

A bi-monthly newsletter providing up-to-date news on Darebin City Council's progress in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Ethnic Communities Council

Interfaith Consultation Report Launch 2005

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On the 29th of June, Kaye Darveniza, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier of Victoria launched the City of Darebin Interfaith Report. The launch attracted more than 150 people. Speakers included Cr Diana Asmar, Mayor of Darebin, Philip Shanahan, CEO of Darebin Council, Professor Joe Camilleri and Reverend Gordon Wild. Other guests included religious leaders, service providers, consular representatives and residents from different faith communities in the municipality. The report was the culmination of a community-wide consultation program on interfaith collaboration which sought to gather community's views on faith, faith relations, faith leaders and the role of faith institutions.



The launch followed a meeting of religious leaders to discuss models of interfaith collaboration and the role of Council in facilitating understanding and networking to address common issues and to minimise tensions which result from misconceptions between religiously and culturally diverse communities. In her presentation speech Cr Diana Asmar called all Darebin citizens to "join Council in strengthening the spiritual ties that bind our community together and to use our system of beliefs regardless of what they are, as a uniting force, a source of strength, comfort, and resilience that we can collectively draw on, not only in times of crisis but in our every day lives". Copies of the Report are available from Customer service Centres or by calling 8470 8888.

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Top L-R: Jenny Mikakos, Darebin resident, Kaye Darveniza and Mayor of Darebin, Cr Diana Asmar at the launch.

Inset: Philip Shanahan, Audience, and Professor Joe Camilleri-

Below- Council Staff savouring Ethiopian food

Presentation on Ethiopian community

On the 15th of June 2005 The Multicultural Affairs Unit hosted a presentation by the Migrant Resource Centre on the Ethiopian community in Darebin. The presentation offered a profile of this emerging community and elaborated on issues that affected members of that community in the municipality with an emphasis on cultural characteristics and how service providers could more effectively communicate with members of that community. Participants were asked to fill in an evaluation form which resulted in the majority finding the session helpful, informative and relevant to their work. They also found the presenters to be well informed, organised and interesting. After the presentation participants had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious variety of authentic Ethiopian food cooked on site.



DECC's Farewell to Darebin Council CEO

DECC's Farewell to Darebin Council CEO

The Darebin Ethnic Communities Council organized a farewell to Mr. Philip Shanahan, CEO of Darebin City Council. Philip made a great contribution to the discussion of issues and the development of projects in relation to cultural diversity and diversity management in Darebin. He played an important role in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between DECC and Council's management team. The farewell was attended by members of DECC, Council officers, Councillors and representatives of service providers in the municipality. Participants were entertained by 'The Signoras', who used their high quality acting skills and comedy to tell the audience some of the most important moments in Phil's life.



Cr Marlene Kairouz, Philip Shanahan And Dalal Smiley

BREAKFAST WITH SUE-ANN POST

The Multicultural Affairs Unit organised a Breakfast Seminar with Sue-Ann Post on the 14th of June at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre. More than 160 people attended. Sue-Ann is Australia's only six foot, lesbian, ex-Mormon, diabetic, comedian and author. She has written and performed numerous one-woman shows in festivals across the country. On this occasion Sue-Ann's thought-provoking presentation tackled the complexity of intersecting identities. 95% of participants considered her presentation as excellent, and 76% considered the format of the seminar excellent. This is what some people said after the seminar about Sue:

"She is interesting and very entertaining".

"She is very engaging. What a great day to start Tuesday. More please!"

"Sue Ann was fabulous".

"I loved the philosophy and values embedded in the stories".

"She was excellent, affirmation of the "positives" of diversity".

"I like her diverse personality, her presentation was humorous yet serious in its meaning".



Sue-Ann Post

MUSLIMAH HALAL CATERING



Nazra (top) and with Noura (Right)

A new halal catering service has been set up after 15 Muslim women from the Northern region were trained in food handling. This service specialises in the cuisine of Middle Eastern and African countries and are able to cook all the food on site if you provide them with access to a kitchen. Darebin City Council used them to cater for some of its activities including the Launch of the Interfaith Report that attracted 150 people. The food included a variety of delicious dishes from different countries. If you would like to use this service to cater for your functions call Nazra Ibrahim on 0405 735 902 or email: nazra@bigpond.com

