

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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June 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Boonwurrung Word of the Month

Beerreen – Winter, no more sun

Sorry Day Lunch

It was with deep regret that, due to the sudden outbreak of Covid cases around Melbourne and with one day's notice, we had to cancel the lunch to commemorate National Sorry Day on 26 May. The decision was taken after consulting with the Council and other stakeholders and was definitely not an easy one to make. I'd been looking forward to gathering together, renewing friendships and meeting new people, however, I'm sure that there will be other opportunities to gather and to look forward to.

Talks

At the suggestion of PPCfR member Jim Richardson, I was invited to speak on the topic of Reconciliation at Holy Trinity in Port Melbourne on Sunday 30 May, the parish's Patronal Festival Day. Happily, my Co-Chair Dennis Fisher agreed to accompany me – he used to attend the church – as we felt it more appropriate for both of us to talk about Reconciliation from our own perspectives. I also attended a talk, organised as part of the St Kilda Film Festival, by Australian screen and stage artists Lisa and Rachael Maza, paying tribute to the life and work of their late father Bob Maza. His career included appearances in *A Country Practice* on television and in films including *The Fringe Dwellers*.

Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day

Unfortunately, quite a few events that were planned during Reconciliation Week between **Thursday 27 May** and **Thursday 3 June** and for Mabo Day, commemorated on **Thursday 3 June**, including those organised by the City of Port Phillip, had to be cancelled due to Covid outbreaks. Thankfully, there were several virtual events that were able to proceed. Keep an eye out for forthcoming events locally.



Meeting Venue

We have applied to the Council for a new venue to host our monthly meetings from July onwards. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that our application will be well received.

Congratulations

To the Uluru Statement from the Heart, awarded the Sydney Peace Prize for 2021; to inductees into the 2021 Victorian Aboriginal Honor Roll, including Fay Stewart-Muir and Grant Hansen; to Archie Roach, whose *#TellMeWhy* won Audiobook of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards; to Adam Briggs, whose book *Our Home, Our Heartbeat* won the 2021 Children's Picture Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards; to Deborah Cheetham, recipient of the 2020 JC Williamson Award; and to Hollie Johnson, recipient of the 7News Young Achiever Award across the state and nominated in the Yarn Strong Sistas Indigenous Achievement Award.

NAIDOC Week

Details of NAIDOC events taking place from **Sunday 4 July - Sunday 11 July**, including those hosted by the City of Port Phillip, will be announced shortly. This year's theme is Heal Country, calling for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Rosemary Rule

Next Meeting: Tuesday 15 June, 6.30 pm
Koolin-Ngal Family Centre, 400 Clarendon Street,
South Melbourne – Entry in Napier Street.
All Welcome. Please RSVP if you'd like to attend:
0418 675 734.

YOO-RROOK COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCED

Victoria's Yoo-rrook Justice Commission will investigate injustices experienced by Indigenous people since white settlement through a process led by Commission Chair and Wergaia/Wamba Wamba Elder Eleanor Bourke. "It will be traumatic for everybody involved if it's the first time they hear such things, but it won't all be sad I hope," Professor Bourke said. She is one of four other Commissioners, who include Yorta Yorta/Dja Dja Wurrung Elder Wayne Atkinson, Wurundjeri and Ngurai Illum Wurrung woman Sue-Anne Hunter, palawa woman Maggie Walter and former Supreme Court Justice Kevin Bell QC, selected from a field of 64 applicants. The stories told are expected to provide a new narrative for Victoria, and the Commissioners want to make sure people are getting the support they need. Acting Victorian Premier James Merlino, Victorian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams, and Co-Chairs of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, Marcus Stewart and Geraldine Atkinson, announced the five Commissioners in May. The inquiry is expected to take three years with its final report due in June 2024. Yoo-rrook means 'truth' in the Wemba Wemba language spoken in the north-west region of Victoria.

