



Minutes Multicultural Committee

21 February 2024

Meeting details

Date of meeting Wednesday, 21 February 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.”

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule City Council
Cr Fiona Mitsinikos	Banyule City Council
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Melina Linardatos	Community member
Martha Perilla Gomez	Community member
Pavithra Manivannan	Community member
Jerome (Jerry) Winston	Community member/Banyule Interfaith Network
Alaa Elzokm	Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Louisa Ong	Community member
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Rekah Colaco	Community member
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Bevan Toerien	Spectrum

Guest speaker

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
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Jo Wilson	Manager Resilient & Connected Communities
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Lisa King	Community and Social Planner
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Nicole Waldron	Sport & Recreation Liaison Officer
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Niki Efstratiou	Community Infrastructure Planner
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Items

1. Introduction 6.00 – 6:20 – Cr Peter Castaldo

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

Diversity Statement

The Multicultural Committee welcomed two new members:

- Martha Perilla Gomez – Community member
- Jerome (Jerry) Winston – Community member and Banyule Interfaith Network

The Multicultural Committee thanked and farewelled Hosein Gharavi who has stepped down as a member of the committee.

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

Orthodox Christmas – 7 January

Celebrated by Eastern Orthodox Churches that use the Julian Calendar.

Lunar New Year – 10 February

2024 is the Year of the Dragon.

Upcoming days of significance:

Ramadan begins – 9 March

Ramadan is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection and community.

Holi – 25 March

Holi is known as the Festival of Colours and signifies the triumph of good over evil.

2. Minutes from previous meeting – Cr Peter Castaldo

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Understanding racism research project	Survey promotion	Update provided during meeting
Harmony Day 2024	Feedback from Committee Members	Update provided in meeting by 12 November

3. Consultation – 6.20 – 6.40pm – Nicole Waldron and Niki Efstratiou

Sport and Recreation plays a key role in the Health and Well-being of our community and contributes significantly to the delivery of Council's vision and key strategic objectives.

The current Recreation Plan 2017 – 2021 has expired and the development of a new Sport and Recreation Plan is identified as a key action in the current Community Plan- 2023/2024.

Discussion

Recreation opportunities identified by committee:

- Yoga
- Meditation
- Pilates
- Walking groups
- Pickleball – suitable for older adults
- Clinical Pilates – very beneficial but very expensive
- Badminton – Many individuals in the Chinese community enjoy this sport. La Trobe University has a Badminton Club that hosts competitions.
- Soccer – is of interest to the Chinese community. Interested in regular training opportunities.
- Need to have more unstructured activities available that provide women with the opportunity to socially connect and improve physical health and mental wellbeing. Women only group that cater for different needs, for example mothers.

Are there any barriers to participation?

- Many people were not encouraged to participate in sport and recreation activities as children.
- Some people are embarrassed to try new activities as an adult or as a beginner. Sport and Recreation providers could offer a “come and try session” of soccer for example. Being in a team offers many benefits.
- Many activities are inaccessible to community members who work during the day. There are not as many activities available in the evenings or weekends that are non-structured.
- Mornings are not suitable for everyone - would prefer afternoon activities on the weekends.
- Different responsibilities and life experiences have a significant impact on availability to participate in sport and recreation activities. For example, people who work are not available during the day, need to consider the needs of older adults and people with disability and their responsibilities.
- Providing childcare can help parents who care for children to increase participation.
- Can increase recreation opportunities and participation of women from culturally and religious diverse backgrounds by:
 - Having women only teams/recreation activities.
 - Providing cultural awareness training to sport and recreation providers to provide better support to women and address barriers. The Heidelberg Mosque offered support with this.

- Difficult to find up to date information on sport and recreation providers and activities. This is a significant barrier to participation.
 - In addition to making the information available on Council's website, partnerships with the business community could be established to distribute information on sport and recreation providers. For e.g. list of groups who deliver bowling or roller skating.
- Primary schools no longer organize swimming lessons – more pressure on providers such as Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre and Watermarc to deliver these activities.
 - Families have reported difficulties accessing swimming lessons for children

4. Annual Committee Survey

Committee members are asked to spend five minutes responding to the annual committee survey, with the results to be used to report to Council on the effectiveness of this committee.

