



# Minutes Multicultural Committee

29 November 2023

## Meeting details

**Date of meeting** Wednesday, 29 November 2023

**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
Jeyarajah (Raj) Ramanathan	Community member
Samira Liban	Community member
Melina Linardatos	Community member
Pavithra Manivannan	Community member
Ansum Sadik	Victoria Police
Bevan Toerien	Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre

## Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Albert Fatileh	Victoria Police
Ginger (Lan) Jiang	Community member
Louisa Ong	Community member
Hosein Gharavi	Community member
Rekah Colaco	Community member

Martha Perilla Gomez	Community member
Alaa Elzokm	Elsedeaq Heidelberg Mosque

## Guest speaker

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Paty Galan	Banyule City Council

## Council staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Georgie Meyer	Manager Inclusive & Creative Communities
Lisa King	Banyule City Council

## Items

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

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians  
Diversity Statement

Due to attendance numbers, a quorum was not reached for this meeting.

Council acknowledged the recent and upcoming days of cultural and religious significance.

- Diwali celebrated on 12 November 2023
- Hanukkah – celebrated between 7-15 December
- Bodhi Day – celebrated 8 December
- Christmas Day – celebrated 25 December

A new Chairperson and four new committee members were welcomed to the Multicultural Committee.

- Cr Peter Castaldo – Multicultural Committee Chair
- Rekah Colaco – Community member
- Martha Perilla Gomez – Community member
- Pavithra Manivannan – Community member
- Bevan Toerien – Organisational representative – Spectrum

### 2. Minutes from previous meeting – Cr Peter Castaldo

Agenda Item	Action Arising	Progress
Understanding racism research project	Survey promotion	Update provided during meeting
New days added to the calendar	Lisa to investigate further	In progress
Harmony Day 2024	Feedback from Committee Members Update provided in meeting by 12 November	

### 3. Consultation – 6.20 – 6.40pm – Paty Galan

Banyule's **Public Realm Strategy** is a plan to make our public spaces better. It's the first Strategy of its kind in Banyule and will help us to create great public spaces that are more enjoyable and functional, help to boost community wellbeing and economic development, and improve our overall quality of life.

#### Discussion

What committee members felt were important in public spaces:

- Café culture, eating and drinking outdoors on the street
- Have trees and shade coverage
- Access to places to sit
- Spaces for people watching
- Access to great outdoor space
- Access to bike pathway that allow you to travel in different directions across the municipality, not just into the city
- Access to more bike pump stations around the municipality – for example needed in West Heidelberg
- Spaces that are designed for people to come together like European cities
- Spaces that are engaging for kids and older people
- More access to drinking water taps
- Clean space for people to get together
- Larger all ability, adventure playground spaces like Nillumbik
- Access to parking near public spaces, for example limited parking at Ford Park
- A centralised area where information can be shared and a place to go and a place for community to gather.
- Bigger parks and playground spaces with cafes, water, toilets where people can come together

Public areas in Banyule which can be improved:

- Bell Street Mall – the paving is uneven, many shops are closed and not operating, the area feels unpleasant and uninviting.
- Library spaces closer to Greensborough, similar to ILCH with the same opportunities
- Access to bathrooms when visiting local parks – members have experienced locked bathrooms near War Memorial Park, Greensborough
- Cycling paths are important however many go into the city but not across - it was noted that accessing funding to build more cross paths is challenging
- The playground at Kalparin Garden is old and could benefit from an upgrade

Examples of good public spaces:

- Great spaces along Darebin Creek
- Northland Shopping Centre – the upgrades to the centre are very good, especially the front entrance. The inclusion of quiet rooms, outdoor spaces for eating and places for children to play
- Greensborough War Memorial Parks – it is a small park but is good public space
- Watsonia library and Diamond Valley – they offer good events and outdoor garden spaces
- ILCH is great space and size and they have lots of events and opportunities
- Ford Park and Malahang Park are great parks in Banyule – but there are limited opportunities on the Greensborough side of the municipality
- There are examples of great places for people to come together around Lalor, Reservoir and opposite Rosanna station.