BUSINESS SUCCESS

New research shows the power and impact of Indigenous businesses to the Australian economy; at least \$4.88 billion according to the inaugural Indigenous Business Snapshot Study. It used data pooled from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and numerous custodians of Indigenous businesses to form the Indigenous Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment, to measure the sector's scope. Head of the University of Melbourne Indigenous Business Research Group and research lead, Associate Professor Michelle Evans, said comprehensive evidence had quantified the Indigenous business sector's economic strength, providing insights into its social and cultural impact in Australia. The study examined data from 2006-2018. Over that time, there was a 74 percent increase in the number of Indigenous businesses, 115 percent growth in gross income, and more than 22,000 jobs created – a 100 percent increase. In 2018, gross income for the sector was \$4.88 billion; more than Australia's beer industry (\$4.3 billion). "The snapshot will capture an image of the Indigenous business sector each year from community, government, corporate, banking, education and investment stakeholders, informing the sector ecosystem. Critically, it will show the impact of focused sector support, such as the introduction of Indigenous preferential procurement programs," Professor Evans said.

LIDDLE STANDS FOR THE GREENS

Indigenous activist Celeste Liddle will attempt to unseat Labor MP Ged Kearney at the next Federal election as the Greens candidate for the inner-Melbourne seat of Cooper. Ms Liddle, an Arrernte woman, union organiser and a social commentator, will become a key figure in the Greens strategy to help Labor form a minority government and demand greater action on climate change and inequality. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organiser for the

National Tertiary Education Union, Ms Liddle rose to prominence through her personal blog *Black Feminist Ranter*, and in 2017 was added to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.



New Federal candidate for the Greens, Indigenous activist Celeste Liddle.

BUDGET ANALYSIS - A PERSPECTIVE

It is, perhaps, not surprising that the Indigenous Affairs portfolio does not feature heavily in Budget 2021-22. This is not an entirely negative development, given that First Nations affairs are better served by good policy rather than opportunistic politics. From a First Nations perspective, this year's budget presents a mixed bag of positives, negatives and unknowns. On the positive side, investment in the community enterprise space appears to be a big plus. For instance, the Government says that almost \$14 million will be allocated over four years to support Indigenous female entrepreneurs to create innovative responses to issues facing their communities, and to increase the economic security of Indigenous women through grants and flexible loans. Initiatives to support healthy Sea Country is another plus, with funds to protect marine biodiversity and grow jobs. Investment in Indigenous enterprises will also be extended to primary industry and land management sectors, as well as to Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs), to help deliver recent reforms to the *Native Title Act 1993*. While a \$432 million allocation to the Northern Territory to tackle overcrowding and the poor state of housing is welcome, it is disappointing to see other parts of Indigenous Australia with poor housing seemingly overlooked. Perhaps the biggest and most disappointing aspect of the Budget is the miniscule allocation towards Indigenous cultural heritage. There are a number of announcements within the Budget with many unknowns for First Nations. Take, for example, aged care. The Budget refers to building an Indigenous workforce in aged care but does not provide details about resources, time frames or targets. It is not clear how much of the \$17 billion for aged care will target First Nations communities.

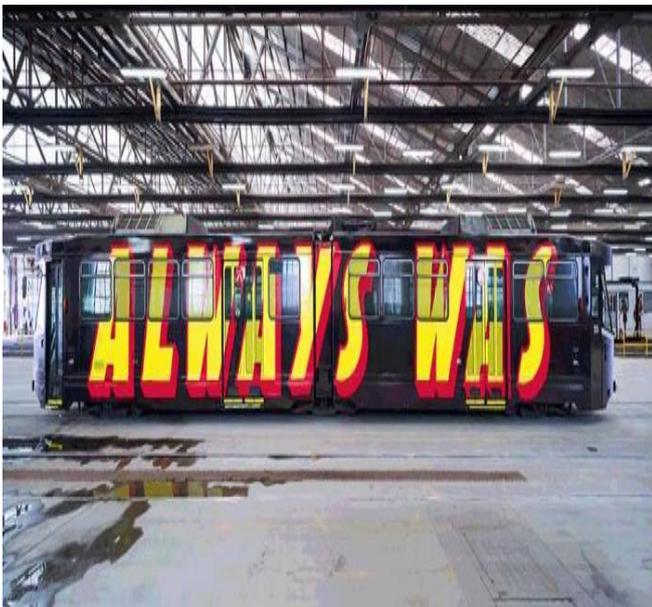
This is an edited version of a report by Tony Dreise, a proud Guumilaroi man, Professor of Indigenous Policy and Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University.

