



**Fostering Intercultural Values**

## **Minutes of DECC Meeting Held at 6:30pm on 29 September 2005**

Present: John Nicolau (Reservoir Greek Club), David Diaz (City of Darebin), Vincenzo Balestra (Coasit), Stergios Ztalios, Steve Novak (Northern Region Club), Nevenker Bajer (Northern Region Club), Petre Trpkovski (Northcote Macedonian Club), Milica Trpkovski (Northcote Macedonian Club), George Sekleski (BIGLA), Kosta Ristovsk (BIGLA), Finka Ristovsk (BIGLA), Josara de Lange (DECC), Simone Battiston (DECC), Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Tamil Association), Lionel Bopage (Shakthi), Salvatore Mabiordit (Sudanese Community Forum), Gaetano Greco, Sofia Kotanidis

Apologies: Naomi Paine (MRC), Indah Morgan (Indonesian Community Association in Victoria), Jackie Mansourian, Andy Mylonas

The meeting commenced the meeting at 6:30

Chairperson's welcome.

Unfortunately Sonya Ryan of the Northcote Place Making Project was unable to attend. Hopefully she will be a guest speaker at a future meeting

Helen Matters, coordinator of the Darebin Walking Project, gave a presentation which outlined the aims and methods of the Darebin Walking Project. The general aim of this project is to get community members making a long term shift to increased activity and walking. Increased walking provides the benefits of increased health, improved environment, an increased feeling of community (with more people visible) and its is also free. She is looking for individuals or groups who would like to get involved in the project. Anyone who would like to be involved can call Helen Matters on 8470 8398.

Confirmation of Minutes

Reports:

Seminar proceedings: edited and will be sent off in the next couple of weeks. After feedback will be published in about a month.

Book Darebins Australians: From immigrants to Citizens still ongoing, aiming to be published early next year

Multicultural Affair Unit Report: Ramadan 4 Oct 6 Nov, MAU is helping with organisation and security over this period.

An Interfaith Network is being developed in which religious leaders from different religions would meet regularly to discuss issues that affect, or are of concern to, their communities. These issues would then be able to be dealt with as a more powerful group.

The Guide to Faith Communities in Darebin has been published, and copies can be obtained from the Multicultural Affairs Unit on 9230 4589.

Darebin staff are going to be asked to fill out a survey about multiculturalism. This will help the Multicultural Affairs Unit to better understand people's attitudes towards multiculturalism and to know how to more effectively tackle problems.

The Darebin City Council Multi-Lingual Telephone Line is a continually developing project that requires ongoing maintenance.

Gaetano Greco: he has been talking to Preston –Reservoir Progress Group about a partnership between them and DECC with regards to raising awareness of the new Anti-Terrorism Laws that many fear will be used to discriminate against certain ethnic groups, particularly Muslims. The Preston – Reservoir Progress Group is a non – ethnic based organisation, and hopefully this forum will display that many people are concerned and not just those that will be targeted.

Salvatori Mabiordit pointed out that groups that support terrorism or appear to do so should stop because it frightens and causes suspicion in the government and parts of the population. This makes things more difficult for the wider ethnic community likely to be targeted by new terrorism laws and increased fear, and not just those that have those views.

It was noted that the Senior Citizens Forum is coming up on the 3 November.

It was also suggested that a card with important numbers on it could be produced and distributed to those that may need them, particularly thinking of ethnic communities and the elderly. Numbers such as emergency services, council phone numbers and support service numbers would be included.

It was agreed that the 24 November DECC be used as the AGM.

Meeting Finished 7:55 pm