

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

May 2022

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Sorry Day Lunch

I'm so looking forward to greeting guests at our lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on **Thursday 26 May**, coming after a two-year Covid-induced break. This year's event includes an official Welcome to Country and entertainment from well-known singer/songwriter/guitarist Monica Weightman. Our group Co-Chair, Dennis Fisher, as MC, keeping things moving along and chatting to guests. Boxed lunches and individual soft drinks will be provided and there are some great door prizes up for grabs. Covid protocols will be respected. There is no charge although a gold coin donation is always appreciated. Everyone is welcome, however numbers are limited, so please RSVP to 9699 8804 or rosemary.rule@gmail.com.



Our upcoming Sorry Day Lunch Guest Entertainer - singer, songwriter and guitarist Monica Weightman.

Reconciliation Week

This is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving Reconciliation. The week is framed by the anniversaries of two significant milestones in our Reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 Referendum (27 May) and the High Court Mabo decision (3 June). Under the 2022 theme,

Be Brave, Make Change, a range of events are being held in and around Melbourne - see details below. The City of Port Phillip will take part in an online event hosted by RecVic and also participate in the St Kilda Film Festival with a special event on Mabo Day, **Friday 3 June**. Mabo Day commemorates Eddie Koiki Mabo, whose campaign for Indigenous land rights on 3 June 1992 led to the abolition of Australian law, which was there since the voyage of James Cook in 1770.

Note: The date of 27 May is also the fifth anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Writing Competition

We are pleased to be able to present our 2022 Reconciliation Writing Competition. Victorian adults and students in Years 9-12 are invited to submit entries - fact, fiction or poetry - of 1500 words for adults, 600 for students or 50 lines of poetry for all, referencing this year's NAIDOC theme, **Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!** Prize money of \$1000, \$600 and \$300 will be awarded for First, Second and Third placegetters in each category. Entries close Friday 9 September, so there is lots of time to start writing. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Stewart at deb.stewart33@gmail.com.

Congratulations

To Mutthi Mutthi and Wamba Wamba woman Jana Stewart, selected to replace the late Labor Senator Kimberley Kitching who previously worked as the deputy secretary of Victoria's Department of Justice; to Troy Cassar-Daley who holds the most Golden Guitar Awards - 40 - surpassing country music legend Slim Dusty; to First Nations basketball superstar Patty Mills, honoured with one of the NBA's most coveted trophies - the 2021-22 Sportsmanship Award.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17 May, 6.30 pm, South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3, Ferrars Place, (off Park Street) South Melbourne. All Welcome. Enquiries: 0418 685 734.

REFERENDUM TIMING RIGHT

Indigenous leaders are calling on the next Australian Government to hold a referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament within two years, saying: "*The timing is right and it's now*". In 2017, after consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation, the former Referendum Council said Australia should create a powerful new First Nations Assembly. The body would be known as a Voice to Parliament, and it would have a say on laws and policies affecting all Indigenous communities. "*That's what we have to aim for and that's what we have been aiming for in terms of educating the public ...so we can get an enshrined Voice in the constitution,*" said Professor Megan Davis, Co-chair of the Uluru Dialogue. The movement has so far received support from the broader community, including unions and corporate groups. "*We're supremely confident that a majority of Australians will vote Yes,*" she said. "*And we need to get more on board, and so that's the task ahead of us.*" A referendum would be the culmination of decades of work and campaigning for constitutional recognition for Indigenous people. The Morrison Government has pledged \$31.8 million to set up new 'Voice' bodies via legislation - that is, 35 new local and regional advisory bodies across Australia over the 2022-23 financial year.



"*For the Indigenous Voice to work, it must have a strong foundation from the ground up,*" Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, said.

**Professor Megan Davis,
Co-Chair, Uluru Dialogue.**

RECONCILIATION WEEK

Among the many activities being held for National Reconciliation Week in and around Melbourne between **Friday 27 May to Friday 3 June** are the following. RecVic's National Reconciliation Week Virtual Breakfast, *Being Brave, Making Change for 20 Years*, **Friday 27 May**, 7.30 am-9.00 am (online event). RecVic invites all Reconciliation supporters to join a virtual breakfast to launch National Reconciliation Week and celebrate Reconciliation Victoria's 20-year milestone anniversary.



RecVic will host a special exhibition to share a personal collection of stories, poems and scar tree photographs by respected Gunditjmara Elder Uncle Jim Berg. Opening night - **Thursday 2 June**, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Blak Dot Gallery, 33 Saxon St, Brunswick. The Long Walk, Saturday 21 May, 12 noon–5.30 pm in Federation Square, followed by the Dreamtime at the G match between Richmond and Essendon, 7.30 pm, MCG. Reconciliation in the Park Event hosted by Geelong One Fire, Sunday 22 May, 10.00 am–2.00 pm; Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, Reconciliation Walk, Sunday 29 May from 10.30 am in Hastings. Find out about other events via the Reconciliation Australia NRW Calendar 2022 - <https://www.reconciliation.org.au>.