INDIGENOUS GARDEN EVENTS

As well as celebrating their 175th anniversary, the Royal Botanic Gardens continues to offer Indigenous-focused tours. PPCfR's Co-Chair, Dennis Fisher, is a regular presenter of the popular Aboriginal Heritage Walk, during which he chats with visitors and talks about the traditional use of plants.

ART TRAMS

For the first time, the Melbourne Art Tram program is amplifying the diverse creative cultural practice of city and regional artists with a suite of trams designed by First Peoples. Ancient waterways continue to flow beneath the concrete foundations of a constantly transforming city. Old gums scarred with the lines of canoes stand tall alongside towering skyscrapers. Freshwater and saltwater meet in estuaries brought together by the turning moon's tides. For 2021, we celebrate six First Peoples artists from the city to the regions. Each artist will be responsible for the transformation of a Melbourne tram which will make its way through the city daily. The collected works speak to themes of caring for Country and the diverse ecologies of First Peoples lands, as well as personal connections to identity and journeying. The artists are Deanne Gilson (Wadawurrung), Thomas Marks (Wotjobaluk and Gunaikurnai), Aunty Rochelle Patten (Yorta Yorta Dhudhuroa and Wemba Wemba), Jarra Karalinar Steel (Boonwurrung and Wemba Wemba), Ray Thomas (Brabrawooloong Gunaikurnai) and Aunty Zeta Thomson (Wurundjeri and Yorta Yorta). Curated by Kimberley Moulton.



One of Melbourne's new art trams which have been decorated by First Nations artists.

ARTS NEWS

Film

My Name is Gulpilil is described as an insightful, moving documentary about the life of legendary Indigenous Australian actor David Gulpilil, star of films including *Rabbit Proof Fence*, *Crocodile Dundee* and *Charlie's Country*. Here for the first time he tells his own story. Check cinemas for screenings.

Art

Featuring 25 artists from across the country, including Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin and Jonathan Jones, the *Tarrawarra Biennial 2021: Slow Moving Waters* responds to two related cues - the idea of slowness and the gentle, measured flow of the nearby Birrarung (Yarra River). Tarrawarra Museum of Art, Healesville, until July.

Confined 12 showcases 377 works by 320 Indigenous artists who are currently in prison or recently released from prison. Visit The Torch Artwork Mosaic and 3D Virtual or visit in person at the Glen Eira Town Hall.

Gung | create, make do, love is a new exhibition by Wergaia/Wemba Wemba artist Kelly Koumalatsos whose practice merges traditional Wemba Wemba and Wergaia possum-skin-cloak making with printmaking in powerful and visually stunning ways. At Bunjilaka and included in entry fee to Melbourne Museum.

Join Yorta Yorta/Taungurung weaver Donna Blackall for the first in a fresh series of monthly weaving workshops at Koorie Heritage Trust, where people of varying degrees of weaving experience can create together, build on their knowledge and share skills; materials supplied. **Thursday 10 June**, Noon. The session is free, but bookings are essential: <https://korieheritagetrust.com.au/whats-on/events/monthly-weaving-workshop-with-donna-blackall/>

Music

Parrwang Lifts the Sky is a new family opera by Yorta Yorta composer and soprano Deborah Cheetham, sung in English and Wadawurrung. **Saturday 12 June**, Arts Centre. Opera Australia.

Emma Donovan's latest album *Crossover* has been released.

BOOKS

Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray (River of Dreams) is Anita Heiss's latest book; an epic story of love, loss and belonging. Simon & Schuster.

Black and Blue - A Memoir of Racism and Resilience is Veronica Gorrie's first book. Veronica, a Gunaikurnai woman living in Victoria, details her experience as an Aboriginal woman working as a police officer and her fight for justice both within and beyond the Australian police force.

Sorry Day by Coral Vass includes a special introduction and afterword from former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and is illustrated by Dub Leffler; read by actor Trevor Jamieson.

INDIGENOUS PROCUREMENT

Organisations and businesses wishing to procure authentic Indigenous products can connect with Supply Nation. This company works to connect over 2,800 verified Indigenous businesses with more than 450 paid corporate, government and not-for-profit members in every state and territory on Indigenous Business Direct. Registration for Indigenous businesses is always free; membership fees apply for procuring organisations. The City of Port Phillip is among its members.

