



Fostering Intercultural Values

Minutes of DECC Meeting Held on 20 April 2006

Present:

George Kanjere - *DECC*
Simone Battiston - *DECC*
Josara de Lange - *DECC*
Milica Trpkovski - *Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club*
Petre Trpkovski - *Northcote Macedonian Senior Citizens Club*
Louis Krushorovski - *The Federation of Macedonian S.C.K*
Reece Cocks - *MFB Community Safety northern Zone*
John Zika - *VICSEG*
Jackie Mansourian
Boris Krstevski - *Macedonian Pensioners - Reservoir*
Jordanka Popevska - *The Federation of Macedonian S.C.K.*
John Nicolau - *Reservoir Greek Elderly Citizens Club*
Sofia Kotanidis - *Greek Community of City of Darebin*
Lionel Bopage - *Shakthi*
Dimi Bougalas - *Merri Creek Management Committee*
Fikau Teponga - *Kaiga Tuvalu Victoria Inc.*
Gaetano Greco

Apologies:

Roberto D'Andrea
Salvatore Mabiordit
Natasha Brakhya Koul
Carmelina Di Guglielmo
Andy Mylonas

Meeting Commenced at 6:50 pm

1. Chairperson's welcome

The Chairperson Gaetano Greco welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the guest speakers, Fikau Teponga and Dimi Bougalas.

2. Guest Speaker: Fikau Teponga

Fikau Teponga made a presentation about Kaiga Tuvalu Victoria, the association of Tuvaluan families in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Kaiga Tuvalu Victoria was established in 1989, when it comprised of only about 10 families, but it has now grown to 36 families, comprising of about 160 people. The association was incorporated in 2001, and holds several events a year including Christmas celebrations and Tuvalu Independence Day. Fikau's talk was followed by questions and a discussion.

3. Guest Speaker: Dimi Bougalas

Dimi Bougalas, Community Engagement Environment Officer of the Merri Creek Management Committee Inc, talked about the group's activities in trying to reduce the pollution in Merri Creek. They are focusing particularly on cigarette butts, which are numerous and clog drains and water-ways, as well as releasing poisonous toxins into them. There are fines for dropping cigarette butts

but these disproportionately affect people from non-English speaking backgrounds, because information about those laws is largely in English. She said that there was an inadequate effort made by local governments to communicate with people from non-English speaking backgrounds regarding fines for throwing away cigarette butts, and if these fines were made known to people from NESBs then they could avoid them, benefiting themselves and the environment.

4. Other Business

David Diaz announced the launch of the Darebin Frequently Asked Questions Guide, which is being published in six different languages – Arabic, Chinese, Macedonian, Vietnamese, Greek, English and Italian. It contains answers to commonly asked questions, for example regarding local laws, council services and so on. The launch was held on 27 April, and if you would like a copy of the booklet in any of those languages please call Darebin City Council customer service on 8470 8888.

Next Meeting: 18 May 2006

Meeting Finished at 8:30 pm.