



## Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group

Tuesday 2 August 2022

10am – 11.30am

Meeting Room 3, Richmond Town Hall

### Minutes

- **Welcome and Introductions**

**Cr Anab Mohamud:** Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today – and to their Elders past, present and future.

- **Councillor introduction and update**

(Cr Anab Mohamud)

- No updates

- **Council Updates**

(Laura Duncan)

- **Presentation: Employment Support**

Brotherhood of St Laurence

(Anita Ayul,  
Mitzi Espinosa)

assists community who want to find employment or further education

- we're located in Fitzroy, but also do outreach in Richmond at The Factory on Thursdays. Help with resumes and covering letters, job search, interview preparation, access to local jobs, training courses, and support and advocacy. Call 9288 9900. Services are free of charge. There are 2 people here today who used to be participants of the program (Anita and Lin) who are both working now.

- **Victorian State Election Voter Education Session**

Victorian Electoral Commission

(Asvin Phorugngam)

*(See presentation slide at Attachment C)*

- The role of the Vic Electoral Commission – we organise Local and State elections, we are independent of pol parties, look after the electoral roll.
- Why voting is important? It's everyone's human right, to be heard on issues that are important, it's the responsibility of every Aust citizen, imp to be part of the decision making process.
- The 3 levels of govt: federal, State (Vic), and Local (Yarra)
- 26 Nov – State Election – decides who will be in government in Vic (Premier). What does a govt do for us? Health care, education, roads, infrastructure, so voting is important to represent u to maintain the services we enjoy.
- Who can vote in Australia? Over 18 years, Aust Citizen, and need to be enrolled. You need to update your enrolment if you change your name or move house.
- To vote in the State election we have 2 ballot papers – small paper is for the Lower house, the larger paper is for the Upper House.
- How to vote for the Lower house? (small paper) Need to use numbers (1 = the one we want the most) need to fill all the boxes with numbers in order of your choice. Australia introduced the secret ballot paper to the world. You cannot put your name on the ballot paper.
- To vote for the upper house – large ballot paper – you have 2 options:
  - The paper is divided into 2 parts divided by a line.
  - If you vote above the line you pick 1 political party only.
  - If you choose to vote below the line, you need to number at least 5 candidates. It can be more, but at least 5.
- The difference between the 2 approaches is a personal preference – some people want to choose a political party only and some people want to choose particular candidates.
- You cannot tick or cross on a ballot paper – only numbers.
- Help with Voting – you can receive some help with voting, for example, a family member can translate for you to help. There are translated voting instructions on the back of voting screens. Braille ballot papers can be ordered from the VEC. Ask for a magnifying sheet and a maxi pencil at the voting centre. All voting centres will have a hearing loop.
- The VEC train people to be Voting Ambassadors who speak other languages. Need people to work with VEC.
- If you make a mistake on the day, ask for a new paper. You need to return the paper with the mistake. Take your time. You can take your family / friends to help you, but not to tell you who to vote for.
- You can also vote early or if overseas. From 14 – 25 Nov, there are early voting centres. Or you can ask for an online postal vote. No online voting.
- If you are overseas, you will need to vote at an Aust embassy.

- If you didn't vote, you will receive a letter asking you why. You may be fined if you don't have a good reason.
- You must enrol to vote by 8pm on 8 November 2022.

- **Information sharing**

(All)

- Lin – has free hairdressing service available to disadvantaged groups incl seniors, homeless, ppl with disabilities. Small fee for the service. Applying for a grant to be able to provide this service to more people. Struggling at the moment because we are a charity. Services are available every day from salon in Victoria St.
- Raymond – Free lecture on understanding Van Gogh presented in Mandarin: 28 Aug 2pm – 4.30 at Richmond Library. No booking needed.

- **Yarra Libraries News:**

To celebrate [Chinese Reading Month](#) we have the following events ...

**Richmond Library:**

- Understanding Van Gogh presentation (in Mandarin)  
Sunday 28 August, 2pm-4.30pm
- New Book Day (new Chinese and Vietnamese books)  
Saturday 6 Aug 10am-4pm

**Richmond Library Theatrette**

- Moon Festival Celebration  
Saturday 3 September 1.30pm-4.30pm

**Fitzroy Library:**

- Free Chinese calligraphy workshop 13 Aug 11am-1pm

- We also have a new service to [fill out forms](#) on the computer. You can book to get a library staffer to fill out the forms.
- You can also use our [Digital Help](#) service - book a staff member to help you work out technology questions on phones.
- [Open Library](#) – if you do the library induction course, you can go to the library between 8am and 10pm even when the library is closed. This is available at Richmond and Bargoonga Nganjin (North Fitzroy) libraries.
- **Dinesh Nettur – Victoria Police – Multicultural Liaison Officer:** Covers City of Melb and City of Yarra. Much of my work is to do with International Students, engaging with religious leaders, also work with Aboriginal Liaison. In Yarra we are going to run a women's driving program.

- We have a problem with the police at the moment – community confidence in the police is very low. My job is to engage with the community. Find out what issues residents have with the police and report back to leaders.
- Also do education sessions about the law, driving, family violence. We have also done heatwave sessions. Vic Police is the coordinator when a heatwave occurs. Would like to run another session on heatwaves. If you would like a presentation, we can come and speak to your group.
- Now doing more face to face work with the community. Contact Cristina or Laura if want to contact Dinesh.
- We have a Neighbourhood Policing coordinator – Caroline McMahon based at Richmond Police. If there are issues that occur in Yarra, we can tell the inspector. Its very important the Police hears about issues in the community. We will always ask you if you prefer them to arrive in uniform or in plain clothes.
- If a community member has a complaint against a police officer – always ask a police officer their name – find out which police station they work at. You can make your complaint through the senior sergeant of that police station. You can also contact the Professional Standards area (they are police as well). Outside the police force there is an independent body who can investigate as well.
- **Question from resident:** the security staff at Rich high rise is not doing a good job and they should work more closely with the police.
  - **Dinesh:** contact Crimestoppers – you can call them on **1300 333 000** and ask for an interpreter if needed. You don't have to give your name, just information about a crime – they will pass on to police. Imp if you see something, you need to tell someone this.
- **Question from resident:** about the behaviour of children and young people at the housing estates.
  - **Dinesh:** Police do engage with young people at schools and in after school programs.
  - Need a community Safety meeting in Yarra, Dinesh happy to talk to his supervisor about organising this.

**Next YMAG Meeting:** Wednesday 9 November 10am-11.30am

**To join the YMAG, contact:** Laura Duncan  
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