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RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 8 August 2019 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Lara Carli, Melton City Council
Cr Yvonne Sebire, Melton City Council
Stephanie Skinner, Chairperson, Wadawarrung
Julieanne Axelford, Wurundjeri Land Council
Peter Webster, Community Member
Skye Gooch, Community Member
Jo Layton, Community Member
Jessica Trijsburg, Co-ordinator, Community Capacity
Annette Vickery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council

Presenters: Nigel Corby (Western Water)
Livia Bonazzi (Western Water)
Cassandra Connelly (Melton Council Lifelong Learning Projects Officer)
Andrew Axelford (Community member)

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli

1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed attendees and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Introduction and Apologies

Karen Jones, Community Member
Sharon Sowter, Chairperson, KIRRIP
Dawn Davies, Community Member
Dan Turnbull, Bunurong Land Council
Charmaine Hamilton, Community Member

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Minutes of Meeting

Action Items from previous meeting:

- A Vickery to follow up with events/RSL to find out what position is with regard to Welcome to Country. Findings to be distributed to Committee members out of session by email and ratified at next meeting.

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Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of previous meeting.

Motion

Mover: P Webster Second: J Axelford

5. Western Water Reconciliation Action Plan

N Corby and L Bonazzi presented on the draft Reconciliation Action Plan and invited committee members to provide their opinions on Aboriginal values for waterways.

All Committee members will be invited to the launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan.

N Corby reported that a site visit to the proposed Memorial site took place on 5 August 2019. S Skinner reported that the site seemed suitable for the purpose of a memorial. Further visits will be organized by A Vickery throughout October and November 2019. Cr Carli requested that once a design had been developed, that it be presented to Council.

Action

N Corby of Western Water to circulate the draft Reconciliation Action Plan to committee members for consideration. It was noted the Plan was not to be distributed beyond committee members until the formal launch in October.

A Vickery to organize a meeting of project members to discuss next steps, including further site visits to the proposed Memorial Site.

A Vickery to organize presentation of proposed memorial design to Council once completed.

6. Aboriginal Cultural Information Session – Induction Introduction for Melton City Council Staff.

A Vickery provided the draft workbook for the Cultural Information Session and invited feedback from committee members. A Vickery also offered to sit with individual committee members and work through the book if that was preferred.

A Vickery advised Committee members this training session of 1.5 hours was developed for new staff to Melton City Council, to provide new staff at Melton with practical information about Aboriginal communities and the Reconciliation Action Plan.

Action

Committee members to provide feedback on content of workbook by 31 August 2019.

7. Lifelong Learning in Melton

C Connelly, Melton Lifelong Learning Project Officer presented on the Lifelong Learning Festival to Committee members, inviting members to provide feedback on events they would like to see incorporated into the Festival, and essential information required for event organisers to ensure the expectations of Aboriginal communities in Melton are met with regard to cultural safety and inclusion.

It was noted that Wadawarrung and Wurundjeri both have educational departments in their organisations which may wish to present events during the Festival. C Connelly to follow up with individual traditional owner groups.

KIRRIP House will be hosting a community event as part of the Festival.

J Layton commented that education is different for Aboriginal communities, much more experiential. J Layton will follow up with C Connelly separately to this committee.



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Action

C Connelly to follow up with Wadawarrung, Wurundjeri and J Layton on opportunities to participate in the Festival.

8. General Business

KIRRIP House: is currently running a carers group, youth program, Families healing program, womens, mens and a dancing group. KIRRIP participated in the recent Aboriginal Childrens Day event on 3 August 2019 at the Melton Community Hall where there were 300+ attendees.

S Gooch reported some challenges she has been experiencing which have impacted on her ability to be at committee. Those issues are almost resolved and she feels able to re-engage with her community, which is good news and was warmly received by all members.

J Layton raised a concern re the Reconciliation Action Plan Principles, dot point 4 and asked the Chair what the Council's position would be if the RSL refused to incorporate Welcome to Country into their major events. The answer to this question will be informed by the events management/RSL response to the current issue in agenda item 4 of this meeting. A Vickery did report that the RSL websites do not indicate an existing Reconciliation Action Plan for their organization.

• Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

Next meeting Date: 12 November 2019, 6.00pm, Civic Room 2