

# Mungo...

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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July 2021

## FROM THE CO-CHAIR

### Boonwurrung Word of the Month:

*Baanyabeel – Rain*

### NAIDOC Week

The Victorian NAIDOC Committee (Southern Metro) and City of Melbourne have announced that NAIDOC Week in Victoria will be postponed until October, a decision made in response to the continuing Covid outbreaks and the increasing number of exposure sites in inner-city Melbourne. The City of Port Phillip is aligning with the Victorian NAIDOC Committee and postponing activities in July with a view to offering a full program in October and acknowledge that, while disappointing, the health of the community is paramount. The NAIDOC 2021 Awards are also postponed.

### Talks

Dennis Fisher and I were invited to speak about Reconciliation at the Holy Trinity Church in Port Melbourne on 20 June (the talk was originally scheduled for 30 May during Reconciliation Week). As a white woman of Anglo-Saxon background who learned very little about Aboriginal culture and history at school, I mentioned I became interested in Reconciliation in the late 1990s and ever since have been on a journey of learning and discovery. I spoke about our group and suggested ways people could learn more, like reading Meyer Eidelson's book *Yalukit Willam, the River People of Port Phillip* and seeking out the significant site markers Council has signposted throughout the community. Den's story of moving from Queensland to (Port) Melbourne was personal and insightful; listening to him recite his poem *Lucky Country* was the perfect finish. My thanks to parish priest Noel Whale for welcoming us and to Jim Richardson, PPCfR member, who suggested the idea.

Dennis Fisher, Reverend Noel Whale and Rosemary Rule at Holy Trinity, Port Melbourne.



I also attended RecVic's first forum for the year on the topic of Anti-racism in the Reconciliation Movement. This was held virtually on 19 June with panelists Shankar Kasynathan - National Campaign Manager for Amnesty International, RecVic's Professor Andrew Gunstone and CEO Diana David, and Elder/educator Steph Armstrong talking on racism and anti-racism. We also heard from facilitators from Moreland Reconciliation Initiative and Bendigo Reconciliation Committee about their groundbreaking work on anti-racism, referencing Chelsea Bond's article *The Uncomfortable Truth about Reconciliation*. We were invited to find ways to understand and deal with white privilege, investigate our own beliefs - as uncomfortable as this may be - and to develop tools to be anti-racist. It left me feeling there's much to digest and to explore on all levels.

### Reconciliation Week Follow-up

As speakers noted during various online talks and events; Reconciliation is more than raising awareness and knowledge. As a nation, as well as individually, we need to move from 'safe' to 'brave' in order to advance Reconciliation. Remember - we can all be agents of change, and ways to start include learning whose Country we live on, educating ourselves, and supporting First Nations people and organisations. Check out the helpful 20 Actions list: <http://bit.ly/NRW2021Actions>, or #NRW2021 #MoreThanAWord.

### Meeting Venue and Membership

I'm happy to report that our application to the Council to host our monthly meetings at the South Melbourne Community Centre was successful, and we'll be able to gather comfortably there from July. Also, I'd be grateful if you'd renew your membership for 2021-22 - see form on the last page - the cost remains at \$10 (\$5 concession).

### Rosemary Rule

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 20 July, 6.30 pm,**  
South Melbourne Community Centre, Hall 3,  
Ferrars Place (off Park Street). Details: 0418 685 734.

## **VICTORIA BOOSTS SUPPORT FOR CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS**

The Victorian Government has announced that it will deliver an additional \$5 million to support reaching targets in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The new funding builds on the \$3.3 million announced in 2020 when Victoria became the first state or territory to provide funding for the National Agreement, which aims to use self-determined solutions to tackle Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

*"We're achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians by empowering Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to take a leadership role in driving change,"* said the state's ambassador for Closing the Gap, Christine Couzens. The state government described the funding as vital to making possible some of the significant progress highlighted in the Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report 2020. The report tracks Victoria's progress in improving health, education, and other outcomes for and with Aboriginal people, and shows significant improvements for Aboriginal Victorians in many areas. The statement said improvements also included progress in early education, with more than 99 percent of Aboriginal children enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten; preventative healthcare, with more than 96 percent of Aboriginal children having received the required vaccinations by five years of age; and land management, which saw a 60 percent increase in the number of cultural burns from 2019 to 2020. The additional funding is part of the Labor Government's investment of \$448 million in Aboriginal Affairs in the 2021/22 Victorian Budget.

