

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 21 June 2023
Time	6:00 – 7:30pm
Venue	Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, Community Meeting Room 1 – Upper Ground
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Fiona Mitsinikos
Minutes	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.”

Diversity 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

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Louisa Ong	Community member
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Melina Linardatos	Community member
Alaa Elzokm	Heidelberg Mosque
Ansum Sadik	Victoria Police

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Naaz Fahmida	Community member

1. Introduction 6.00 – 6:10pm – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
Diversity Statement

A quorum was not reached at this meeting due to attendance numbers.

Cr Mitsinikos acknowledged this meeting falls within Refugee Week (20 – 26 June 2023)

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees and celebrate positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country.

The 2023 – 2025 theme is finding freedom

To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail. Everyday millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream.

Cr Mitsinikos congratulated Sheikh Alaa who received the Order of Australia Medal in the general division on the King's Birthday this month. Sheikh Alaa was awarded this for his service to the Islamic community.

2. Minutes from previous meeting 6.10 – 6.15pm – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Days of significance calendar	Check if calendar is available on Council's website Naw Ruz included on calendar	In progress
Support for Older Tamil speaking community members	Lisa to link Raj with Kim Phu	Completed
Understanding racism research project	Lisa to engage with Vic University	In progress
June meeting – Refugee Week	Lisa to invite member of the Afghan National Women's Football team to speak	Completed

3. Consultation 6.15 – 6.30pm – Jane Nixon

Inclusive Employment Program

Jane Nixon from the Inclusive Enterprise and Local Jobs team at Banyule joined the meeting to discuss the existing program, proposed changes and opportunities to further support diverse communities struggling with access to employment. See Briefing Paper for details.

Discussion

Inclusive employment program comments, questions and suggestions:

- What does Banyule do to support a person to write an application? Are there options for a candidate to call Council and directly discuss employment opportunities through the program?
- Do candidates have support or flexibility for clothing options and work wear? Finding appropriate and affordable office wear can be a barrier for some job seekers. Does the project create a safe environment for people to ask about clothing choices.
- How is the program promoted in the community? Is it promoted through employment service providers, Shop 48 and social media? Are there opportunities to promote through English language schools and secondary schools?
- The current wording on eligibility was unclear. Does an applicant need to be both aged 18-25 and have identity with one of the specified identities?
- Is speaking English a requirement for the program?
- Have you engaged with Settlement Services – they provide short courses for tips for employment for newly arrived members of the community

4. Malahang Festival 6.30 – 6.45pm – Lisa King

The Malahang Festival returns on Sunday 12 November 2023, 10am – 4pm at Malahang Reserve Heidelberg West.

Discussion

The committee discussed the upcoming event and provided the following feedback and suggestions:

- the inclusion of water stations at the event is very important
- Plans, maps, and timetables can help people see what is happening at different times and can help people plan their visit
- Parking is always a challenge and can be a barrier for attendance. Are there other transport options like a shuttle bus from train station or other central location?
- Safety of children at the event – seen at other events is a wrist band that children can be given when they enter with their phone number in case they are separated from their parent.
- Victoria Police are happy to be involved and be present at the event – community engagement opportunity for them to allow children to sit in a police car and flash the lights etc.
- Include activities that engage and interest teenagers at the festival
- An opportunity to engage members of the Afghan Women's Team (soccer) at the festival – come and try event, skills

5. Guest speaker – 6.45 – 7.15pm – Mursal Sadat

Fatima Mursal Sadat and 4 other members of the Afghanistan Women's National Soccer team attended the meeting to share their experiences coming to Australia as refugees.

Mursal began playing soccer in 2017 and played until the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2022. Mursal and members of the team came to Australia on humanitarian visas during the evacuation. They had to leave their families and travel alone. Mursal is currently living in Melbourne and playing for the Afghan Melbourne Victory.

Mursal is working as a junior designer and is a full-time student. She studied a diploma of Graphic Design in Afghanistan. She now has permanent residency status.

For more information on the Afghan Women's Team and how to support them:

<https://awtfootball.com/>

<https://melbournevictory.com.au/awt-hub>

To attend games, the fixture can be found here:

https://websites.mygameday.app/round_info.cgi?action=MATCH&fixture=72409721&c=0-8746-206412-620589-26963895&pool=0

The next game is:

Melbourne Victory FC AWT (Afghan Women's Team) Vs Alphington FC

Location: Ron Barassi Snr Reserve 1

Date: Sunday 9 Jul

Time: 3:00pm

The areas identified during the discussion where these women and other refugees would benefit from more support include:

- Greater access to trauma counselling
- More employment opportunities
- Improved educational pathways
- Support that goes further than just media coverage

6. Standing Agenda Item 7.15 – 7:20pm – Cr Fiona Mitsinikos and Lisa King

Information share for committee members

Eid Al Adah will be celebrated on 28 June.

Eid al Adha the second and the largest of the two main holidays celebrated in Islam and the day is significant because it marks the climax of Hajj or Pilgrimage, the fifth pillar of Islam.

Refugee Week

The refugee week event was held at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub on Saturday 24 June.

7. Council updates 7.20 – 7.30 – Lisa King

Joint Committee Yarning Circle

A chance to come together meet members from all Council committees to discuss the upcoming referendum.

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2023

Time: Dinner from 6.30pm

Yarning Circle 7 – 8:30pm

Location: Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place, 65 Catalina Street, Heidelberg West

Citizenship Ceremony

Banyule City Council held a Citizenship Ceremony on 7 June 2023.

141 adults and 18 children receive their citizenship.

There were conferees from 45 different countries:

- 36 from India
- 16 from United Kingdom
- 17 from Iran
- 9 from Vietnam
- 8 from South Africa
- The oldest conferee 81 years of age (from Vietnam)

8. Any other business 7.30 – Lisa King

Upcoming Council event

Voice to Parliament Referendum - panel discussion

Held on Thursday, 29 June 2023 at Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

9. Close and date of next meeting

16 August 2023