



MINUTES

RECONCILIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 7 February 2019 at 6.00pm in Civic Room 2, Melton Civic Centre

Present: Cr Melissa De Santis, Melton City Council
Stephanie Skinner, Chairperson, Wadawarrung
Peter Webster, Community Member
Skye Gooch, Community Member
Karen Jones, Community Member
Annette Vickery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Engagement Officer, Melton City Council
Jessica Trijsburg, Coordinator Community Capacity, Melton City Council

Chairperson: Cr Melissa De Santis

1. Welcome

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

2. Introduction and Apologies

Cr Lara Carli, Deputy Mayor, Melton City Council
Paul Davis, Bunurong Land Council
Julianne Axelford, Wurundjeri Land Council
Sharon Sowter, Chairperson, Kirrip
Charmaine Hamilton, Community Member
Jo Layton, Community Member

All committee members introduced themselves and new committee members were welcomed.

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 Seconder: J Trijsburg

5. Key Dates

Key dates and events for 2019 were provided. Committee was asked to move the May date to April.

Action

Committee agreed to move the May RAC to 9 April 2019. A Vickery to send out new meeting invitation.

6. Schools NAIDOC Project

Committee members were provided with a submission for funding for NAIDOC 2019. The submission is from a Sydney based company that is not Aboriginal community controlled. They send out invitations for funding every year, at \$500 per entity, and they seem to send to all councils and schools in Australia. Should Council fund them again this year?

A decision was made by Committee that under the principles of self-determination, Aboriginal community controlled organisations should be prioritized for any funding available for NAIDOC. After that, if there is any funding left, organisations that are established in Melton and deliver services to Aboriginal community should be considered.

Action

A Vickery to contact organization and decline the request to fund them.

7. Mt Cottrell Project

A brief history of the events of the Mt Cottrell massacre were provided to committee.

Consultations were conducted as follows: two traditional owner groups, Aboriginal Victoria, KIRRIP Board members and officer, individual community members and two formal consultation meetings open to all Aboriginal community members.

Feedback from those consultations is:

- There is general support for the establishment of a memorial,
- It should be placed in a publicly accessible site,
- It should be established as an education and information resource, more than a formal war memorial type structure, and
- Wadawurrung should be involved in the design.

Cr De Santis asked for further information and the draft project plan to be provided as soon as possible that will include:

- Identifying a suitable site,
- Identifying a suitable design,
- A project timeline to 30 June 2019.

Action

A Vickery to develop a project plan, and distribute to the committee.

A Vickery to send Mt Cottrell articles to Cr De Santis.

8. Updates from community about current events

P Webster said he would speak for KIRRIP in the absence of the chair. KIRRIP now has VACCA delivering play group and women's groups at KIRRIP.

K Jones and S Skinner raised concerns about the intent of the Nature Stewards program being piloted in Melton. It was clarified that the course is intended to encourage Victorians to get out into parks and gardens and learn about nature. It is very introductory and intended to provide base-knowledge only. A certificate of completion is provided at the end of the program. A Vickery said she hoped to encourage young people to consider undertaking the Aboriginal Victoria Cultural Heritage Assessor course in June 2019 and saw this course as an introduction, so people could see if they enjoyed outdoors work.



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9. General Business

The Committee was asked if any female Aboriginal community members present would participate in the Council's project for International Women's Day. S Gooch and S Skinner agreed to participate.

P Webster spoke about the new community health building and has provided feedback on how to make it culturally safe. K Jones said she remembered being part of those consultations in 2016. Committee members requested a copy of RAC minutes from 2016 at which consultation about the health centre was conducted.

K Jones said she has a small Aboriginal community group at Diggers Rest that would like to engage better with Council. There is an event coming up and she will attend that to speak with council staff on the needs of Aboriginal community in Diggers Rest.

A Vickery suggested committee members sign up to the Council's community engagement newsletter and all agreed. A Vickery will organize access for committee members.

Community Engagement – Committee members were asked their preferred forms of engagement and responses included:

- Through community organisations that deliver services, such as maternal child health and Babaneek Bubup, Foodbank, KIRRIP.
- Make it an event or a shared activity, to get people there.
- Make it on country, yarning circles or movie nights.
- No questionnaires or surveys. They don't work.

Action

A Vickery to organize for committee members to be on the Council's community engagement newsletter distribution list.

A Vickery to review 2016 committee consultation re community health centre and distribute minutes to committee.

10. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Next meeting Date: 9 April 2019