

# MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday 8 August 24  
6pm – 8pm



## 1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Masselos.

Councillor Masselos also acknowledged the committee and Council Officers and thanked them for their contribution.

### Present

| Councillors          |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Clr Paula Masselos   | Mayor/Chair            |
| Clr Ludovico Fabiano | Councillor             |
| Community Members    |                        |
| Anna F.              | Community Member       |
| Lana K.              | Service Representative |
| Margaret T.          | Service Representative |
| Marcia M.            | Community Member       |
| Raphael C.           | Community Member       |
| S. Marie D.          | Community Member       |
| Valentina B.         | Community Member       |

Council officers in attendance to support the meeting, including:  
Annette Trubenbach, Executive Manager, Community Programs

## 2. Apologies

Emily B., Baris A., Linda D., Rozy D., Emily Scott, Ben Thompson, Clr Kay, Clr Betts, Clr Goltsman

## 3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

The minutes were accepted via email by Raphael Crowe and Rozy Dorizas and noted at the July Council meeting.

No business arising.

## 4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

NIL

## **5. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021-31 - Report**

The latest quarterly report was distributed at the meeting.

Council has received a Social Cohesion grant through the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Staff have been planning and developing the project in consultation with the Department since May.

One of Council officers is a co convenor of the Local Government Multicultural Network. At their recent meeting, Margaret presented on the City East Community College Mentoring Program. This presentation provided the participants with some clear strategies to support skilled migrants in gaining employment.

- **Community Engagement Activities with Artist**

During Refugee Week, Nawras (as per previous minutes) visited the Library for a storytime session to share her book and story. More than 30 people attended the session - a record number for storytime at the Library. It was a great experience for Nawras. She has since been engaged by several other organisations/Councils who are interested in hearing her story.

- **Global Table**

Global Table was held on 19 May with a revised format and increased diversity in terms of performers, a new MC, and the inclusion of market stalls. Feedback on the event was very positive, noting it created a real sense of 'togetherness'.

Other feedback to take into account for next year included:

- Music was fabulous, it was great to have different artists and a positive vibe. It would be good to give the bands longer to play.
- More publicity would improve attendance – Waverley Council should ensure it is promoted through local media, temporary signage such as floor decals and the signage used at the Gould St Party.
- More curation of the markets to ensure better engagement and more diversity.
- Good to receive feedback through the intercept surveys which people with disabilities conducted.
- With the event to be held in March next year, the event could go into the evening and possibly on a Saturday night to extend the opportunity for stallholders.

- **Author Talk**

The author talk at the Waverley Library on 23 May was 'Simon Tedeschi in conversation with Sheila Ngoc Pham'. It was very well attended. Simon's book 'Fugitive' straddles the borders of poetry and prose, fiction and fact, trauma and testimony.

Some attendees were interested in comments made by Sheila about Vietnam. Sheila mentioned that in 2025 it will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War (30 April 1975). Council may want to explore options for acknowledging this significant date.



- **National Reconciliation Week**

Council engaged in an art project with the Walawaani Students at Waverley College. The outcome was the creation of National Reconciliation Week banners which were displayed on Birrell St and Campbell Parade during May. The individual pieces are also being exhibited in the Library during August.

- **NAIDOC Week**

Several activities took place during NAIDOC week including:

- The Ruby Hunter Tribute Concert, attended by her family, at the Bondi Pavilion on 6 July celebrating the songs of Ruby Hunter. She first performed in public at the Pavilion. Some fantastic musicians participated in this event, an initiative of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee.
- NAIDOC in the Park was held at Centennial Park on Sunday 14 July. In partnership with Randwick Council and Centennial Parklands, the event attracted around 200 attendees who experienced storytime with Auntie Ali Golding, weaving and shell workshops, and the Gamay dancers.
- Author Talk: Mel Brown presented *Shades of Me*
- NAIDOC Film Screening Indigenous short films with Flickerfest
- NAIDOC Week Craft at the Library
- Journey into the Aboriginal Past of Bondi and Sydney Harbour – with Matt Poll

## **6. Council's anti-racism campaign – Stage 2**

### *Culture Waves Update and Discussion*

There have been 12 applications for the Youth Group. The group will support the implementation of the Culture Waves Project which will focus on inclusion and cohesion in the community and providing participants with practical skills. The applicants are aged from 14-17 from a diverse backgrounds and schools, with a range of motivations for joining. The reference group will meet five times with support from Council Officers and the facilitator prior to the program starting in late October.

The committee reviewed the mentor booklet and provided the following feedback:

- More detail could be provided around the differences in roles.
- More emphasis on integrity/ethics, and the training and support that will be provided to mentors.
- Mentors require support to manage 'fake news' and conspiracies.
- Clear boundaries need to be established around sharing personal information.
- The promotion for the cultural mentor roles will be broad to attract a range of mentors.
- When matching mentors with mentees, cultural background should not be the only determination. Personality type, interests, and the mentee's situation also need consideration.
- The mentors need to be mindful that some discussion may be triggering for the mentee (or themselves)
- Council will need to clearly outline how the safety of the young people is considered as part of the mentorship, in addition to 'Working With Children Checks' requirements for prospective mentors.
- The complaints process and escalation plan should be clear.

- Mentoring session guides should be specific to ensure mentors feel supported.

Next steps – Council officers will recirculate updated drafts, share promotional materials and Council's Culture Waves Child Safety Management Plan. The program will begin in late October and the community event will take place in February.

## **7. Update on Australian Human Rights Commission's report**

The Human Rights Commission has released a report around mapping government anti-racism programs and policies. The report will be shared with the MAC and contains key findings about understanding what progress is being made.

## **8. Events Coming Up**

Council small grants program is now open and will be closing on the 6 September.

[https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/community/awards\\_grants/small\\_grants\\_program](https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/community/awards_grants/small_grants_program)

Lifeline Bondi is organising an event for World Suicide Prevention Day on the 10 September, starting at North Bondi Park.

<https://www.outoftheshadowswalk.org.au/fundraisers/lifelinebondi>

Council officers will circulate other events scheduled in the next few weeks.

## **9. Other Business/Correspondence**

A question was asked about what will be happening to the Chambers building when Council officers move out. This will be a decision for the new Council.

Margaret acknowledged and thanked Council for supporting the Mentoring Program. Council has participated in a second round of mock interviews for program participants, and there are two new Council Officers mentoring participants. Two mentees have been able to secure a role at Council. As the Council term ends, Lana wanted to acknowledge Paula's role in supporting the community and committee.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 20 November 2024 – location to be confirmed.  
Meeting closed 7:44pm.