<https://forms.office.com/r/zqikPB4jGP>

5. Inclusive Banyule – 6.40 – 7.10pm – Lisa King

Action 2.9 We will continue to elevate visibility and awareness of multicultural communities through events, advocacy and days of celebration.

Harmony Day event 2024

Event date has been changed to Saturday 20 April 2024.

Location: Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

Time: 12.00 – 4.00pm

Event overview:

The Harmony Day event will have three components:

- **Market stalls** – currently collecting expressions of interest from interested sellers, priority will be given to members of the multicultural community. For anyone interested in having a stall, please complete the EO: <https://forms.office.com/r/4hSaAvhU1E>
- **Community connections** – Currently identifying local groups, organisations who are interested in connecting with the community to share what they do or how people can get involved. The aim of this will be to build social connections. Please contact Lisa King to discuss opportunities.
- **Performance** – currently identifying groups and individuals to perform during the event. Draft timetable:

12.00pm – multicultural playlist

12.15pm – First support (youth performer)

12.55pm – multicultural playlist

1.10pm – Second support (youth performer)

1.50pm – Multicultural playlist

2.00pm – MC welcome

2.00pm – Welcome to Country
2.10pm – Mayor/Councillor to speak
2.20pm – Digeridoo performance
2.40pm – YPRL story time opportunity/Somali dance performance
3.00pm – Lion dance performance
3.20pm – Taste of India Darebin performance

- With each group or performance, the MC will introduce the group and provide some information about the cultural history or significance of the performance.
- Council will host a space in the community connections area and share information about Council services. We will also have a world map and invite community members to contribute to the map by placing a dot on the country where they or their family were born.
- Council will create a visual display to show information about Banyule’s cultural diversity and migration over time.

Opportunities for promotion of event:

- Banyule Banner
- Banyule Council electronic newsletters
- Social media through Council, Yarra Plenty Regional Library including local community social media groups
- Printed flyers to be distributed and put in window of local shops
- Shared through local partners and networks
- Shared through local kindergartens, schools

Local groups to contact for engagement in the event:

- Banyule Interfaith Network – completed
- Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group – completed
- Reconciliation Action Plan committee – will be shared by the RAP Contact Officer
- Banyule District Scouts – completed

Ideas shared by the committee:

- Committee members to facilitate a story time session in their language. Samira offered to do this in Somali, if any other members want to read a children’s story in their language, please contact Lisa King.
- Encourage people to attend wearing traditional dress.
- Host round table discussion opportunities during the event for people to talk and learn about different topics.

Multicultural Exhibition

Exhibition update: Banyule’s Art Curator was unable to proceed with the original idea of an exhibition of music and has pivoted the idea. The exhibition called Together: Celebrating our diverse cultures.

The exhibition will embrace our diverse culture by celebrating significant dates and cultural observances. The exhibition will highlight some of these dates to help the community experience the breadth and beauty of the diversity.

21 March – 14 April 2024

Details of the exhibition launch will be shared with the Committee.

Action 2.7 We will participate in a research project with Victoria University to understand reporting barriers and support needs of people experiencing racism.

All required data was collected at the end of 2023. Currently awaiting the local area report for Banyule which will be reviewed and used as part of a more comprehensive report on experiences of racism and actions for Banyule. A Banyule report is being prepared and will be shared once completed.

Action

Lisa King to follow up the opportunity for Victoria University to report back to the committee at the April meeting.

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

Item deferred to the April meeting.

6. Any other business – 7.10pm – Cr Castaldo

The committee discussed the preferred location of meetings. Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub was identified as a preferred location for the majority of people present at the meeting, however there was some interest to hold meetings in Greensborough. The committee will continue to discuss preferred meeting location and make online access available at all future meetings.

7. Information share for committee members 7.10 – 7.30pm – All

A committee member raised concerns about current conflict in Palestine and Israel and asked how this issue could be brought to Council. There were further discussions around Banyule Council's position on this issue. The Committee were informed that Council is considering its position. Council understands that there are complexities to this situation that are currently being reviewed. Council is supportive of all diverse communities.

Action

Lisa King to provide updates to committee as they are available.

8. Close and date of next meeting

- 17 April 2024 – Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, Clara Southern Room.
- 19 June 2024
- 21 August 2024