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RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 24 May 2017 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton
Bryon Powell, Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation
Dawn Davies, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Peter Webster, Aboriginal Community Member
Phillip Wood, Aboriginal Community Member
Sally Atkinson, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton
Cr Lara Carli, Councillor, City of Melton

1. Welcome

Cr De Santis welcomed attendees and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Apologies

Ron Jones, Wurundjeri Tribe and Land Compensation Heritage Council
Karen Jones, Aboriginal Community Member
Wanda Bargo, Aboriginal Community Member
Jessica Trijsburg, Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

S Atkinson / P Webster

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held 16 February 2017.

5. Business Arising

Nil.

6. General Business

6.1 Aboriginal Recruitment and Retention policy update

S Atkinson gave an update on the first Indigenous Employment Working Group meeting held on 3 May 2017 at Melton. Council and industry representatives attended this



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meeting, with a collaborative approach to improving local Indigenous employment outcomes and stakeholder input into Council's 2017 Aboriginal Recruitment and Retention Policy.

P Wood suggested that work-based placements would be a good opportunity for community members to learn valuable skills, while increasing their chance of employment after the placement.

P Webster expressed an interest in what jobs were available locally for community.

B Powell asked to look at training opportunities that lead to permanent career opportunities within Council.

6.2 Reconciliation Action Plan 2016-2017

Internal Reconciliation Champions Group update provided by S Atkinson. Guest speakers thus far in 2017 have included Leanne Brooke, General Manager, The Long Walk, to talk about the walk and Local Government capacity building opportunities and Rachel Muir from Ballarat City Council's Koorie Engagement Action Group, on their Reconciliation Action Plan.

Directories of Aboriginal Community Services, the Victoria University Aboriginal Service Guide and Rivers to Recognition Educational Guide have been distributed to Civic locations throughout the City of Melton. This includes eight locations throughout the municipality.

6.3 Melton's Cultural Heritage Information update

S Atkinson has forwarded the Melton Wurundjeri Cultural Heritage educational resource to the relevant Wurundjeri Land Council department for their feedback, and is awaiting a response.

6.4 Reconciliation Week updates

S Atkinson distributed the City of Melton Reconciliation Week events flyer and discussed the new events, Melton Koorie Art Display and Melton Long Walk.

NAIDOC Week flag raising event is scheduled for Monday 3 July 2017, Melton Community Hall, from 11am to 1.30pm. Event suggestions were made, including a request for more children's activities.

6.5 Updates from community

D Davies provided updates on Kirrip Aboriginal House. The Kirrip House programs are continuing to develop and engage community members, attracting a wide range of visiting health services that support the community.

7. Other Business

7.1 Djerriwarrh Health Services Ambulatory Centre update

Djerriwarrh Health Services Ambulatory Centre update provided in email correspondence dated 20 and 21 February 2017. The Reconciliation Advisory Committee has asked for several points to be clarified:

- Size of Aboriginal meeting room and
- Lack of privacy by the use of glass walls.

The response to the Committee was as follows:

- The indoor room will fit 8-10 people. The indoor and outdoor space combined will fit about 16 people. We have a few groups that have expressed interest in using the



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space weekly- so far only the ones Djerriwarrh Health Services runs – i.e. MARLA woman's group and the Aboriginal Parents Group. There may be other groups i.e. VAHS and the like, that will use the space regularly, otherwise it is intended as a drop in space with tea and coffee facilities and a tv etc.

- Ensure that the glass on the entry side and hallway side is frosted to avoid the outdoor area looking like a fish bowl. It was suggested that the frost is done in a blue colour as this colour is significant to the Wurundjeri people, representing water. Frosted glass is in place on the glassed area that faces onto a public area. This glass will most likely have the motif of the Aboriginal artwork from the entrance on it. We can look into this being blue. The frosted glass will give the room privacy in that you won't be able to see who is in there, but you most likely will be able to see movement in the room.

P Webster expressed concern that not enough consultation was done with local community members to determine if room size for the designated Aboriginal use space would cater adequately for local Aboriginal community group sizes.

7.2 Mt Cottrell massacre site

Councillors asked B Powell about Traditional Owner group interest in recognizing the Mt Cottrell massacre site from the 1840s conflict. B Powell said that he would need to ask other Traditional Owners if this would be of interest.

8. Next Meeting date

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 10 August 2017 commencing at 6:00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.