

MEDIA RELEASE

5 June 2026

Refugee Week to highlight stories of courage and belonging

Shared cultures, lived experiences and Australia's rich diversity will be celebrated across the City of Melton during Refugee Week from 15-21 June 2026.

Refugee Week has been observed annually across Australia since 1986, and this year marks 40 years of recognising the resilience, contributions and stories of people who have built new lives in our communities.

This year's theme, "*A Million Stories*", invites us to reflect on the million journeys that have helped shape Australia into the diverse and vibrant nation it is today.

Council recognises dates of significance that reflect the rich diversity of our community. Refugee Week is an important part of this calendar, and to mark the occasion, Council will host a free community event and an inspiring storytelling session.

A Million Stories: Journeys of Strength, Belonging and Community

Wednesday 17 June, 11am-1pm

Melton Community Hall, 238 High Street, Melton

This uplifting community event will feature powerful storytelling and vibrant cultural performances. Hear personal accounts of refugee journeys and the experiences that continue to shape our diverse community, while reflecting on the importance of kindness, inclusion and belonging.

Refugee Stories for Change

Thursday 18 June, 2.30pm-3.30pm

Melton Library and Learning Hub, 31 McKenzie Street Melton

Hear from Safi, Ambassador with the Refugee Council of Australia, as he shares his deeply personal story of displacement, rebuilding, and belonging. Growing up in Afghanistan, Safi and his family were forced to flee to Iran twice. He later left to pursue education, but following the Taliban's return to power in 2021, his family once again faced danger. Listen, reflect and engage as Safi shares his inspiring story.

Both events are free to attend. To register, visit melton.vic.gov.au/refugee-week

Quotes attributable to City of Melton Mayor Cr Lara Carli:

"Refugee Week is an opportunity to come together, listen and learn from one another, and recognise the strength and courage of those who have rebuilt their lives in our community."

"By sharing stories, we deepen our understanding and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes our City more inclusive, compassionate and connected."

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Catherine Chapman– Media and Communications Advisor on 0427 595 552.