



MINUTES

RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 14 May 2019 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Stephanie Skinner, Chairperson, Wadawarrung
Sharon Sowter, Chairperson, KIRRIP
Peter Webster, Community Member
Dawn Davies, Community Member
Skye Gooch, Community Member
Karen Jones, Community Member
Jo Layton, Community Member
Annette Vickery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli

1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed attendees and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Introduction and Apologies

Cr Melissa DeSantis (has resigned from Council)
Jessica Trijsburg, Co-ordinator, Community Capacity
Dan Turnbull, Bunurong Land Council
Julianne Axelford, Wurundjeri Land Council
Charmaine Hamilton, Community Member

All committee members introduced themselves.

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Minutes of Meeting

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of previous meeting.

Motion

P Webster/S Gooch

That the Minutes from the previous meeting were received and noted as true and correct record.

5. Proposed language name for RAC

There was general agreement the name of the Reconciliation Advisory Committee should be changed to a language name that is shared with the three traditional owner groups, Bunurong, Wurundjeri and Wadawarrung.

Action

S Skinner to send A Vickery a list of language names from Wadawarrung.

A Vickery to consult with the other traditional owner groups to identify options to put forward to Committee.

6. Year of Indigenous Languages: advice for Council on proposed name changes

Committee members provided feedback that the following locations/buildings were ideal for renaming in the year of indigenous languages:

- a. Melton Community Hall
- b. Naming of any future estate being developed
- c. Botanic Garden
- d. MacPhersons Park
- e. Bridge Road, Atherstone Sports Centre
- f. Parks and gardens generally.

The Committee advised that there were a number of clan groups in the area, and somewhere like MacPhersons Park could be renamed after that specific clan group.

Action

A Vickery to engage with City Design, Strategy & Environment and provide overview of discussion points from the Committee.

7. Geographic Profiles of Melton

The speaker was not present, so the item is rolled over to the next committee meeting.

Action

A Vickery to co-ordinate with Michelle Venn-Rowe to attend next RAC meeting.

8. Melton Historical Society

The speaker was not present, so the item is rolled over to the next committee meeting.

Action

A Vickery to co-ordinate with Deb Slattery to attend next RAC meeting.

9. Inter-cultural summit

J Trijsburg has asked for advice on a potential speaker for the Intercultural Symposium which Melton is hosting in July. Committee members to send any thoughts for speakers through to A Vickery before the end of May 2019.

Action

Committee members to provide feedback if they have suggested speakers.



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10. Mt Cottrell Update

A Vickery, S Skinner and Aunty Kaylene (Wadawarrung) visited some potential sites for the memorial. The preferred location is on land adjacent to Lozzbert Reserve. This land is held by Western Water, and A Vickery will be contacting them to ask if a site visit can be organized.

S Skinner is working within Wadawarrung to identify a suitable artist who has experience in developing public installations. S Skinner and A Vickery are also exploring how to develop a virtual cultural information session to educate and inform visitors.

S Gooch suggested QR as the best option for virtual information/education points, and S Skinner agreed. J Layton said both Woioiwurrung and Wadawarrung people were killed and there were a series of massacres and that this information needed to be researched and incorporated into the project.

Action

A Vickery to organise a site visit (if possible) for some time between Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week. All other suggestions will be noted in the project plan for future action as the project progresses.

11. Reconciliation Week Events

Flyers on Melton City Council's Reconciliation Week events were distributed to committee members and A Vickery asked that they pass on the details through their networks.

Action

Committee members to pass on information.

12. Updates from community about current events

S Skinner and J Layton asked what more could be done in public spaces, to tell the story of First Nations people of this area. In particular, S Skinner said Hannah Watts Park has a strong shared history between Wadawarrung and Wurundjeri and it would be a benefit to all community to have the story told at the park.

13. General Business

S Gooch raised a concern about the Melton Dawn Service:

- a. No acknowledgement of country was performed, and
- b. No reference to Aboriginal soldiers was present in the Mayor's speech.

Cr Carli said she understood that the RSL ask that acknowledgement not be done and it is their event. Generally then committee members asked if Council could 'push back' on requests such as this, as part of the commitment under the Reconciliation Action Plan Reconciliation Policy Principles No 4.

Action

A Vickery to speak with events and research whether the RSL has a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Cr Carli to raise the concern with fellow Councillors at the next Council briefing.

A Vickery and Cr Carli to report back at the next Committee meeting.

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14. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Next meeting Date: 8 August 2019