

Subject:	Multicultural Working Group	Page 1 of 6
File No:	CLR/22/60/6	
Document Ref:	D23/18686	
Venue:	TEAMS and Top Ryde Councillors Meeting Room	
Date:	Thursday 9 th February 2023	
Time:	6.00pm	Started at: 6.08 pm Closed at: 7.17 pm
Chair:	Sue Verhoek - Senior Coordinator Community Services	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Jennie Dang - Community Development Officer – Cultural Diversity	
Circulation:	Working Group members and website	

Committee Role:**Committee Members as per the Terms of Reference**

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Sarkis Yedelian OAM	Mayor and Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Trenton Brown	Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Daniel Han	Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Agnes Shim	Community Representative	
x		Anthony Ching	Community Representative	
x		Hassib Elias OAM	Community Representative	
	x	Gary Patni	Community Representative	
x		Angelina Bonifacio	Community Representative	
x		Roseanna Gallo	Community Representative	
	x	Chavalin Svetanant	Community Representative	
x		Leechan Zhang	Community Representative	
	x	Lydia Scuglia	Community Representative	
	x	Rose Torrosian	Community Representative	
	x	Kevin Pagaddinnimath	Community Representative	
	x	Geeta Rani	Community Representative	
x		Leon Li	Community Representative	
x		Alberto Machionne	Community Representative	
x		Tony Tang	Community Representative	
x		Raj Raman	Community Representative	
		Bin Lin	Community Representative	
		Harvey Ng	Community Representative	
		Kitty Ng	Community Representative	
		Viola Lo	Community Representative	

x		Balu Moothedath	Community Representative	
	x	Neda Jovasevic	Community Representative	
		George Wu	Community Representative	

City of Ryde Staff

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Sue Verhoek	Senior Coordinator Community Services	City of Ryde
x		Jennie Dang	Community Development Officer – Cultural Diversity	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde
x		Matilda Wong	Programs Librarian – Volunteers and Multicultural	City of Ryde
x		Tania Gamble	Team Leader Community Grants & Direct Services	City of Ryde

Details**Action**

1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p><u>Acknowledgment of Country</u></p> <p>Sue Verhoek provided the Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed all present.</p> <p>Sue also acknowledged the attendance of the Mayor, Councillor Yedelian and Councillors Brown and Han.</p> <p>The attendees and apologies are, as per the details above.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Adoption of minutes – 10th November 2022</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held on 10 November 2022 were adopted.</p> <p>Clr Brown sought context, beyond the minutes, regarding the item from the last meeting on community harmony.</p> <p>Further discussion on this matter was held in general business.</p>	Noted Moved by Tony Tang and seconded by Roseanna Gallo
3.	<p>Actions from previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jennie to send out upcoming events (November-January) to the members. Completed. - Members to send ideas or suggestions for Harmony Day to Jennie. Balu suggested a tea ceremony. - Further updates from Council regarding the sculpture in Santa Rosa Park and Macquarie University relic restoration. The following updates were provided: 	Noted Any further suggestions to be sent to Jennie.

	Details	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angelina has sent through information re the memory posts for the Italian and other market gardeners. - Wording for the post in Santa Rosa Park to recognise the Italian Market Gardeners, is being finalised, Angelina has been speaking with Sue to finalise wording etc - A location within the park is being considered by Council's Parks team. The post will then be manufactured and a time frame for installation will become apparent. - Naming of the plaza in Coxs Road– The signpost is currently being manufactured and the area will be known as Piazza Bietola. The type of sign is very similar to that suggested by the Italian Migrants of Ryde Committee. - Discussions are ongoing with Macquarie University regarding the restoration of the relics with a suggestion that a conservation management plan is developed. 	
4.	<p>MyAus App from The Social Policy Group</p> <p>The following presentation was made by Ine Beerens from the Social Policy Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A free app for use by new migrants and refugees has been created. The app is supported by the Department of Home Affairs, led by the Social Policy Group. - The App is designed to assist people who move to Australia to access information they may need in a simple way. - The app provides a resource for people to use in their own language and provides all information they might need as new residents. - There are 16 categories so people can easily find what they are looking for including Centrelink, government support, healthcare, children’s sports programs etc. - Available in 16 languages including Farsi and Swahili - Qualified translators and people known to the policy group test the language used to make sure it is understandable - Information is practical including housing, accommodation and renting, financial support, domestic violence etc. - The aim of the App is for people to self-navigate their journey on arrival in Australia. - A digital team regularly updates the information to ensure it is accurate and current. - Balu noted lots of scams are happening at present and could scam links be provided on the App, as many new migrants are targeted. This will be investigated by the Social Policy Group. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Jennie to promote the App through the community networks and to the Working Group members.</p>

