



## MINUTES

### RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 13 November 2018 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

**Present:** Cr Lara Carli, Deputy Mayor, City of Melton  
Sharon Sowter, Chairperson, Kirrip  
Dawn Davis, Board Member, Kirrip  
Peter Webster, Community Representative  
Karen Jones, Community Representative  
Annette Vickery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council  
Jessica Trijsburg, Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council

**Chairperson:** Cr Lara Carli, Deputy Mayor, City of Melton

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#### 1. Welcome

Cr Carli welcomed attendees and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

#### 2. Apologies

Cr Melissa De Santis, Councillor, City of Melton  
Wanda Bargo, Aboriginal Community Member  
Paul Davis, Bunurong Land Council  
Julieanne Axelford, Wurundjeri Land Council  
Bryon Powell, Wauthaurong Land Council

#### 3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

#### 4. Minutes of Meeting

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of previous meeting.

##### Motion

Mover: P Webster    Second: D Davies

## 5. Key Dates

Key dates and events for 2019 were provided.

### Action

Feedback is requested by the end of November. If there is no feedback to move particular dates, the schedule will be accepted as fixed. Calendar invitations will be issued once the expression of interest process for new committee members is finalized.

## 6. Committee Membership

Committee members were provided with the Expression of Interest invitation, the website background information sheet and the nomination form. It is intended to widely distribute this information, including posting on Melton City Council social media, Kirrip House and distribution through email networks and contacts. Committee members were asked to distribute the expression of interest and nomination forms widely.

The permanent Aboriginal community membership of the Committee as per the terms of reference are the three traditional owner groups, Wauthaurong, Wurundjeri and Bunurong and Kirrip House.

Additionally, there are six available community member positions to fill and family membership applications will be accepted. The closing date for nominations is **11 December 2018** with selection expected to take place over December 2018/January 2019.

### Action

A Vickery to send documents to committee members electronically, publish on Melton City Council website, organise distribution through social media and send through Council networks. Committee members to send documents through their networks.

## 7. Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2020

The endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan was presented to Committee. One priority item is employment, and the draft Employment Strategy was also presented for feedback. Committee members were asked to consider the document and provide feedback by the end of 2018.

Initial feedback was:

- Employment strategies need to ensure cultural safety is delivered,
- Western BASE should be engaged as they have a number of programs and supports they deliver which could benefit Aboriginal community members seeking work,
- Employer agencies need to be culturally informed and supportive or they are not effective,



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- Education levels for entry into traineeships needs to be considered carefully, employers and employment agencies should be encouraged to focus on capacity to acquire knowledge and skills to ensure traineeships are accessible to community members from highly disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have education attainments.
- Council should consider how they can support Aboriginal community members to gain workplace experience across a number of disciplines, from landscaping, horticulture, truck driving all the way up to corporate roles like finance, human resources and leadership.

### 8. Mt Cottrell Project

A Vickery gave a brief update of research done so far on the Mt Cottrell massacre. The incident itself seems to have taken place across all three traditional owner groups that Melton works with, Bunurong, Wurundjeri and Wauthaurong, ending at the Werribee River. All three traditional owner groups have been separately contacted and asked to consult with their membership to gather feedback on how this event should be commemorated or memorialized.

In addition, two open Aboriginal community consultations have been scheduled. The consultation flyer has been widely distributed. Committee members are asked to distribute it through their networks.

K Jones said her role in repatriation at the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council was closely connected to this kind of work and offered to work with Annette out of session to see what opportunities there might be for Aboriginal Victoria to support this project.

Cr Carli said there was a commitment from Council to undertake this project and Council was happy to see consultations taking place and is very interested to hear from all Aboriginal community members as part of project planning.

#### Action

A Vickery to send notice of consultation by email to all committee members for distribution through their networks.

### 9. Aboriginal Traineeships

J Trijsburg spoke to the draft employment strategy and the opportunity within it to establish traineeships at Melton City Council. J Trijsburg asked committee members for feedback on how to establish traineeships to ensure they offer positive opportunities for Aboriginal community members to consider Melton City Council as an employer of choice.

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Initial feedback was:

- Need to be flexible on age and education level,
- P Webster suggested getting in touch with Kyle Van der Kuyp who runs a range of apprenticeship opportunities for Aboriginal community members and has expertise in this area,
- K Jones suggested looking into what Abstudy options there may be to assist people undertaking traineeships to be supported.

**Action**

Feedback will be gathered and the document refined and circulated throughout November and December 2018, and should be ready for endorsement by the Committee at the February 2019 committee meeting.

**10. Business Arising****KIRRIP**

The women's program funded by the West Metro Djelk Dja (Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group) is half way through and has been a success. Kirrip have applied for a further \$40,000 in funding to continue to deliver the project through 2019.

P Webster has established training for elders to attend schools and provide cultural information sessions. This will enable elders to be more confident to deliver information and provide more people able to meet these requests. S Sowter agreed that schools highly value input from elders of the community and that cultural information is embedded into the curriculum, so it is important to ensure there are a number of community members who can do this work.

**Bullum Bullum**

K Jones said she has the outline of a children's book about Bullum Bullum which she would love to progress as a resource for schools. A Vickery to work with K Jones out of session to identify potential funding opportunities to support the establishment of the resource.

**Djerriwarrh Festival**

P Webster asked why the Welcome to Country and Aboriginal float were not at the start of the parade, as he felt that was the appropriate sequencing for Aboriginal communities. Cr Carli and J Trijsburg said they would certainly take that feedback back to Council for next years planning.



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### **Welcome to Country**

S Sowter asked if a traditional owner were present at the committee, could they be asked to do the welcome to country. K Jones agreed that she would be comfortable to do the welcome if she were attending the meeting. All committee members agreed if a traditional owner were present, they should be asked if they would do the welcome to country on behalf of the chair. Cr Carli said this was a very positive idea.

### **11. Close of Business**

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

**Next meeting Date:** 7 February 2019