

Subject:	Reconciliation Action Working Group – Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 4
File No:	CCS/21/68	
Document Ref:	D23/37184	
Venue:	Via MS Teams	
Date:	Wednesday, 2 nd March 2023	
Time:	6.00pm	Started at: 6.05pm Closed at: 7.07 pm
Chair:	Jessica Herder	
Meeting Support (MS):	Linda Smith – EA to the Mayor and Councillors	
Staff Convenor:	Sean Willenberg	
Circulation:		

Working Group Role:

The role of the Reconciliation Action working group is to:

- Provide advice, input and feedback for the City of Ryde Council's Reconciliation Action Plan
- Assist in the implementation and review of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.
- To work with Council to develop and promote appropriate celebrations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture including Sorry Day, National Reconciliation week and NAIDOC week.

Working Group Members as per the Terms of Reference

Present	Apology	Name	Position Title	Organisation
x		Clr Sophie Lara-Watson	Councillor	City of Ryde
		Alison Salt	Chairperson	RESIGNED
	x	Michelle Lawrence	Community Representative	
x		Jessica Herder	Community Representative	
x		Gaurav Patni	Community Representative	
		Lilian Hong	Community Representative	
	x	Kylie Tarleton	Community Representative	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Melanie Gould	Community Representative	
		Adam Whereat	Community Representative	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Donnalene Aitchison	Visitor to the meeting	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jordan Hodgson	Visitor to the meeting	
x		Tania Gamble	Team Leader Community Grants & Direct Services	City of Ryde
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sean Willenberg	Community Project Officer Social Inclusion	City of Ryde
x		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details

Action

1.	Welcome and apologies and Acknowledgement of Country Tania Gamble provided an acknowledgement to country. Those present and apologies are as noted above.	Noted
2.	Alison Salt has tendered her resignation necessitating the election of a new chairperson. Alison's contribution was acknowledged by the group. Tania Gamble conducted the election of Chair. Jess Herder nominated, seconded by Gaurav Patni. Jess was unanimously elected, as chair by the working group.	Noted

3.	<p>Adoption of the minutes – meeting 31st August 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Minutes of the meeting of 31st August 2022 were noted. <p>Actions Arising</p> <p><u>Research on Careless and Weavers plaque</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the last meeting it was noted that further advice regarding the plaque and the wording used be provided. - Advice was provided by Library Services staff that the plaque was erected in 1948 by the Ryde Municipal Council. Information regarding the wording was provided. - The members recommended additional signage be added with a QR code linking to further detail on the history of the plaque and an explanation of the wording. 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council staff to investigate the addition of a QR code to link further information regarding the plaque.</p>
4.	<p>Presentation by Donnalene Aitchison from Caber-ra nanga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donnalene will send a brochure with further information - Caber-ra nanga is a free service offered by Relationships Australia that works to improve mental health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. - The service is for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families living in Northern Sydney. Community leaders, school staff and service providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are also welcome. - Offers a range of opportunities to focus on connection, spirituality, cultural immersion, healing and belonging. - Provide individual case workers e.g. Many Aboriginal people don't want to make appointments to go to doctors, so a different approach has been adopted. - Assists people to identify their family history and their identity. - Works with housing and a range of other services to support Aboriginal people. - Referral to the service is free and only takes a phone call to Donnalene 	<p>Noted</p>
5.	<p>Brush Farm Signage</p> <p>A community member has raised the issue that the plaque on the grounds of Brush Farm House as it provides information on Blaxland and Cox, but not the first nations people.</p> <p>The working group was asked if they were aware of the Aboriginal history of Brush Farm House and its surrounds, however, the members do not have any information. Council staff will review the Brush Farm House conservation management plan for further information.</p> <p>The members suggested adding a plaque if there is indigenous history at the site.</p>	<p>Council staff to investigate first nations history of Brush Farm House and options for including a plaque.</p>
6.	<p>Community Consultation for Innovate RAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donnalene mentioned health concerns so need to provide online options for consultation, as well as face to face. Social media is often a good way 	<p>Sean to follow up</p>

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	<p>to find and share information, so it was suggested that the consultation is promoted on Facebook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation/format/ best to do open ended questions, surveys, café style events. The more informal the better. - Melanie Gould can provide a contact for the women's group in Ryde. - AECG could be contacted, (but often not easy to reach). - Health option – Ryde hospital put flyers in diabetic clinic/ attend cultural events where flyers could be handed out. - Consult at NAIDOC/ Reconciliation Week upcoming events. <p>When engaging need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Middle of the day with a lunch would work well - Central location - Incorporate something else so that the consultation isn't the only focus - Explain RAP Framework as most people are not familiar with this and they need to know that it isn't tokenistic - People are more likely to attend if they are remunerated e.g., provide food or something in return. - Let people know it is a safe space 	
7.	<p>Preliminary ideas for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC events and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guided talk/ cultural walk- along river with bush tucker lunch. - Library- Story Time. - Story-telling workshop- for Aboriginal women and then open to the broader community to share their stories. - Traditional indigenous games- ask Jess for contact, possibly Dean Kelly. - Skate boarding- Gary to send contact information. - Men's group dances were popular, and this was followed by cake – could do that again. 	Sean to follow up
8.	<p>General Business:</p> <p>Aboriginal Languages included in school syllabus from 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - K – Year 10 language syllabus from 2024 will be taught - 100 hours of language to be taught - Priority given to language where school is located <p>Barometer Report has been released</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Released by Reconciliation Australia - Sheds light on attitudes and perceptions First Nations and non-Indigenous people hold about each other <p>Two Aboriginal community members expressed interest in attending meeting, as observers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement they can attend the May 2023 meeting - Sean will provide the expression of interest document if they would like to apply to become members in the meantime. <p>Jess went to the Koori Interagency, Western Sydney and met with the Engagement Officer. Western Sydney Uni has received funding to build an Indigenous Centre of Excellence in the next 5 years. Jess will provide further information, as it becomes available. Could consider a representative as a guest speaker at this meeting.</p> <p>Macquarie University are in the process of identifying a replacement for Alison Salt.</p>	Sean to distribute the report.
9.	Next Meeting:	Noted

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	The meeting closed at 7.07pm. The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday 31 st May 2023 in person and via TEAMS	
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