



## MINUTES

## MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 1 December 2008 at Knox Civic Centre

**PRESENT:**

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)	Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
(Secretary)	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
(Treasurer)	Temple Society, Bayswater
	Temple Society, Bayswater
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	Boronia Church of Christ
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer

## GUEST:

Temple Society, Bayswater

**APOLOGIES:**

(Vice-chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)

**OPENING and APOLOGIES:**

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm by Gwenda who welcomed everyone, acknowledged the traditional owners of the land upon which the meeting was held and made an opening prayer. Rolf outlined his new role in The Temple Society and the meeting congratulated him.

Minutes of meeting of 6 Oct: **Moved** for acceptance by Sr Moya, seconded by Mark. Passed.

**4. Proposed Youth Festival – The Temple Society**

Gwenda introduced Kylie from The Temple Society. The Youth Festival is a single-day event focused on young adults from about 10-16 years of age in the City of Knox area. The most recent event was successful, and the Temple Society is looking to grow this further. So it is seeking expressions of interest from Member communities who would support planning and delivery of an activity in about Sept / Oct 2009. Members are requested to send this to the right contact person in their community and respond.

**5. Minutes/Actions from Last Meeting***5.1.1 Multicultural Advisory Committee*

Lisette reported on the status: A large number of excellent nominations have been received. Gwenda has been nominated from KIN. Interviews will be held in February 2009.

### *5.1.2 Eastern Region Councils*

Lisette reported on communication across six Councils in the outer eastern metropolitan region which either have inter-faith networks or are investigating setting up such networks. The intent is to run a few gatherings during 2009, starting with a breakfast to be run at the Karralyka Centre early in 2009. This would be to share information across the various networks or aspiring networks. The sense of the meeting was supportive and Members look forward to hearing further information.

### *5.1.3 Parliament of World's Religions (6 December 2009)*

Gwenda reported on communications from Helen Heath, noting the cut-off date for submission of proposals for programs in February 2009. Gwenda also noted a request from the conference organisers for communities to provide volunteers.

### *5.1.4 City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering*

Mark reported on the event in very favourable terms. A key theme of the evening was built on the Year of Languages, emphasising 'Speaking Words of Love'.

### *5.2 Treasurer's Report*

Reconciliation was made for Member communities which still needed to pay for 2008.

The current balance in the Network account is \$XXX.XX.

There is also an amount of \$XXX.XX still sitting in the Knox Presbyterian Church account, which was the saving made on printing from the Council grant.

**MOVED:** That the funds remaining in the Knox Presbyterian Church be transferred to the Knox Inter-faith Network. (Moved: Tina; Seconded: Rowland – passed unanimously.)

### *5.3 Chairperson's Report*

Gwenda tabled this report. It will be distributed after Gwenda makes a few minor amendments suggested by Members present.

#### *5.4.1 Rye Interfaith Network meeting*

Gwenda reported on this meeting.

#### *5.4.2 JCMA Workshop*

Gwenda reported on this workshop on 'When does criticism become vilification?'

## **6. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network**

### *6.1 Greetings from the Knox Inter-faith Network through the Minister's Message at the Knox Christmas Carols*

Gwenda reported on a meeting with organisers and a request to provide a two-sentence message for inclusion. "The Members of the Knox Inter-faith Network send to all citizens of Knox our Best Wishes for this Season. The Network exists to encourage proper understanding between religious communities in Knox so that each religious community and the community in general may be good neighbours. Wishing you peace, harmony and blessing for the coming year."

## **7. Election of 2009 Office-Bearers**

- Secretary: Peter was nominated and elected unanimously.
- Treasurer: Rolf was nominated and accepted noting 2009 would be his last year in the role. Elected unanimously.
- Publicity Officer: Gwenda was nominated and elected unanimously.

There were no nominations for either Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson. Gwenda was asked to continue in the Chairperson role until the February 2009 meeting, as which the matter would be reconsidered. One option considered was to replace the roles of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson with the roles of President (external face of the Network, who would need to be available in the Knox area during business hours) and Chairperson (solely of the

meetings). This will be considered during the February 2009 meeting, which would require a change to the Constitution.

Peter will contact Members considered at the meeting for the Chairperson / Vice-Chairperson roles to sound out their interest in the roles.

Members present thanked Gwenda for her contribution to the Network during 2008.

## **8. Plans for 2009**

### *8.1 Incorporation for KIN*

VMEC requires organisations receiving grants to be incorporated or to receive funds through an auspicing organisation which is incorporated.

Rowland noted that the fee is relatively inexpensive and there are model documents which enable ready creation of the formal documents.

**MOTION:** Rod proposed establishment of a subcommittee to investigate incorporation of the Knox Inter-faith Network and make a proposal to the Network, with membership proposed to be Rowland and Mark. Seconded: Aly. Passed.

### *8.2. Schools Program in Knox Area.*

Lisette noted that another Inter-faith Network already has a program of this type operating and will seek relevant information from them. Gwenda suggested the need for running a pilot during the first half of 2009 to prove our ability to run it before seeking funding for a full program. Lisette emphasised the program would need to be relevant to curriculum for it to be of interest and value to schools.

**MOTION:** Rowland proposed establishment of a subcommittee to develop a proposal for the Schools Program, with membership proposed to be Riad, Rod, Pat, Lisette. Seconded: Peter. Passed.

### *8.3 Membership Drive*

Options include:

- Visiting member communities to outline the role and principles of the Network
- Making members of the new Multicultural Advisory Committee aware of the Network

### *8.4 Workshop with the Bayswater Hindus*

Gwenda to request this community to speak on their proposal at a future meeting.

## **9. Next Meeting**

2 February 2009: Topics –

Membership drive, paper on schools program, paper on incorporation, program for 2009.

The meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.