

Subject:	Reconciliation Action Working Group – Minutes of Meeting	Page 1 of 4
File No:	CCS/21/68	
Document Ref:	D21/48350	
Venue:	Via MS Teams	
Date:	Wednesday, 31 st March 2021	
Time:	6.00pm	Started at: 6.06pm Closed at: 6.55pm
Chair:	Alison Salt	
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
	✓	Mayor Jerome Laxale	Councillor	City of Ryde
✓		Clr Penny Pedersen	Councillor	City of Ryde
✓		Clr Christopher Gordon	Councillor	City of Ryde
✓		Clr Bernard Purcell	Councillor	City of Ryde
✓		Clr Edwina Clifton	Councillor	City of Ryde
✓		Alison Salt	Chairperson	
	✓	Michelle Lawrence	Community Representative	
	✓	Jessica Herder	Community Representative	
✓		Guarav Patni	Community Representative	Royal Rehabilitation
✓		Lilian Hong	Community Representative	
	✓	Kylie Tarleton	Community Representative	Carers NSW
✓		Sue Verhoek	Senior Coordinator Community Services	City of Ryde
✓		Sean Willenberg	Community Project Officer Social Inclusion	City of Ryde
✓		Linda Smith	EA to Mayor and Councillors	City of Ryde

Details**Action**

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Sean Willenberg welcomed all present and introduced the Chairperson – Alison Salt.</p> <p>Alison then acknowledged the traditional owners of the land and welcomed all present.</p> <p>Those present and apologies are as noted above.</p> <p>It was also noted that the quorum for this group is 4 and that only 3 members are present today.</p>	Noted.

Details	Action
<p>2. Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference for the Working Group</p> <p>It was noted that due to a quorum, a decision on this item would need to be deferred to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Noted. Item to be relisted on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>
<p>3. Working Group – Expressions of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that due to a quorum, a decision on this item would need to be deferred to the next meeting. 	<p>Noted. Item to be relisted on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>
<p>4. National Reconciliation Week</p> <p>Sean advised previous Council run events for National Reconciliation Week and suggestions from working group followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The documentary – “in our blood it runs” was shown to staff to assist in their understanding of the reconciliation process. - Author talks on the Aboriginal history of the local area were held - Guided cultural walks in the local area were held - The theme for National Reconciliation Week in 2021 is “more than a word, reconciliation means action” - It was suggested that the celebration should be made more mainstream - The theme of reconciliation should be a focus for more than two weeks of the year - Perhaps pop up locations in shopping centres could be trialed and maybe become permanent fixtures - It was suggested that a working party for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week be created - Walanga Muru of Macquarie Uni should be invited to join the working party along with the Ryde Women’s Group. - It was suggested there should be a bilingual Acknowledgement of Country - Workshops could be held for migrants to explain Aboriginal culture – maybe with the help of CMRC. - Melissa Ontario to be invited to join the working group - Could undertake an activity to state what acknowledgement of country means and how it relates to people - Something along this line is being done at Macquarie Uni which incorporates an art project - Guarav advised he will help in any way necessary. 	<p>Noted</p>
<p>5. NAIDOC Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2020, lots of activities were carried out online but it was well received - Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On line cooking - Music performances via live lounge - Dreaming stories through the library done in language - Cultural awareness sessions for staff - Opening ceremonies for events - Work with Koori kids through schools - Guided cultural walks - Events are advertised in other LGA’s via Gai-mariagal festival - In 2019, a major event for NAIDOC week was held at West Ryde - It might be possible to grow this type of event in 2021. - In 2019 at the West Ryde event there was a flag ceremony, welcome ceremony, speakers from Link Housing detailing the services they provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, performances, etc - Over 140 people attended - Could do a similar event this year but in a different location - Maybe for 2022, could arrange a film festival at West Ryde showing Aboriginal films. 	<p>The information was noted.</p>

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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perhaps the significance of the Parramatta River could be highlighted and used during NAIDOC week - Dance groups etc could take part. - Could incorporate something about Bennelong and create a link with Kissing Point and Barrangaroo - Macquarie Hospital, Walanga Muru and TAFE may be doing something for NAIDOC week and the events could be cross promoted. - Links could be formed with PRCG regarding water and sustainability 	
6.	<p>RAP action items completed to date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During July to Dec 2020, 12 of the 36 action items were completed - More will be completed by the end of 2021. - It was noted that even when items are completed, they are always being reviewed and improved. - The following items have been completed to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate Council's commitment to reconciliation to all staff - Identify external stakeholders that Council can engage with on its reconciliation journey - Identify RAP and other like-minded organisations that could be approached to collaborate with on the reconciliation journey - Develop an understanding of the local Traditional Owners or Custodians of the lands and waters within Council's operational area - Raise awareness and share information amongst staff about the meaning of NAIDOC Week - Introduce staff to NAIDOC Week by promoting external events in the local area - Form a Reconciliation Working Group to govern RAP implementation - Draft Terms of Reference for the Reconciliation Working Group - Establish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Reconciliation Working Group - Define resource needs for RAP implementation - Engage senior leaders in the delivery of RAP commitments - Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire to Reconciliation Australia - An update of further items achieved will be issued in September 2021 - For the next meeting of this group, a list of items completed and still to do will be provided - A question was raised as to whether the person to be employed by Council in conjunction with the review of Council and Crown Lands will be indigenous 	<p>The information was noted.</p> <p>A report to be provided to the next meeting of this group re actions achieved and still outstanding</p>
7.	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted that Julie Crane works in the area of Indigenous employment - It would be good to approach her re-joining the Working Party - It was also noted that the Koori Mail is the best place to advertise matters of interest or concerning Indigenous people. - Sean advised that Kidney Health is running a webinar on 20th April. He will send details to committee members to send on to their contacts - The Bungee Bidgel clinic will be held at Hornsby Hospital on 6th April – Sean will send details - The participation of dance students at International Women's Day events was noted - Aboriginal women from Ngukurr - a location 8 hours from Darwin are performers and would be happy to take part in future events if requested. - It would be great to incorporate similar events at Citizenship Ceremonies and the like - The women from the Tiwi Islands who write songs could also be invited to Ryde when they are visiting Sydney next - Sue Verhoek also noted that she has contacts with an Indigenous performance group - Melanie Gould should be invited to join this working party group 	<p>The information was noted</p>

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Details		Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walanga Muru – has students who will be visiting Sydney soon from country NSW - Cultural and wellbeing programs are being run by Alison at Macquarie University - At the workshops she conducts, mental health etc is discussed - Lillian asked if it was possible to access what is happening on Council's website. - Advice was provided that this information plus resources etc on Aboriginal history are available on Council's website - It was suggested that details re "well mob" be added to Council's webpage - A list of Aboriginal owned and operated businesses would also be useful if such could be provided 	
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday 30th June 2021</p>	Noted.