

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 14 February 2024
6pm – 8pm



1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by The Mayor, Councillor Paula Masselos.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Paula Masselos	Mayor of Waverley
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Community Members	
Anna F.	Community Member
Emily B.	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
Linda D.	Expert Member
Baris A.	Service Representative
Robert F.	Community Member

Council officers in attendance to support the meeting, including:

- Annette Trubenbach, Executive Manager, Community Programs
- Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

2. Apologies

Clr Angela Burrill, Rozy D.

3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

Minutes were moved by Valentina and seconded by Emily via email.
No business arising.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

NA

5. Dawn Reflection - Feedback

For those who were not in attendance, the Mayor described the event on January 26 at 5:30 am at Bondi Beach. It was encouraging to see an even greater number of people joining us on the beach and observing other Councils marking the day in a similar way. Several MAC members attended and shared positive feedback about the event:

‘I was happy to be part of this moment. It was really, really beautiful.’
‘It was a very profound experience.’
‘Very well hosted.’
‘The crowd was very respectful.’
‘This will be a family tradition.’

6. Presentation on Whale Dreaming Bondi Pavilion Public artwork

The Mayor welcomed a Council officer who provided a presentation on the ‘Whale Dreaming’ Public Art Project at Bondi Pavilion. The Council officer presented an early update of the project and noted robust processes were used to ensure adherence to cultural protocols and to seek appropriate cultural authority.

Members responded positively to the concept, noting the colour contrast would add brightness to the Pavilion. The committee raised the following questions:

- How will the story be told? Suggestions around storytelling opportunities, music, interactive information.
- Will the light refraction be difficult for people’s vision? A sun study will be undertaken to determine where light is refracted.
- What is the material being used? Anodized aluminium will form the suspended piece and there will be tarnished markings in the footpath.
- Can people touch the markings in footpath? Markings will be robust enough to be walked on/touched.

7. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031 – Report

- Community engagement activities with artists

Council officers outlined the projects that engaged the artists who were successful in the anti-racism sea wall art competition.

Leila shared her story through an art project with a group of Ukrainian Women’s Circle, with support from a counsellor and Leila who participated in the 2022 art competition. 23 people attended with extremely positive feedback from everyone.

Nawras has written a children’s book about her story she will be sharing through ‘storytime’ at some of Council’s early education centres. She will incorporate drawing activities into the storytime session.



- International Friends in Bondi

Our final 2023 event in Bronte attracted about 20 people from all over the world. Thanks to S. Marie for volunteering. Anyone is welcome to attend, with the target groups being international students and students on temporary visas. The activities are inclusive - some neurodiverse participants have joined us on the day. Another event will be organised soon, and the activities are promoted amongst uber riders, couch surfing websites, migration agents, educational institutions and via word of mouth.

- Language Assistance Program

Council Officers who expressed interest in becoming Language Assistants have successfully passed their language assistance accreditation and have been inducted into the updated program.

8. Council's anti-racism campaign – Stage 2

- Social Cohesion Grant

Council will be applying for a 'NSW Social Cohesion Grant for Local Government' through the Department of Communities and Justice. The proposed 'Culture Waves' program will work with local young people to co-design a process for improving understanding, empathy, and cohesion in the Waverley area.

- Brainstorm

Connected to the grant application, the committee were asked to discuss the following in pairs and record their responses:

*Thinking about your younger self/ your children, or young family members...
What would you like them to know/feel/do about their culture?*

Responses included:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Literature in Language | • Promotion of strength of diverse places |
| • Theatre, film and music | • Continuing traditions |
| • Connecting with Language | • Photos |
| • Food/cuisine | • Family trees |
| • Look for common practices between cultures | • Participation |
| • Connect through food, music, tv shows | • Having a mentor |
| • Celebrate national days | • Inviting other people from other cultures |
| • Recipes and videos of cooking to maintain food tradition | • It's cool to speak more than 1 language |
| • Annual family/cultural reunion | • Opportunities to share aspects of their culture |
| • Pride in culture, history, story (good and bad), language, music and film, tradition | • Come from a place of strength and pride |
| • Maintain contact with family to understand history | • Connection |
| • 'I am different but still belong' | • Encourage to engage in parts of culture they like |
| | • Empower |



- Build self esteem and come from a place of strength
- Common practices – provide opportunity for kids to find
- Story of light (different cultures)
- We are universal and can connect as neighbours
- Culture is alive, relevant, grows and is dynamic
- Encourage kids to go and experience roots and connect with culture/country of origin

9. Council Motion

The Mayor spoke about a December resolution of Council seeking to addressing antisemitism locally and consulting the MAC on this issue. Addressing the motion, qualified and experienced consultants will be approached to undertake research exploring:

- Community activities conducted by private organisations and public institutions based in Australia and overseas to combat antisemitism.
- A gap analysis based on the above focused on Sydney
- Understanding how organisations/institutions have implemented the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in a practical way.

The Mayor has also been in touch with relevant stakeholders identified in the resolution. Support services are being provided by Jewish Care and Jewish House.

A brief discussion raised various issues and opinions, with members providing feedback on the IHRA definition; community safety and the role of Police; other racist behaviour or homophobia being on the rise; feeling safe in public spaces.

The issues under discussion are complex and need to be managed sensitively. Council's role is focused on keeping everyone safe.

10. Events coming up

- Global Table - 19 May. We will be sharing an expression of interest with local performers who may be interested – please let Council officers know if you have suggestions.
- WALU Western Sydney Anti-Racism Week is being held from the 19-23 February in Merrylands. One of Council officers is presenting on a panel 'Reflections on Anti-Racism Initiatives' as the co-convenor of the Local Government Multicultural Network.
- Waverley is holding an International Women's Day event on 8 March.
- Author talk with Simon Tedeschi - 23 May.
- Marks Park Dawn Sunrise Service of Reflection as part of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival - 24 February.
- First Waverley Mardi Gras float on Saturday 2 March.

Council officers will send information about upcoming events and activities.

Meeting Closed 8pm