ELECTIONS AND THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

From The Heart, the campaign for First Nations constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament, has welcomed the government's commitment to retain \$160 million in contingency funding for a referendum on constitutional recognition in the 2023 Federal Budget. *From The Heart* also welcomes Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese's commitment to a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament in his budget reply speech. As Dean Parkin, *From the Heart* campaign director, says: "*There is nothing more important in this next term of parliament than a referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament.*" To learn where the three major political parties stand on the issue of the Uluru Statement in the lead-up to the federal election, the ABC's Vote Compass has compiled a list of policy statements through their tool developed by political scientists to help explore how people's views align with those of the election candidates. Labor: <https://alp.org.au/policies/closing-the-gap-and-reconciliation>. Liberal-National Coalition: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-12-17/indigenous-voice-to-parliament/100708186>. The Greens: <https://greens.org.au/magazine/justice-first-nations-people-means-truth-treaty-and-voice>.

MUNGO MAN AND LADY TO BE REBURIED

The remains of 108 Aboriginal people, some of whom walked the earth in regional NSW more than 42,000 years ago, will finally be reburied the Federal Government has ruled. The NSW Government submitted the proposal to rebury the remains, some of the world's oldest, in the World Heritage listed National Park to the Federal Government for approval. Mutthi Mutthi Elder Patricia Winch from the Willandra Lakes Aboriginal Advisory Group committee said the three local tribes would now make a decision in the next few months on where and when the private burials would take place. The community has been strongly divided about whether the remains should be reburied privately and returned to Country or placed in a Keeping Place where they could still be accessed for research. Recently, a group of Aboriginal Traditional Owners and Elders sought an injunction to stop a plan by Federal Environment Minister, Sussan Ley, to secretly rebury the bones of Mungo Man and Mungo

Lady, saying it treated the ancient human remains like trash. The remains are among the earliest modern humans discovered anywhere in the world and their discovery rewrote Australian history, giving evidence of continuous Aboriginal existence.

NEWS FROM REC STONNINGTON

Members of our core group recently attended a session to build our public speaking capacity – if your community/business/education group is interested in having a speaker on Reconciliation matters, please contact us. This may be of interest in the context of National Reconciliation Week, **27 May to 3 June**, with this year's theme *Be Brave, Make Change*. And while not a direct Reconciliation matter, a Stonnington community group asked us to inform our group of an upcoming federal candidate's forum on climate change. Many in our group see a strong connection between environmental matters and Reconciliation. The next group meeting is on **Wednesday 11 May**. All Welcome. Enquiries to Ro Bailey, Secretary, 0438 285 588.

MYALL CREEK MASSACRE MEMORIAL PILGRIMAGE

Initiatives of Change (IoC) is inviting people to join a journey of pilgrimage, honour and Reconciliation for the Myall Creek Massacre Memorial, held each year in June. *"Myall Creek is a place of national pilgrimage,"* said Graeme Cordiner from the Friends of Myall Creek Committee. *"Out of hundreds of massacres during the Frontier Wars, it was the only time some justice was done when some of those directly involved were hung."* The IOC's Sydney team is hosting the annual pilgrimage from **Friday 10-Monday 13 June**. Guests pay their own way, travel and accommodation and meet in Sydney on 10 June to travel together, or individually.

EVENTS

The Torch presents their *Confined 13* Exhibition, coinciding with Reconciliation Week. The Exhibition features over 400 artworks from 350 Indigenous artists, currently in or recently released from prisons. Works will be available to view and purchase on The Torch website from Thursday 5 May 8.00 am, and at Glen Eira City Council Gallery, open Monday-Friday, 10.00 am-5.00 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 1.00 pm-5.00 pm.



An artwork from the Torch Exhibition by Flick Chafer-Smith.

Balnarring Bundjulung Benefit on **Saturday 28 May** is a music and auction fundraiser benefit for flood-affected communities on Bundjalung Country in northern NSW, at the Balnarring Yacht Club. Details: bundjalungbenefit@gmail.com

Still in My Mind: Gurundjiri location, experience and visibility is an ongoing, multifaced, multi-media exhibition, exploring richly diverse notions of identity, home and connection to Country. At Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum, until **Sunday 15 May**.

BOOKS

Jack of Hearts QX11594 is a story by sisters Jackie Huggins and Bgaire Jarro of their father, Jack Huggins, in World War II. He was captured by the Japanese in Singapore and spent much of the war on the notorious Thai-Burma railway before returning home. Their narrative and personal reflections give insight into love, loss and a daughter's need to understand her father's journey. Magabala Books.

Unlimited Futures is an anthology of speculative, visionary fiction from 21 emerging and established First Nations writers and Black writers, reflecting visionary pasts, hopeful futures and the invisible ties between First Nations people and Black people. Fremantle Press in association with Djed Press.

Ceremony is the title of Adam Goodes' latest children's book. The Brownlow Medallist and 2014 Australian of the Year started writing the book because he wanted to be able to create some resources for parents and their children to read about Aboriginal people and culture. It is the second in a series of children's books by Goodes in collaboration with co-author, former journalist Ellie Laing, and Barkindji illustrator David Hardy. Allen & Unwin.

TV

NITV's sports commentary programs *Yokayi Footy* and *Over the Black Dot* have resumed with new faces; legendary Richmond and Collingwood player and proud Mineng and Yinggarda man Andrew Krakouer joins existing co-host Megan Waters on *Yokayi Footy*, 8.30 pm Wednesdays. Karla Grant hosts *Living Black*, Wednesdays.