## **THERE'S A 'GAP IN THE GAP' FOR STOLEN GENERATIONS**

New research shows survivors of the Stolen Generations and their descendants carry higher levels of disadvantage when compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There are nearly double the number of survivors of the Stolen Generations than first estimated, with Indigenous advocacy groups calling for immediate action to support the health and wellbeing of survivors and their descendants. Research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that the number of survivors of the Stolen Generations has increased from 17,150 in 2014-15 to 33,600 in 2018-19. Their research, released in conjunction with a new report from the Healing Foundation, presented data and analysis on where and how survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families live, finding that survivors of the Stolen Generations and their descendants carry higher levels of disadvantage across life outcomes when compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Those aged 50 and over were 1.8 times more likely to not own a home, were 1.4 times more likely to have a disability, and were 1.4 times more likely to have poor mental health. When compared to the non-Indigenous population, survivors were three times as likely to be living with a severe disability, 2.7 times as likely to have poor mental health,

and 4.6 times as likely to have kidney disease. Survivors are also growing older. In 2018-19, more than 80 percent of survivors were aged 50 and over. By 2022, all survivors of the Stolen Generations will be over the age of 50 and eligible for aged care. The Foundation's research found that there are also over 142,000 descendants of survivors of the Stolen Generations nationally who also experience significantly poorer wellbeing when compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Note: The Healing Foundation, a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experiences of survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families, working with communities to create a place of safety, providing an environment for survivors of the Stolen Generations and their families to speak for themselves, tell their stories and be in charge of their own healing.

<https://healingfoundation.org.au>

## **BOUNDARIES OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS RESHAPED**

In late June, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council announced that the Melbourne CBD along with 2,738 square kilometres of Country and Waters to the east and west will now be formally cared for and protected by its Traditional Owners. It further announced that the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation has accepted Council's proposed variation to its boundaries, as has the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC). The BLCAC Board said that this is a *"highly significant moment not just [for] the BLCAC but for Bunurong People. The recognition of the extended Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) area is another important step in a long journey for us. We look forward to the determination taking effect and the work that lies ahead."* The variation takes effect from 1 July in over 18 local government areas, including Port Phillip, Bayside and Stonnington.

Note: The Council has the statutory capacity to vary the registered boundaries of existing RAPs, and while this is necessarily a complex and sensitive decision-making process, it ensures that self-determination is at the core of defining Country and the responsibilities of those who speak for it. *"It is Council's responsibility and privilege to register Traditional Owner groups to care for their Country. Each decision Council makes, to register, to decline, or to vary Traditional Owners' recognised Country, is an enormous responsibility. We hope that future generations can benefit from the legacies we leave through our decision making."* For information and a detailed map see:

<https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/>

## **RECONCILIATION STONNINGTON**

RecStonnington is aware of the recent determinations by the Aboriginal Heritage Council of the boundaries of RAPs in the eastern and south-eastern parts of Melbourne. These are very early days for these new arrangements,

and much is to be clarified. We are aware of the importance of Country to Aboriginal identity and culture. The determinations will have significant implications for local First Peoples and for non-Aboriginal people to understand and fully appreciate these implications. Our job is to educate non-Aboriginal people on these matters, and this will be a key focus for us over the next year. Keith Gove, President, RecStonnington.

### ABC PROMOTING FIRST NATIONS TALENT

The ABC has launched a First Nations Talent portal, inviting creatives and performers to fill in their details if they would like to become a potential contributor to ABC content. The aim of the portal is to allow ABC creative teams to readily identify, employ and promote First Nations people for future projects. Information collected will be stored in a centralised, secure internal ABC database which all content teams will have access to. The portal supports the ABC's Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan and Diversity Action Plan. The launch was tied to the Reconciliation Week theme of More than a Word - Reconciliation Takes Action, and it follows Aunty's 12-month partnership with First Nations Media Australia (FNMA) and the talent portal to provide people the option to share their information with FNMA members.

