



Minutes Multicultural Committee

21 August 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 21 August 2024
Time	6.00 – 7.30pm
Venue	Clara Southern Room – Level 1 Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub
Chair/Facilitator	Cr Peter Castaldo
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.”

No quorum was reached for this meeting due to attendance.

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Peter Castaldo	Councillor
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Louisa Ong	Community member
Martha Perilla Gomez	Community member
Pavithra Manivannan	Community member
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Ansum Sadik	Victoria Police

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Jerome (Jerry) Winston	Community member/Banyule Interfaith Network
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Alaa Elzokm	Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque

Guest speaker

Name	Affiliation/Organisation

Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Sherryn Prinzi	Acting Manage Resilient and Connected Communities
Lisa King	Community and Social Planner

Items

1. Introduction 6.00

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

Members invited to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Inclusive Banyule - Action 2.3 We will review and update the information on Council's website to ensure it is relevant and useful for multicultural communities.	Lisa King will present the proposed wireframe of the website to be shared with the Committee during the June meeting.	Presented during meeting with notes provided by Committee
Community workshops on racism	Feedback provided in Briefing Paper	Complete
Honorarium to committee members who have attended 60% or more of the meetings between September 2023 and September 2024	In progress If members have not provided notice on their preferred honorarium, please speak to Lisa King	Committee members to contact Lisa King with details of preferred honorarium
Proposed Committee Policy and Code of Conduct	Documents provided with minutes from June meeting. Item to be discussed during meeting	Presented during meeting with notes provided by Committee
Inclusive Banyule – Harmony Day	Feedback results from Harmony Day event provided in Briefing Paper	Complete
Review of Mayoral speech notes used at Citizenship Ceremony to connect people with community connections in Banyule	Lisa King to speak to Council Governance team who prepare speaking notes for the Citizenship Ceremony to include information about connecting community.	In progress
New committee members receive appropriate induction to the committee and consider member	Lisa King to develop a process of collecting information from incoming committee members to be used to develop profiles	In progress

profiles to be included in briefing papers to keep members informed

Consider planning international Yoga Day event in June 2025.	Lisa King to speak to Council's Sport and Recreation team to discuss partnership around delivering an event for International Yoga Day in June 2025.	In progress
Other business	Committee members and community members invited to complete an online survey from WaterMarc to better understand community needs in regard to swimming and recreation activities.	Presented during meeting and community invited to complete the survey
Information share for committee members	Lisa King to discuss with relevant teams to include Puthandu, Tamil New Year, to be added to Council's days of cultural and religious calendar.	In Progress New additions will be addressed in Nov 2024

Discussion

WaterMarc are seeking further information from the community to better understand community needs regarding swimming and water safety programs for children and adults.

WaterMarc currently offer Women's Only Swim nights and is keen to hear of other ideas from the community to ensure that members of Banyule's multicultural community can participate. Committee members are encouraged to complete the survey and share it with any of their networks. It was noted that this year recorded a record number of drownings in Australia and there is a need to increase the focus on lessons for children and adults alike.

The Committee noted the private swimming pools in Banyule for further conversations regarding lessons and water safety.

Member noted experiencing long waiting lists for swimming lessons in Banyule.

3. Inclusive Banyule

Action 2.3 We will review and update the information on Council's website to ensure it is relevant and useful for multicultural communities.

Presentation on proposed website structure. See Briefing Paper.

Discussion

After presenting the proposal for re-structuring information on Council's website, the committee were invited to comment. One member suggested a Chat Bot should be on the page to help navigate. Members commented that the model was useful and noted that information on how to access local and public health services including virtual Emergency Departments information should be added.

4. Committee priorities

1. We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of multicultural communities through events, advocacy and days of celebration. This will include sharing strengths-based stories of people with lived experience. Days of celebration include:
 - Harmony Day
 - World Yoga
 - Refugee Week
 - Diwali

Discussion

The Committee requested more involvement with Youth Services to provide greater opportunities for young people.

Advised to refer to interfaith network to provide advice on days of significance.

Advised to add a link to a broader range of days of significance.

Advised to find ways to generate more reach of multicultural events, noting Council will work in partnership with other teams and organisations to get a broader reach.

Noted that Harmony Day has lost its original focus on the elimination of racial discrimination.

Council noted that demographic data on suburbs is used during planning and events are planned in communities where there are concentrations of cultural groups.

2. We will continue to work in collaboration with the community and key stakeholders to understand local experiences of racism.
 - Share Victoria University's (VU) Understanding Barriers and Support Needs for those Experiencing Racism report with the community through a Community Conversation session.
 - Implement recommended actions as outlined in VU report:
 - o Promote the Victorian Equal Opportunity Human Rights Commission's online Community Reporting Tool.
 - o Development of an anti-racism booklet with key information about anti-racism protection, reporting pathways and support services.
 - o Facilitate conversations with shopping centres around anti-racism projects.
 - Create opportunities for community conversation on how to address racism in the Banyule Community.

Discussion

The Committee noted that world events can quickly impact the community and exacerbate racism. Reports from overseas can change the way people interact in the community. Media is reported to be contributing to the problem.

Committee member noted that it is dependent on how long a person has been in Australia. Changing the mindset of people is challenging, need to build stronger connections to overcome cultural barriers.

Schools to be delivering education, and ensuring they get the messages correct.

5. Committee Terms of Reference

Committee invited to discuss the purpose statement and objectives in the Terms of Reference and propose updates.

Discussion

The Committee agreed that the committee is still relevant.

Cr Castaldo noted that many consultations are available on Shaping Banyule <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/>

The committee feels it is more important to provide direct feedback and therefore consultation opportunities during Committee meetings is important.

It was noted that there is an under representation of multicultural communities gathering feedback from events and activities.

6. Thank you and farewells

Discussion

Councillor Castaldo noted it is important to stand up and advocate for multicultural communities, and it is important to the culture of Banyule. It is important to continue getting as much rich information as possible from the community.

Final reflections from committee members:

Wishing for no further conflict in Israel and Palestine and hope we can continue to focus on important community issues beyond roads, rubbish and rates. Want to continue to rely on local government to provide support and are on par with community ideals and concerns.

Cr Castaldo thanked Lisa and Jo for their work with the committee over the term.

Meeting closed 7.36pm