



## Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG)

### Minutes

11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

9.30am- 11.00am

Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 1

**Chair:** Laura Duncan

**Minutes:** Cristina Del Frate

#### Present:

NAME	ORGANISATION / GROUP
Laura Duncan	City of Yarra
Cristina Del Frate	City of Yarra
Stanko Radonic	Yugoslav Seniors Club
Huanhua Yu	Fitzroy Chinese Association
Meizhi Han	Yarra Chinese Women's Group
Jing Mo	Fitzroy Public Housing Residents
Bing Juanzhang	Fitzroy Public Housing residents
Kim Chua	Collingwood resident
Rei Chin	Carringbush Adult Education
Xu Guo Ping	Yarra Richmond Elderly Association
He Ping	Chinese Friendship Association
Huian Zhang	Yarra Chinese Association
Ji Zheng Yao	Yarra Chinese Association
Cam Crome	CPRC
Hong Huang	Yarra Libraries
Hoang Nguyen	Vietnamese Catholic Family Mutual Association Network

#### Apologies:

NAME	ORGANISATION / GROUP
Cr Anab Mohamud	Yarra Council

#### 1. Welcome, Acknowledgement to Country and Introductions

Laura welcomed all to the meeting, acknowledging the Traditional Owners – the Wurundjeri.  
Introductions made around the table.

#### 2. Energy Rebate – Cam Crome (Consumer Policy Research Centre)

-Power saving bonus (\$250) grant is available for anyone with a Pension card or Health Care Card. If you have one of these cards and an electricity bill, you are eligible. The money goes into your bank account.

-This offer is running till the end of January 2022.

-Applications are done on line and Cam is working in the high rises to help people apply. Cam can also visit your group. Free of charge. If there are some members here who are interested, call Cam on 0439 877 522, or visit [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au).

-Easier to do this with Cam as it's a one step process.

Many activities and programs coming up in next few months – Spring poetry reading (Chinese) Richmond in December. 8 Dec Fitzroy library – Vietnamese music afternoon

-Tech programs – how to use email etc are always on at the library. Contact Marcia or Hong for information. (If Chinese speaking, ask for Hong at library).

-School holiday program in December if you have grandchildren / children.

**3. Community Vision – Laura Duncan (City of Yarra)**

-Council is creating its first community vision, which sets out Yarra's set of values and vision for 15 years.

-Last year we went to the housing estates and conducted surveys, this was the first part of the process.

-Now we are meeting with a deliberative panel (representatives of the community) to develop a vision of what matters to the community and what the Council needs to deliver and what to advocate for to state and fed government.

-August 2021 – we will have the vision draft endorsed by the Council. We will keep you up to date on how that project unfolds.

**4. Library News – Hong Huang (Yarra Libraries)**

-Hong from Yarra libraries, and is a community engagement officer.

-Library opening hours – while closed over the pandemic, now back to normal.

-Collingwood library is now open since february (was closed due to building issue).

-Services and events are back to normal – face to face story time, (including Greek story time).

-Many events have been run on line – short story club, writing workshop, remain on line.

-Japanese flower arrangement – face to face

-Vietnamese reading month (May) – Vietnamese author talk and music performance.

-English conversation group online – for practicing your English skills.

-If you are looking for work, libraries can help with resumes, need to make an appointment for face to face assistance.

-Digital coaching – one to one help provided. Can be face to face or online. This is for help with using devices and is available at all branches. Call for an appointment.

-Free wifi and computer use, free scanning service also available at libraries.

-E books – many e books, e talking books, and magazines are available. If you don't know how to use these services, make an appointment and they can help you learn.

**Next Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, Richmond Town Hall.**