The Awards are the first national awards program in Australia to recognise and celebrate outstanding Reconciliation initiatives—across government, Catholic and independent schools and early learning services. Nominate via <https://bit.ly/NarragunnawaliAwardsNoms>

STONNINGTON UPDATE

At RecStonnington we were excited to hear that our Vice President Mike Scott was elected as a City of Stonnington councillor at the recent council elections - Congratulations Mike! Since then, Mike's invitation led several councillors to attend our AGM. With his support, our President Keith Gove wrote to councillors and the Stonnington CEO about Australia Day. The letter made suggestions encouraging council to be thoughtful in their approach to the day, bearing in mind that the issues are complex and that for too many people, not only First Nations people, the day is not just a day of celebration. As a response to the letter, the newly elected mayor invited us to meet with her, and Keith Gove, myself, and committee member Alex McKay attended; a productive discussion ensued. We are grateful to Mike for his continued support for Reconciliation with council. The mayor indicated she had received an invitation from the Port Phillip mayor to attend the We-Akon Dilinja ceremony on 26 January. We supported this as a terrific joint recognition of the Boon Wurrung coverage of both council areas. Mike also introduced us to two newly elected councillors at City of Boroondara, where Ro and Keith now live despite still being members of RecSton. Boroondara Council has been very conservative on Reconciliation matters up until now, not having a Reconciliation Action Plan, refusing to require an Acknowledgement of Country at council events, and not flying the Indigenous flags. We were delighted to meet with these new councillors and inform them of the actions of other councils, particularly Stonnington, in the hope that this may influence positive change on Reconciliation matters in Boroondara. We look forward to meeting face to face with our many new members with whom we've only been able to meet by Zoom so far. Our next meeting will be held at our usual venue, Prahran Community Learning Centre, Grattan Gardens, Prahran, at 6.30 pm **Wednesday 10 February 2021**. All Welcome. Enquiries: ro.celebrant@ozemail.com.au.

TRAM AND TRAIN ART

Melbourne's 2021 Art Trams will be designed entirely by First Nations Artists. Gunai and Yorta Yorta artist Dixon Patten spent a lot of time travelling on trains with his nan, having grown up with family spread right throughout Gippsland and Northern Victoria. He called his nan the 'Queen of V/Line'. He was asked to design an artwork to decorate one of V/Line's trains. He used his experiences to tell his story of travel, incorporating the 38 language groups of the Traditional Owners of Victoria and celebrating the ways they stay connected; from their



paths through the land to the message sticks they carried as a 'passport' now emblazoned on V/Line carriage 1371.

Train artist Dixon Patten.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

We may not be travelling overseas anytime soon but there are plenty of amazing places to visit close to home. A new Aboriginal-led tourism database Welcome to Country has been launched to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-run tourism. Welcome to Country CEO Jason Eades said the not-for-profit is focused on providing employment and economic opportunities for Indigenous people. He also says the platform will allow more Aboriginal businesses to become economically sustainable. Currently the database includes more than 85 experiences nationwide.

MUSIC

The Australian Music Vault's free exhibition at the Arts Centre reopened in January with pre-booked entry sessions. Opening features include a special First Nations Playlist curated by Allara played across all venue spaces. Sundays-Thursdays 10.00 am-4.00 pm; Fridays and Saturdays 10.00 am-7.00 pm. Details: <https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2021/exhibitions/australian-music-vault> *Live at the Bowl - Tell Me Why* concert with Archie Roach, 8.00pm, **Friday 19 February**, Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Details: liveatthebowl.com.au

GEELONG ARTS CENTRE

Journey on Wadawurrung Country - Cultural exploration of local Indigenous people and their stories through artistic practice. Corrina Eccles (Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and cultural manager), Ferne Millen (art director/photographer) and Vicki Hallett (musician, sound artist, field recordist) collaborate to capture the stories of the Traditional Custodians of Wadawurrung Land. **Friday 12 – 26 February**, Ryrie St Foyer, Geelong Arts Centre.

FILM

High Ground is a new spectacular and confronting film – "not a Western, but a Northern" as its director describes, shot across Arnhem Land and Kakadu National Park. Stars Jacob Nayinggul, Aaron Pederson, Jack Thompson and Simon Baker. Screening now.

SPORTS HONOURS

Johnny Mullagh, the champion cricket player from the 1868 Aboriginal tour of England, has become the first Indigenous member of the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame. (The news was announced late December when the player of the match in the Boxing Day Test received the inaugural Mullagh Medal).

