

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday 8 May 24
6pm – 8pm



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Masselos.

Present

Councillors	
Clr Paula Masselos	Mayor/Chair
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Council Officers	
Annette Trubenbach	Executive Manager, Community Programs
Madly Bodin	Community Development Officer, Diversity
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Community Member/Organisations	
Anna Friedman	Community Member
Lana Kofman	JewishCare
Linda Deutsch	Expert
Margaret Teed	City East Community College
Marcia Monje de Castro	Community Member
Raphael Crowe	Community Member
Robert Farotto	Community Member
S. Marie Denizard	Community Member
Valentina Baú	Community Member
Rozy Dorizas	Community Member

2. Apologies

Emily Bogue, Baris Atayman, Emily Scott, Ben Thompson, Clr Kay, Clr Betts

3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

Raphael accepted and Margaret seconded the minutes via email.

No business arising.

4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

NIL

5. Bondi Junction Tragedy

The Mayor spoke about her role following the Bondi Junction tragedy. Council supported the community by:

- Managing and protecting the floral tribute site and organising the removal of tributes and cards which will be turned into condolence books.
- Participating on the working group with the Premiers Department, NSW Health, Department of Education, local MPs to ensure the response was coordinated and appropriate.
- Supporting the South East Sydney Local Health District mental health workers in Oxford St Mall.
- Collaborating and assisting Scentre Group (Westfield) where possible.
- Providing financial assistance to Headspace and Lifeline Bondi Junction.
- Organising the Vigil with the Premier's Department.
- Coordinating local community services.

Moving forward, Council will work on ensuring the community feels safe. A permanent memorial will be established in the future.

The committee made the following comments:

- This has been a very difficult time and there should be additional funding at a national level addressing mental health.
- The vigil was moving, sensitive and fitting.
- The tone of Westfield has changed.
- Some people are feeling vulnerable.
- It would be helpful to have some guidance around diffusing a situation and defending yourself.

6. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031 Report

- **Community Engagement Activities with Artist**

Madly updated the committee about work that Nawras has been doing and shared the book that she authored and illustrated. Nawras has been visiting Council's Early Education Centres for 'storytime' with her book and will continue to do this at other venues outside of the Waverley area, and at the Waverley Library on 17 June for Refugee Week at 10:30am.

- **International Friends in Bondi**

There were 13 attendees at the most recent activity - a walk from Bondi to Coogee with a presentation by a volunteer at the Coogee Surf Lifesaving Club about beach/water safety. These opportunities are important for people to connect and find out more information. There will be a similar event in three months, and the project aims to connect people with others as part of our general programming.

- **Bushcare Volunteering**



A group of women from Ukraine volunteered for Waverley Council's Bushcare program as a way of giving back to the community that has supported them since they arrived.

- **Global Table**

This event will be held on Sunday 19 May starting at 11am, with new performers, MC and the Blak Markets. All vendors (food and stalls) will have an opportunity to share information about their food, culture and products.

- **Author Talk**

The author talk at the Waverley Library on 23 May – 'Simon Tedeschi in conversation with Sheila Ngoc Pham - has 100 registrations (capacity) and a wait list has been set up.

7. Council's anti-racism campaign – Stage 2

Culture Waves Presentation and Feedback

At the previous meeting, information was shared about the proposed Culture Waves project which since has been confirmed to proceed. The committee provided the following feedback:

- Council should specify age group for mentors and young people.
- The connection to the anti-racism campaign should be clear to participants.
- Define what will the outcomes be.
- Expand on the project meaning.
- Focus on the positive aspects of culture but also talk about anti-racism.
- More detailed information about the Cultural Mentor opportunity: matching process, supervision for mentors, duration of commitment, and any language proficiency requirements.
- The youth engagement specialist will be involved.
- Important role for MAC to provide input.
- Unpack – what is culture.
- Be mindful of people's willingness to share own personal stories and experiences.
- Clear boundaries to be established around roles.
- Group to help us to design/test program.
- Toolkit to be developed and shared.
- Madly to share topics for group to reflect on mentoring aspect.

8. Feedback from MAC mid-term survey

Madly presented the feedback gathered through the mid-term survey we received from eight of our 12 MAC members. All respondents confirmed that their experience of the MAC was in line with or above expectations.

Some of the comments received included:

- We should be ensuring a continuous improvement approach.
- Human rights – consider for next term to ensure we have language that reflects the focus of the MAC meetings.
- It is good to have participation to help provide feedback to Council.
- We need a feedback loop to make sure suggestions are considered and heard.
- This is an advisory group not a decision-making group.
- There should be an opportunity to review expectations and understand why everyone has joined.

Madly has created a form and will share a link for suggestions and ideas – she will receive an automated notification when something has been sent through.

The City of Sydney have a new MAC – we will explore the potential for linkages.

For the next meeting we will look at reviewing the strategy to determine where our focus should be. This feedback will also be important for the new Waverley Community Strategic Plan. Work will begin on this shortly.

9. NAIDOC and National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week is approaching and is held annually between 27 May and 3 June. This year we have worked on an art project with the Walawaani students from Waverley College to create street flags/banners which will have been hung on Campbell Parade and Birrell St. Council will be attending the school Reconciliation Week assembly on 30 May to acknowledge the work of the students, and their individual work will be exhibited in the library in August.

A suggestion was made that we should create a digital story about the project.

During NAIDOC week in July, the following will be taking place:

- Ruby Hunter Tribute Concert – 6 July
<https://www.bondifestival.com.au/event/proud-proud-woman-ruby-hunter/>
- NAIDOC in the Park - Centennial Park & Randwick Council Partnership on Sunday 14 July
- Library Author Talk & Short Films
https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/library/whats_on/library_events/events/author_talk_mel_brown_presents_shades_of_me

10. Events Coming Up

- Global Table – Sunday 19 May Oxford St Mall
- Author Talk with Simon Tedeschi – Thurs 23 May Waverley Library
- Refugee Week Storytime – Monday 17 June Waverley Library
- Angela Tiatia – The Dark Current at Bondi Pavilion Gallery 11 May – 30 June

11. Other Business/Correspondence

Allegra Spender – Disinformation workshop (Raphael to share)

12. Next Meeting

8 August 2024 – this will be the last meeting for this current Council term - we will make it a special occasion.

Meeting closed 7:45pm.