### AWARDS

The HART - Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together - Awards are a partnership between the Victorian Local Governance Association and RecVic supported by Bank Australia and Local Government Victoria to recognise local Victorian initiatives and champions that make a real difference in their community by contributing to local Reconciliation outcomes.

Community Organisations Winner - Our Songlines for *Our Survival Day Project*. Highly Commended - Girraway Ganyi Consultancy for their YouTube Channel. Champions of Reconciliation - The Torch for *Confined* Exhibitions. Champions of Reconciliation - Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Committee for the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service. Local Government Winner - Glen Eira City Council for *26 January - An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective*. Highly Commended - Hepburn Shire Council for *Peaks, Wetlands and Rivers - Truth-telling and Reconciling our Shared History at Contact*. Schools and Early Learning Years Winner - Yuille Park P-8 Community College for

*Nyatne Mok Boriyn (Thankful and Proud)*. Highly Commended - Moolap Primary School for Moolap Cultural Immersion Project. Elsewhere, the First Nations Arts Awards which recognise and celebrate the outstanding work and achievements of First Nations artists were awarded as follows: Red Ochre Awards for Outstanding Lifetime



First Nations Arts Award recipient, Dr Lou Bennett.



Achievement: Dr Lou Bennett (Kyneton, VIC) and Yorna (Donny) Woolagoodja (Derby, WA). Dreaming Award: Tasman Keith (Bowraville, NSW). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Fellowship: Kutcha Edwards (Cowes, VIC).

Kutcha Edwards has been awarded the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Fellowship.

### CONFINED 12 EXHIBITION EXTENDED

The Torch's *Confined 12* Exhibition - their biggest yet - has been extended until **Sunday 11 July**. The exhibition was forced to close at the Glen Eira City Council Gallery after two weeks due to the Covid outbreak. In celebration of the gallery re-opening there is a brand-new online experience showcasing the unsold works of *Confined 12*. Visit in person or online. 100 percent of the sale price goes directly to the artist. Gallery hours: Monday to Saturday, 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm; Sunday, 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. [www.thetorch.org.au](http://www.thetorch.org.au)

### LOST LANDS FOUND PROJECT

In a public park in Melbourne's quiet seaside suburb of Altona, two worlds collide; one is a thick carpet of unremarkable green lawn, the other is a small patch of reclaimed local ecology. Part of the *Lost Lands Found* Project, this small patch of reclaimed Altona ecology is reacquainting local residents with fifty-one species of Indigenous wildflowers, grasses, herbs and lilies that once flourished throughout the area. The creator of the project, Wemba-Wemba and Wergaia man Dean Stewart, describes this window into the past as "*part ecological restoration, part public art installation...Lost Lands Found is like a moment frozen in time – it's what the natural ecology of this very spot used to be like*". *Lost Lands Found* brings a symbolic remnant grassland to a busy public space and in doing so encourages passers-by to stop and get curious about the world under their feet, with the hope of inspiring people to make deep personal connections to their local ecologies and landscapes. <https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Arts-Culture-Heritage/Current-Projects/Lost-Lands-Found>.

### COMING OF THE LIGHT

St John's Anglican Church is presenting a combined choral eucharist to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light when the first missionaries arrived in the Torres Strait Islands. Guest preacher and speaker is the Reverend Canon Victor Joseph, Principal of Wontulp-BiBuya College, Cairns, who is also an Anglican priest. The Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, will attend. **Sunday 25 July**, 9.30 am, 5 Finch Street, East Malvern. Service followed by lunch. Registrations: [secretary@saintjohns.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintjohns.org.au)

## WOMEN'S YARNING CIRCLE: DEEP LISTENING TO ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

*Our Uluru Response*, Initiative of Change Australia's trust-building project, is co-facilitating 'truth-telling and truth-hearing' events and welcomes Tracey Evans, a Gunditjmara-Bundjalung woman and executive director of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, to Armagh for a Yarning Circle for women. Tracey will lead a discussion about the following questions - How might we support Aboriginal women in the First Peoples' Assembly in Victoria and the Treaty process? Could it have a ripple effect on a National Treaty? Participation is by invitation. Group size is limited so that participants can form meaningful connections with each other. **Tuesday 20 July** 6.00-7.30 pm, Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak. If interested, contact *Our Uluru Response* project manager, Sarah Naarden, [sarah.naarden@iofc.org](mailto:sarah.naarden@iofc.org), and include a statement about your interest and connections with First Nations communities.