	Details	Action
5.	<p>International Women’s Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IWD event will be held from 9.00am - 12.00pm on Saturday, 11 March at North Ryde School of Arts. - There will be several guest speakers and performers including Mrs Chung will speak on equity and resilience and her journey to Australia from North Korea and Kylie Van Luyn, a motivational speaker who will present on how women can embrace equity in both the community and. - Morning tea will be provided by a local women’s social enterprise Kabul to you. - There will also be a comedian and an interactive drumming session. - There are also two workshops including Dress for Success and Galmatic Car Maintenance. 	<p>Details to be sent out regarding IWD.</p> <p>Workshops to be promoted in the Mayoral column</p>
6.	<p>Review of Lunar New Year Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tony Tang provided an overview of the 2023 Lunar New Year including that it was a resounding success. - Council’s Events Team and the Lunar New Year Committee worked together to organise the event. - The Committee coordinated the stage program and raised \$70,000 from sponsors. - The Committee came together from different backgrounds including Italian, Indian, Malaysian Chinese, Chinese and Korean. - The Committee started with four people many years ago with an inaugural budget of \$2,000. - The committee will submit a report to Council with suggestions for the 2024 event. 	<p>Sue thanked Tony and the Committee for their efforts and Council’s Events Team.</p> <p>The Mayor echoed the above sentiments and thanked everyone on the Committee.</p>
7.	<p>Council’s Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors Festival will be held in February 2023. - Harmony Day will be held from 1.30 to 3.30pm on Saturday, 18 March 23 at West Ryde Plaza. The event will include cultural performances and activities for children. Flyers have been translated into simple Chinese, Korean and Arabic. - Neighbour Day will be held at Lachlan’s Line to encourage the residents to connect and get to know their neighbours. - Youth Week will be held during April 23 including a skate jam, film festival, employment workshops, etc - Refugee Week will be held In June 23. The program is still being arranged including a community expo with organisations and government departments invited to provide information to the public and a guest speaker. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Event flyers to be sent to working group members for distribution to their networks.</p> <p>Ideas for suitable activities sought from Working Group members</p> <p>Hassib suggested that people from Syria and Iraq to provide songs, music, food etc. to represent their culture.</p>

Details	Action
<p>Earthquake in Turkey/Aleppo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that many people in Aleppo have been affected by the earthquake and that some people living in Aleppo are Armenians with relatives in Ryde. The number of casualties will be higher than reported, as many people are living in refugee camps near the epicentre and these people are not included in the official numbers. - Council is looking for ways to assist both financially and social. 	
<p>8. Upcoming Events/Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matilda advised that Council will be hosting “Vote Talk” at Eastwood and West Ryde libraries on the 07 and 14 March 23. The talks will be in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. - The speakers will be from the Electoral Commission and will explain to participants how to vote and how to make their vote count. 	<p>The event will be promoted through Council’s website</p>
<p>9. General Business</p> <p>Meeting attendance and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working group members are required to send Jennie an apology via email/call/text message if they are unable to attend the meeting. Sending a decline meeting without an apology will not be accepted. <p>Item raised by Clr Brown arising from November 2022 minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clr Brown noted he sees disharmony in some parts of the local community, but harmony in other areas. • Sue noted that when this issue was raised previously, the working group members confirmed that the working group should remain bipartisan. • Further discussion will be deferred until Dr Lin is present, as this item was raised by Dr Lin at the last meeting. 	<p>The information was noted</p> <p>Discussion to be listed on the agenda for next meeting.</p>
<p>10 Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comment was made that it would be good to see more multicultural action by people through events such as Diwali - Need to create an initiative to support anti-racism, to help people stand up for themselves and be supported year round. 	<p>Noted</p>

Details

Action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback has been received that some community members that the Racism not Welcome street signs send a negative message. - A suggestion that the current message on the street signs is replaced with a positive message. - Roseann suggested “Unity in Community”, as this would promote a more positive attitude. The other members agreed with the suggestion. - The group stressed that Ryde is an inclusive area, and that this fact should be promoted. - Sue provided the background to the Racism not Welcome campaign and suggested that the Communications team could assist with messaging. - The working group noted the strong attendance at Lunar New Year events showcases the success of Council in putting on events. - Jennie was thanked by the Working Group for the regular updates she provides and her responsiveness to any questions. 	<p>The working group recommends to Council that the current Racism not Welcome message on the street signs be replaced with a message that is positive and highlights the inclusive nature of Ryde.</p>
9.	<p>Next meeting The next meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2023 6:00pm - 7.30pm in the Committee Room – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde and via TEAMS</p>	Noted