



MINUTES

INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 22 May 2019 at 6.30pm at Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub

Present: Cr Bob Turner, Mayor, City of Melton
Robyn Mitchell, Acting Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council
Essan Dileri, Intercultural Development Officer, Melton City Council
Lillian Campos, Service Coordination Officer, Melton City Council
Lynette Dawson, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services
René de Sant'Anna, Odyssey House Victoria
Tutana Bradshaw, Home of Multicultural Exchange (HOME)
David Cowan, Melton Interfaith Network
Deepti Alurkar, Mums Dance Club - Founder and President, Connectwest No
Hunger Community Leadership Program
Hammam Dewanyang, South Sudanese Community
Tigist Kebede, Ethiopian Community
Robert Aduer, South Sudanese Community
Sasee Devaraja, Tamil Ethnic Language School
Amy McDonald, Home of Multicultural Exchange
Asvin Phorunggam, Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC)

Chairperson: Cr Bob Turner, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Chairperson began the meeting with Melton City Council Acknowledgment of Country.

2. Introductions

Chairperson welcomed Committee members.

3. Apologies

Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton (Resigned)
Christina Prakanthan, Natyatharu School of Performing Arts/ Bharathanatya Acharya
Association of Victoria
Vishma Guatam, Nepalese Community in Melton
Gurpreet (Gary) Verma, Vice President Sri Durga Temple
Vonivate Tawase Drui, Fijian Community Association Victoria Inc
Kubir Khanal, Bhutanese Community Melton Inc

4. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil



MINUTES

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

R de Sant'Anna/ D Cowan

That the Committee adopts the minutes of the Intercultural Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 February 2019.

6. Business arising from previous meeting

- J Mutsaerts to send relevant flyers, information sheet and a copy of her presentation to E Dileri to be forwarded onto the Committee members. **Actioned**
- A Phorugngam to send a copy of his presentation to E Dileri to be forwarded onto the Committee members. **Actioned.**
- Committee members to contact E Dileri if their group wants to perform by 15 February 2019. **Actioned.**
- E Dileri to send Harmony Day flyers to the Committee members. **Actioned.**
- E Dileri to invite a Council Officer from Events Team to present information on Council's support to community groups organising events. **Actioned.**
- Committee members to send information and flyers related to their activities to E Dileri to be forwarded onto the Committee. **Actioned.**

7. African Communities Working Group (ACWG)

E Dileri presented a summary of ACWG's last meeting held on 14 May 2019. The tenure of appointment for the ACWG members has expired making this the last meeting of the term. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process is now open, whereby members of the African Australian Community can express their interest in becoming a member of the ACWG.

They had a guest speaker from Kowanj Australia which is a recruitment and training agency that was created in response to the emerging education and employment needs of the African, Arabic and Pacific Islander communities around Melbourne.

The Chairperson, J Trijsburg thanked the ACWG members for their contributions to the working group over the past 2 years and presented each member with a certificate and letter of appreciation.

Action

E Dileri to send the Expression of Interest form to the Committee members.

8. Active Citizenship – Victorian Electoral Commission

A Phorugngam, Electoral Inclusion Officer did the final presentation on Active Citizenship using the model they developed. The overall objective of the model is to empower people with the knowledge and skills to think critically about issues and actively participate in making change within their community, including voting in elections. The model has three prongs. They are Knowledge & Values, Skills, and Actions. Under each prong there are many elements which capture major features of active citizenship.

He focused on three levels of government in Australia which are Federal, State and Local. His presentations covered areas such as the Election Cycles, Houses of Parliament, number of Representatives, different methods of voting and how to vote correctly.



MINUTES

A Phorugngam also mentioned challenges people from diverse backgrounds face in understanding how the voting system works. IAC members will contact A Phorugngam to invite him to present at their community gatherings.

Action

A Phorugngam to send a copy of his presentation to E Dileri to be forwarded on to the Committee members.

9. Intercultural Cities Australasia Summit 2019

E Dileri presented on Intercultural Cities Australasia Summit from 30 July to 1 August 2019. The City of Melton, City of Ballarat and City of Maribyrnong are members of the Intercultural Cities network, convened by the Council of Europe – that continent's leading human rights organisation. Through this network, we connect with other municipalities and initiatives around the world that have committed to:

- promote a pluralistic and inclusive identity through public discourse which embraces the diversity advantage;
- ensure that institutions, neighbourhoods and public space are open and mixed rather than segregated;
- actively build trust between communities and foster shared values by promoting a "we culture" of reciprocity and symmetry in inter-ethnic relations;
- ensure equal access to rights and opportunities for all, also by rendering governing bodies more diverse and making sure all officials and services are culturally competent and that businesses and institutions are capable of managing diversity as an asset.

As part of the Summit, the City of Melton, in collaboration with the City of Ballarat and City of Maribyrnong, will host the Intercultural Cities Australasia Symposium on 31 July, in Caroline Springs 9.00am to 4.30pm.

E Dileri talked about the ticketing categories and mentioned the availability of scholarships for community members and students who cannot afford to purchase tickets for the event. He encouraged Committee members to promote the event in their communities.

Action

E Dileri to send Summit flyer via email to the Committee members.

10. Harmony Day Debrief

E Dileri talked about Council's Harmony Day event on 16 March 2019. He thanked Committee members and their communities who actively contributed to make the day a success.

The day was filled with many great acts performed by local communities. Services providers, Council representatives and community leaders were present to engage with participants. The availability of free food added more fun to the event. Cr Turner commented that it was one of the best Harmony Day events Council ever organised.

11. Other Business

Cr Turner opened the floor for the Committee members to share what is happening in their respective communities.

T Kebede talked about Young African Women's Program focussing on women's health and encouraged Committee members to promote it in their communities.



MINUTES

T Bradshaw and A McDonald talked about Home of Multicultural Exchange's Transition and Infusion Gathering taking place on 21 June 2019. The event will be packed with cultural performances, food and activities for all ages. They invited Committee members to participate and promote it in their communities.

H Dewanyang informed the Committee about a dancing program for young people in his community. He will send more information about the program when it is available.

D Cowan talked about the Bus Tour of Places of Worship on 12 June organised by Melton Interfaith Network and Refugee Week event in partnership with the Melton City Council.

R Aduer talked about African Students Summit on 21 June 2019. The event will focus on health leadership, legal and education themes. The event will take place at the Catholic Regional College in Melton.

L Dawson talked about National Volunteer Week celebration recognising AMEP volunteers.

D Alurkar informed Committee members about Parenting Program for Ethiopian community and Life Coaching Program for Women focussing on financial management and life skills. Both programs are free and organised in partnership with the Taylors Hill Community Centre.

Actions

E Dileri to forward all flyers discussed at the meeting to Committee members.

12. Close of Business and future meeting dates

- 21 August 2019 - Melton Library and Learning Hub
- 2 October 2019 - Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub
- 20 November 2019 - Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.