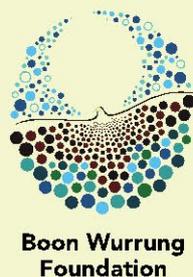


We-Akon Dilinja Mourning reflection 2021 program



We-Akon Dilinja

Remembrance, Reflection, Recognition

Rundown

Alfred Square St Kilda, 26 January 2021

6 am to 7 am

- Event MC Bo Svoronos
- Didgeridoo player Sean Ryan
- Boonwurrung Welcome song played by John Wayne-Parsons as lead vocalist accompanied by Michael Julian on percussion
- Welcome to Country and Introduction by Parbin-ata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM
- Josh Burns MP
- Bunjil Naglingu (Boonwurrung song) performed by Jess Hitchcock
- **First reading Louisa Briggs** by Janet Galpin
- Maori/Christ Church prayer led by Father Turi Hollis
- Shofar with Jewish prayer led by Rabbi Yaakov Glasman
- **Second reading Yonki Yonke** by Councillor Louise Crawford, City of Port Phillip Mayor
- Tribute to past Boonwurrung Elders by Parbin-ata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM and Michael Julian (on clapsticks)
- **Third reading Derrimut** by Dick Gross, former City of Port Phillip Mayor
- Irmer Ter Ge (Torres Strait Islander songs) performed by John Wayne-Parsons as lead vocalist accompanied by Cisco on guitar, Michael Julian on percussion and Lukey Captain on backing vocals
- Smoking Ceremony by David Tournier

Quotes

Parbin-ata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM

My vision is for all Australians to take pride in our shared history - recognising the important role of the First Australians - and recognising the value and importance of our heritage when celebrating our strengths and achievements as a Nation.

My wish is for all Australians to work towards acknowledging that we have both a diverse and shared history - a history that provides us with both lessons of the past and pride in the future.

I commend this important step taken by the City of Port Phillip to establish the We-Akon Dillinja ceremony - as an integral part of their Australia Day program.

Councillor Louise Crawford Mayor of City of Port Phillip

The We-Akon Dillinja dawn ceremony is designed to bring the whole community together, ahead of the usual Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at the St Kilda Town Hall.

We-Akon Dillinja commemorates and celebrates the rich and diverse culture of the First People of this land and recognises the efforts of the Boonwurrung Ancestors and Elders to preserve their ancient cultural heritage.

In 2020 we were the first municipality in Australia to host an Indigenous remembrance ceremony of this kind. Following fantastic feedback, we are very proud to again be supporting this event in 2021.

We-Akon Dillinja is our way of acknowledging the complexities surrounding the 26th of January.

Notes

Kangaroo apple flower

The purple Kangaroo Apple flower, traditionally worn by Boonwurrung women, is the motif for this ceremony as it represents the vision, vigilance and victories of Boonwurrung women past, present and future.



Figure 1 The purple kangaroo apple flower

Day of Mourning

Special mention to Mr William Cooper, who in 1938 brought to national attention a strong social justice message on this very day - called the 'Day of Mourning'. Something we can all be proud of as the spirit of this powerful theme lives on.