

Subject:	Multicultural Working Group	Page 1 of 6
File No:	CLR/22/60/6	
Document Ref:	D23/159905	
Venue:	TEAMS and Top Ryde Councillors Meeting Room	
Date:	Thursday 9 th November 2023	
Time:	6.00pm	Started at: 6.05 pm Closed at: 7.10 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
		Sarkis Yedelian OAM	Mayor and Councillor	City of Ryde
x		Trenton Brown	Councillor	City of Ryde
		Daniel Han	Councillor	City of Ryde
		Agnes Shim	Community Representative	
		Anthony Ching	Community Representative	
		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	
		Lydia Scuglia	Community Representative	
		Rose Torrosian	Community Representative	
x		Kevin Pagaddinnimath	Community Representative	
		Geeta Rani	Community Representative	
		Leon Li	Community Representative	
		Alberto Machionne	Community Representative	
x		Tony Tang	Community Representative	
x		Raj Raman	Community Representative	
	x	Bin Lin	Community Representative	
x		Harvey Ng	Community Representative	
		Kitty Ng	Community Representative	
		Viola Lo	Community Representative	

x		Balu Moothedath	Community Representative	
		Neda Jovasevic	Community Representative	
		George Wu	Community Representative	
x		Ying Fan	Guest speaker – Learn to swim	
x		Christine	Guest speaker – Brahma Kumari Australia	
x		Shikha Arora	Guest speaker – Brahma Kumari Australia	

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
		Matilda Wong	Programs Librarian – Volunteers and Multicultural	City of Ryde
x		Charles Mahfoud	Acting GM – Business and Operations	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 Councillor Brown.</p> <p>The attendees and apologies are as per the details above.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Adoption of minutes – 10th August 2023</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held on 10th August 2023 were adopted.</p>	Noted
3.	<p>Actions from previous minutes</p> <p>Actions/Updates from previous minutes</p> <p>Jennie to send out Council's upcoming events and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed <p>Update re Racism not Welcome street signs</p>	Noted

Subject:	Minutes – Multicultural Working Group – 9 th November 2023	Page 3 of 5
-----------------	---	-------------

	Details	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This matter is in progress. 	
4.	<p>Guest Speakers: Brahma Kumari Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brahma Kumari Australia is based in Five Dock - which is also the Head Office for the National Group. There are several other locations throughout Sydney and the worldwide headquarters is in India. - Worldwide meditation group operating in 120 countries focussing on the value of individuals and offers meditation and self-development programs. - Usually run by local people who are volunteers, and the operations are funded by voluntary donations. - The group now owns several centres funded through these donations. The group has a retreat in the Blue Mountains for Afghan ladies. - The Brahma Kumari would like to offer their services in Ryde. Many people attend the CMRC and report mental health issues, a location in Ryde is seen as way of assisting with this issue. - A venue in Ryde is required before the group can offer courses. 	<p>The information was noted.</p>
5.	<p>Guest Speaker: Learn to swim program from Royal Life Saving Society NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ying Fan who is the Cultural Engagement Coordinator with Royal Life Saving Society NSW addressed the meeting. - The Society is involved with drowning prevention, learn to swim and water safety and adult learn to swim and has been operating for 130 years. - The main difference between the Society and Surf Life Saving is that the Society is responsible for areas other than the surf including backyard pools, rivers, etc. - Water safety programs available for CALD and indigenous community members. - There had been 129 deaths of visitors from overseas or migrants in a recent 4-year period. 84% of these deaths were males. - In 2017 the three top countries for drowning deaths were China, India, and Nepal. - The main age group involved were 25 – 34 and the main location of drowning was inland rivers, followed by beaches then rock pools. - Risk factors – non or poor swimmers, alcohol related, medical conditions. - Also trying to encourage seniors to get out of the house and swim safely to get good exercise and social interaction. - Royal Life Saving Academy is based at Denistone East Pool - 25 adults from CALD backgrounds had lessons at the Academy last year with funding provided. 	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>Use of the Community Grants program to support funding available to be considered.</p>

Subject:	Minutes – Multicultural Working Group – 9 th November 2023	Page 4 of 5
-----------------	---	-------------

Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CALD funded learn to swim programs will be offered again in 2024 year. 30 spots available in term 1 of 2024 for the Ryde area. - Raj asked if Council provide vouchers to help people with learn to swim also. Council’s community grants program could be a source of funding for different programs in Ryde. - Council could promote the online resources of the Society through its website. 	
6.	<p>Council event updates</p> <p><u>Moon Festival</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held on Friday 22nd September. - The program included craft, face painting, cultural dances and performances. 300 people attended from a number of ethnic backgrounds and also LGBTQI. <p><u>Diwali</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A fair to celebrate Diwali was held on 29th October at North Ryde Common. Approx 2000 people attended. - It was a well-received event. Great ambience all afternoon and in the evening, there were fireworks. - NSW Minister for Multiculturalism attended. - Want to make it a signature event for Ryde. <p><u>Bietola Plaza Opening</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This event was held on 4th November and was very well attended. - Two brothers established the Coxs Road Mall and it is still operated by their descendants. - The Mall operators support many local clubs and have done so over many years and continue to do so. - The event was sponsored by Coxs Road Mall. <p><u>Santa Rosa Park Memory Pole</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unveiling will be held on the 13th November by the Italian Migrants of Ryde to recognise Italian market gardeners of Ryde and the agricultural history. 	The information was noted.
6.	<p>Other upcoming Events/Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Social Inclusion Week</u> - On 23rd November a community expo will be held. Other 	The information was noted.

	<p>events will also be held that week including a dragon boat activity, inclusive disco and delta dog event.</p> <p><u>16 days of activism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will take place in November. Three events have been arranged to date. - Talks on how to manage anger, jealousy and insecurity will be delivered in several languages, - More activities to support men’s mental health will also be arranged. <p><u>November</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of events being held including a Barbershop series. Meadowbank TAFE will offer free haircuts and a range of speakers to support men’s mental health. <p><u>Bystander Racism Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alberto noted the success of this training which he recently attended. It was noted that good work has been done, but more is needed. 	
7.	<p>General Business:</p> <p><u>Guest speakers for meetings in 2024</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One suggestion was to hold an information session on how to start a business for CALD women and others. 	The information was noted.
8.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 8th February 2024 6:00pm - 7.30pm in the Committee Room – Level 1A Pope St, Ryde and via TEAMS</p>	Noted