## WATER TOWER MURAL

A mural featuring giant portraits of World War II returned soldiers Leonard, Edward and Herbert Lovett along with Reg Saunders - Australia's first Indigenous military officer - has been created at Heywood near Budj Bim and Lake Condah on Gunditjmara Country. Another Lovett brother, Alfred, is not featured; he was too old to sign up for WWII but fought in WWI. Alfred and other Indigenous people from the Lake Condah-Heywood district who went to war will, however, be commemorated in a reflective garden being built at the base of the water tower, painted by Melbourne-based mural artist Matt Adnate, created in collaboration with Herbert Lovett's great-grandson, Tom Day, and a Bidjara and Gunditjmara artist, Levi Geebung.



Heywood's water tower mural shows Reg Saunders wearing a slouch hat alongside the Lovett brothers.

## NEW BOOKS

*Everything You Need To Know About The Uluru Statement from the Heart* by Professor Megan Davis and Professor George Williams AO leaves no questions unanswered about the historic call for Voice, Treaty and Truth. "The book highlights how the Uluru Statement is a game-changer, a moment where Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander people finally had the chance to say what 'recognition' means to us," Megan Davis says. "It is the community, who gave up their time to participate in the Regional Dialogues, that has developed this road map to a better future." UNSW Press.

*Design: Building on Country* by Alison Page and Paul Memmott looks at how Indigenous structures were, in pre-colonial times, inseparable from the seasonal movements of communities and the resources available for shelter, food, tools and medicines in local environments – and a perfect template for future sustainable designs. \$21.99, Thames & Hudson.

*Flock: First Nations Stories Then and Now* edited by Ellen van Neerven is an anthology of short prose fiction written by various First Nations authors. UQP.

*Farmers or Hunter-gatherers? The Dark Emu Debate* by Peter Sutton and Keryn Walshe is described as an authoritative study of pre-colonial Australia that dismantles and reframes popular narratives of First Nations land management and food production. MUP.

## ARTS

**Film:** In honour of NAIDOC Week 2021, the Thornbury Picture House in conjunction with the Melbourne Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive is showing the award-winning film *Ten Canoes*, narrated by David Gulpilil. **Sunday 4 July**, 3.45 pm.

**TV:** *Fire Starter* is the story of Bangarra Dance Theatre through the eyes of their long-standing artistic director Stephen Page. ABC-TV, **Tuesday 6 July**.

Uncle Jack Charles features in *Who Do You Think You Are*, SBS, **Tuesday 6 July**.

**Music:** *ISAIAH - Spirit and Beyond Tour* with Isaiah Firebrace and his band to celebrate NAIDOC Week at the Drum Theatre, Dandenong, **Tuesday 6 July**, Bookings: [drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au)

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Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation is a voluntary community group affiliated with Reconciliation Victoria and Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation Victoria (ANTaR). We work closely with the City of Port Phillip from whom we receive a small grant. We participate in Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week events, host a free lunch for Sorry Day each year, participate in local community festivals and publish an informative monthly newsletter, *Mungo*, which is sent to members each month.

Meetings are held at 6.30 pm on the third Tuesday each month at the South Melbourne Community Centre.

Please help us continue our work by joining the group – or by renewing your existing membership. The rate remains unchanged and is valid until 30 June 2022.

Date: .....

Membership Fee: \$10.00 (\$5.00 concession)

Amount Enclosed: \$...... (Please tick Cash ..... Or Cheque.....)

**EFT Details:**

Bendigo Bank

BSB 633 000

Account Number 135518546

Please include your Surname in the Reference to identify the Payment.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode:.....

Mobile: ..... Home .....

Email: .....

Completed Membership Forms can be sent to:

PO Box 1446, St Kilda South VIC 3182

or emailed to [rosemary.rule@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.rule@gmail.com).

Members automatically receive a free copy of *Mungo* each month. Would you prefer to receive it by email and help save postage – and trees?

Yes..... No.....

Are you able to help with events, stalls or mailouts? Yes..... No.....

