We-Akon Dilinja

A Mourning Reflection

Alfred Square, St Kilda

Thursday 26 January 2023

Honouring the past and realising a new united vision for our Nation's shared future

"The We-Akon Dilinja is a **Mourning of Reflection** about what we can learn from the past, not be chained by it and create a better future. We-Akon Dilinja is an opportunity for all Australians to redefine what it means to be Australian. If we all want solutions, we first have to identify the real problems and work together to achieve effective outcomes for a fairer and more inclusive nation."

N'arweet Jason Briggs

"In the spirit of Reconciliation, We-Akon Dilinja offers a very special opportunity for everyone to come together to reflect on the past and look to a united future."

Cr Heather Cunsolo - Mayor, City of Port Phillip

We-Akon Dilinja
Remembrance, Reflection, Recognition

Thursday 26 January 2023, 5.45 am to 7 am

Event MC - Bo Svoronos

Didgeridoo player Kiernan Ironfield

Boonwurrung song – "Long Time Living Here" – Shauntai Batzke

(written by Deborah Cheetham AO, Parbinata Carolyn Briggs, Jarra Steel and Aunty Fay Stewart Muir)

Welcome to Country and introduction
Parbinata Dr Carolyn Briggs AM

Acknowledgement Josh Burns MP

Keynote address N'arweet Jason Briggs

Original piece Jess Hitchcock

First reading Cr Heather Cunsolo, Mayor City of Port Phillip

Shofar with Jewish prayer Rabbi Gabi Kaltmann

South Eastern Queensland Aboriginal Language Song
John Wayne-Parsons (lead vocals) accompanied by Cisco (guitar)

Second reading Janet Galpin

Tribute to past Boonwurrung Elders
Parbinata Carolyn Briggs

Kemer Kemer Meriam Song
John Wayne-Parsons (lead vocals) accompanied by Cisco (guitar)

Waternests (original song) Brett Lee

Smoking ceremony David Tournier

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.

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.

Australia Day
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

BOONWURRUNG LAND & SEA COUNCIL
BLSC

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

This event was assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council