



# Minutes Multicultural Committee

7 December 2022

## Meeting details

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Date of meeting</b>   | Wednesday, 7 December 2022  |
| <b>Time</b>              | 6.00 – 7.30pm   |
| <b>Venue</b>             | 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough<br>Level 4, Griffin Meeting Room<br>MS Teams |
| <b>Chair/Facilitator</b> | Cr Fiona Mitsinikos   |
| <b>Minutes</b>           | Lisa King   |

## Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

## Inclusive Banyule Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

## Attendee

| <b>Attendee name</b> | <b>Affiliation/Organisation</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Susan Zhou           | Community member                |
| Baljit Singh         | Community member                |
| Mandira Panday       | Community member                |
| Ansum Sadik          | Victoria Police                 |
| Alaa Elzokm          | Heidelberg Mosque               |

## Apologies

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Affiliation/Organisation</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Linda Liwewe               | Community member                |
| Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan | Community member                |
| Louisa Ong                 | Community member                |
| Naaz Fahmida               | Community member                |
| Ginger (Lan) Jiang         | Community member                |
| Samira Liban               | Community member                |
| Albert Fatileh             | Victoria Police                 |

# Items

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## 1. Introduction

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians  
Diversity Statement

## 2. Minutes from pervious meeting

| Agenda Item  | Action Arising  | Progress   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Inclusive Banyule Advisory Committee</b>              | Committee members invited to express interested in joining the Inclusive Banyule Committee as a representative of the Multicultural Committee | Information provided in the October Briefing Paper and minutes. Expressions of interest welcome. |
| <b>Racism and discrimination</b>                         | Environmental scan to identify local actions to address racism and discrimination   | Not yet complete   |
| <b>International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons</b> | Committee members invited to provide feedback to determine if Council should join the ICAN campaign   | Discussed during meeting   |

## 3. Urban Food Strategy Consultation

Jo Wilson led a discussion around the development of Banyule City Council's first Urban Food Strategy. The following is a summary of the discussion.

### Discussion

Where people shop:

- Grocery stores like Coles, Woolworths and Aldi. The major supermarkets are one stop shops that are easy and convenient and can access the food they require.
- The Chinese community purchase from Asian grocery store. They organise a group purchase and place an order each week to buy what the want.
- Farmers Markets are not used as often

Challenges identified:

- Urban food poverty exists in Banyule
- Identifying who in the community is experiencing food insecurity can be challenging but is very important
- There are supply chain issues which make availability of some foods challenging. This has been happening often recently due to the pandemic and weather
- Busy lifestyles make it more difficult to find time to shop around at different places
- People will cut items from their shopping list if they cannot access them from the supermarket

Opportunities:

- Seed sharing - seed banks are available at some local libraries for people to grow food at home
- Opportunities to learn how to grow food could be helpful – short videos, workshops explaining how this can be done, what season things grow best
- Opportunities to learn how to use and cook the produce that is grown at home

- Volunteer programs with young people to help older residents with established fruit trees harvest and share with the community
- Community food swaps – community members bring food to swap with others
- Volunteers cooking meals for seniors in the community who need support. This has occurred in the Mosque and Churches
- Information and education on how to grow food – workshops and events to show people how they can grow food. School holiday events and programs.
- Local community gardens

#### Partnership opportunities:

- In the past, the Mosque has had food deliveries through organisations like Second Bite
- The Somali community will come to the mosque and ask for support when needed.
- Neighbourhood Houses – have done food swaps in the past

## 4. Community Infrastructure Plan Consultation

The consultation was cancelled due to staff illness.

To access the consultation survey or participate in one of the drop-in sessions visit:

<https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/CIP>

## 5. Standing Agenda Items

### Harmony Week 2023

A time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. The week focuses on inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Harmony Day is 21<sup>st</sup> March and Harmony Week is celebrated around that period.

### Discussion

#### Project proposal for celebrating Harmony Week:

- Create a video project which captures stories of members of the community and provide opportunities for them to tell stories in their own voice. This idea builds on the idea from 2022.
- The video project could capture community members cooking, preparing and sharing food that is important to their family.
- The project could be filmed at the Bellfield Hub which has a commercial kitchen on site.
- The Bellfield Kindergarten and older adults groups who use the space and could be part of the project.
- The Harmony Day opportunity should invite members of the community to come together. A diverse cross section of the community all coming together to share stories and food.
- There can be opportunities for members of the Multicultural Committee to share their stories along with the Harmony Week event.
- Recipes and stories relating to the food could be share more broadly with the community and Harmony Week events.
- Kitchen table talks – why this food or dish is important. Members of the community could be invited to come in and cook for each other and share food.
- Members of the committee felt it was important to make a statement as part of the recognition of Harmony Week that acknowledges the current world issues that have an impact on members of Australia's multicultural community.
- Investigate the possibility of the event becoming a fundraiser.

## Action

Lisa King to follow up about other Harmony Week events planned locally

Lisa King to continue planning the event and send updates to committee members

## Welcome pack for refugees

### Discussion

Information is often only provided in English, this can be a barrier to many refugees accessing information

Visa officer are often the first contact for many people arriving in Australia. They regularly provide help, advice and information about accessing services, enrolling school, childcare, renting etc

Furniture and material aid is required by many people arriving in Australia

## Action

Lisa King to make contact with Spectrum Migrant Resource and Migrant Resource Centre to understand the services and information currently available and identify gaps in information available.

## Days of significance calendar

### Action

Lisa King to speak to team developing the days of significant calendar and ask for Eid Al-Adha to be added

## 6. Other business

### Update from Council

Mayoral elections were held in November and the new Mayor is Cr Peter Castaldo and the Deputy Mayor is Alida McKern.

### Advisory Committee survey

Committee members are invited to complete a short survey to help us gain insight into your experience on the Multicultural Committee to date.

<https://forms.office.com/r/V3GjXAnueD>

### Meeting dates for 2023

- 15 February 2023
- 19 April 2023
- 21 June 2023

## The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in more than one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

ICAN outline that nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. They invite governments to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This agreement prohibits the use, production, possession, threat of use and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.

The ICAN Cities Appeal is the mechanism by which councils can participate in the nuclear weapons debate. The ICAN Cities Appeal is a global call from cities and towns in support of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

### **Recommendation**

The Multicultural Committee supports Banyule City Council to become a signatory of ICAN Cities Appeal.

## **7. Close and date of next meeting**

15 February 2023