Experiences of exclusion in spaces in Banyule:

- No experiences of exclusion

- Members reported feeling uncomfortable in play spaces outside of Banyule as the park was taken over by large groups. People felt less welcome to spend time there.

The Committee wanted to note that old places have memories and beauty. Members reported missing the old Ivanhoe Library, they liked the different levels and quiet spaces that were available.

To add more feedback on the Public Realm Strategy, please visit: <https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PublicRealm>

## 4. Inclusive Banyule – 6.40 – 7.10pm – Lisa King

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

Project update provided to Committee.

- 2 of 4 focus group sessions have been held and recordings sent to Victoria University for analysis.
- The final 2 peer facilitators are undergoing their training and organising their focus groups to be held in December.
- We have received 44 responses to the online survey as of 10 December. Promotion continues until we reach the minimum response rate of 50.

Committee members are invited to promote the community survey with their community, families and networks.

[https://vuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9YK4MGjAhvFYji6](https://vuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YK4MGjAhvFYji6)

Promotion of the survey will happen through Council's social media on Human Rights Day (10 December).

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

### Harmony Day 2024

Based on the feedback received during the October 2023 meeting, the theme for the Harmony Day art exhibit will focus on music from different cultures - **Harmony Exhibition 2024**, an exhibition celebrating the music of the different cultures of Banyule.

### Discussion

- Consider the inclusion of young children in the planning – face painting, henna artists
- Consider the use of non-typical performers in the event, for example different types of Indian dancing and not Bollywood style
- Multicultural Committee member identified interest in joining a working group to help plan Harmony Day 2024
- other members are welcome to express interest

### Action

Melina to send details of local choir – completed

Raj to send details of musician – completed

Note for future community events and festivals planned by Council:

Check proposed dates against days of significance calendar to ensure there is no clash. This year Malahang was held on the same day as Diwali which meant many community members could not attend.

**Action 2.10** We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for multicultural communities.

An action within Inclusive Banyule: We will review the Inclusive Business Guides to support businesses to uplift inclusive practice for multicultural communities.

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. Will be discussed at the February 2024 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.

Council's Multicultural and refugee and asylum seeker webpages will be updated as per an action within Inclusive Banyule. The committee provided suggestions and feedback previously which will be incorporated into the plan.

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. Will be discussed at the February 2024 meeting.

**International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – previous recommendation 7 December 2022**

Banyule has been invited by Merri-bek City Council to consider a joint action could potentially yield significant influence over our government's policies concerning nuclear weapons. Merri-bek has been contacting other councils that have endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal with the intention of combining our efforts.

Merri-bek City Council have asked if Banyule are open to sign a joint statement based on this:

<https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/my-council/news-and-publications/news/merri-bek-city-council-is-a-nuclear-free-zone/>

#### **Discussion**

- This recommendation came from the Multicultural Committee demonstrating the Committee's potential to make recommendations to Council.
- Committee members discussed the significance of this campaign, how it can create an opportunity for policy influence, sharing Council's views and sharing information to inform the community

## **5. Any other business – 7.10 – 7.15pm – Cr Castaldo**

The Mayoral elections were held on Monday 13 November. Cr Tom Melican was elected Mayor and Cr Rick Garotti was elected Deputy Mayor. To read more about the Mayor's priorities and focus for the 2023/24 term visit [www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Election23](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Election23).

## **6. Information share for committee members 7.15 – 7.30pm – All**

Identification of proactive support for Banyule's multicultural Community.

#### **Discussion**

Topics identified and discussed briefly included:

- Support for young people in the community around alcohol and other drugs
- Theft in the community
- Community safety – speeding

## 7. Close and date of next meeting

- 21 February 2024
- 17 April 2024
- 19 June 2024
- 21 August 2024