



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 16 July 2012 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(President)	Uniting Church, FTG
(Vice-President)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(KIN rep to KMAC)	Egyptian Coptic Church

APOLOGIES:

(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
Councillor Adam Gill	Mayor and Member, Dinsdale Ward

GUESTS:

Blood 4 Harmony Program (part of meeting)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Pat opened the meeting at 7:40pm, welcoming all.

Tina provided the opening prayer, focussing on growth in diversity and widening of our perspectives through conversation.

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (ITEMS CARRIED OVER)

- 1.1 Mark advised that an application to the Knox Ward Contingency Fund (via Cr David Cooper) to meet the premium cost of public liability insurance (\$xxx, covering the Network's meetings and activities for a year) had been made. Belinda Gillam has advised the application was successful.

ACTION:

Mark to now attend to securing the cover offered through QBE Insurance.

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 2.1 Minutes of meeting of 4 June 2012:
 Minutes moved for acceptance: Mark; seconded: Maher; approved unanimously. The various action items were all completed and the agenda confirmed.

2.2 Red Cross – Blood for Harmony program:

David has an updated information package about the program. He attended one day of the JCMA conference (1-4 July at Pallotti College, Millgrove) and made contacts. David was also involved at the Deakin University orientation day and connected with two religious and two ethnic groups.

ACTION:

David to email the package to Mark for distribution.

2.3 Treasurer's report:

Mark noted a balance of \$xxx as of 30 June 2012. No amounts from the April forum remain outstanding. The balance includes \$yyy unspent OMAC grant money for the remaining "Policing and sensitivity to faith in Knox" component of the project.

With annual fees (of \$50) now due for current Network member organisations, Mark suggested any faith communities newly joining as a result of the 10th anniversary event be charged a pro-rata amount (\$25 for half the year). This was agreed to.

2.4 Event reports:

- Discussion on any follow-up to the 22/04/2012 forum - Gwenda is not in favour of any further action.
- JCMA conference - Riad indicated about 70 people attended, with about 45 committing to the entire program. It included many new faces and provided a welcoming atmosphere. Next year's event will be the tenth conference.

3. PLANNING FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT**3.1 Funding:**

OMAC funding of \$zzz has been granted.

The project is expected to adhere to the guidelines and objectives of promoting understanding of different faiths and bringing together different faith and community groups. To meet the objectives, it is expected that the project will encourage:

- participation from a diverse range of local faith communities;
- engagement with a broad range of members within faith communities, with a particular focus on young people and women;
- involvement of local community members outside faith groups; and
- engagement with existing interfaith networks in the local area.

OMAC requires the involvement of people and communities that have not been previously engaged in our activities.

ACTION:

Mark to sign and return the funding agreement to OMAC.

3.2 Contacting faith communities:

Gwenda (directly to parishioners) and Pat (by e-mail) have each begun contacting faith communities (from the Knox list) utilising a letter of introduction/explanation about the project. Mention was made of the Tenrikyo Melbourne Shinyu Church at 312 Boronia Road, Boronia (southern side between Scoresby and Stud Roads) – email contact tmsc@tenrikyo.org.au

ACTION:

Mark to re-send the list of faith communities, together with the letter of introduction/explanation.

ACTION:

Pat and Gwenda to indicate which faith communities they have already contacted.

ACTION:

All members to select as many of the remaining faith communities they are comfortable in approaching (indicating by email which ones they are targeting). This could also include any faith communities not presently listed.

3.3 Action plan and next steps:

Following connection with the Programs and Quality Manager at Swinburne University of Technology, Angie (a mature-aged visual arts graduate) has been recommended for our project. Mark has had phone contact with Angie, and she has been given details of the grant application. It was hoped that she could attend tonight's meeting, but an operation in hospital was suddenly scheduled.

Angie was curator for the last Knox Rotary Art Exhibition and is keen to continue her interest in the arts at the local community level. Her previous experience also includes exhibiting as solo artist and as part of group shows in community and commercial spaces.

The timeline submitted with the grant application was as follows:

May 2012 – contact faith communities in Knox with invitation to participate in project (KIN members)

June 2012 – liaison between KIN, members of the Knox Photographic Society and the Knox Historical Society, staff at Knox Council, the Eastern Regional Libraries and local community/neighbourhood houses to plan and prepare the project's requirements (KIN members and curator/project officer)

July and August 2012 – collect suitable material from participating faith communities with the assistance of the Knox Photographic Society (curator/project officer)

September 2012 – prepare exhibition (curator/project officer)

October 2012 – exhibition launch at Knox Civic Centre (KIN members and curator/project officer)

With the focus on our April forum and the delay in notification from OMAC, Mark expressed doubts in us now being able to achieve this timeline in an optimal fashion. A launch in (say) February could then combine with the Knox Festival and KMAC's proposed Harmony Day event (both in March). Members supported this revision.

ACTION:

Mark to further liaise with Angie, asking her to attend the next meeting, to contact the Knox mayor to assess his availability for a launch event and to re-establish connection with both the Knox Photographic Society and Knox Historical Society.

ACTION:

Pat to check with the Eastern Regional Libraries and the community/neighbourhood houses to assess their interest in staging the exhibition and any requirements thereto.

4. ITEMS FROM KNOX COUNCIL

4.1 KMAC proposal:

Maher reported from the last KMAC meeting, where our views on the proposed Harmony Day (Thursday 21/03/2013) event were expressed. With the Hungarian Club now taking full responsibility for the celebration, there is no longer a need for KIN to be considered as a lead organisation. However, KMAC is welcoming of community and community group involvement in the event.

4.2 knox@50 project:

This project offers community groups the opportunity to have their views about the changes in the municipality and how Knox can be shaped into the future. Council's Community Engagement Officer for the project, Jaya Manchikanti, is keen to meet with us.

ACTION:

Mark to contact Jaya to see whether she can attend our next meeting.

5. MATTERS OF INTEREST5.1 Youth service project:

Lee outlined the interactive cross-generational project undertaken by her faith community's 18-30 year olds. Involving 100 young people and residents from three local aged care facilities, journal jars were created. Lee indicated the group is prepared to assist at other community events.

5.2 Media/communications training from OMAC:

Mark indicated he had applied for the intermediate course (with sessions to be held in late-August and early-September) on behalf of the TSA. The courses can be advertised among our faith communities.

5.3 As raised by Network members:

- Tina reported on a fire (lit by vandals) at the Uniting Church in Ferntree Gully. Significant smoke/soot damage will be covered by insurance. The congregation is meeting in their hall for the next six weeks, with an alarm system to be installed.
- After referring to a public address (titled "Sex Education – Protecting Our Children's Health") by Dr Miriam Grossmann (child and adolescent psychiatrist) in Melbourne on 01/07/2012, Lee directed interested members to the Victorian Education Department's website to inform themselves about Kaleidoscope, a year 9-12 sex education program.
- Gwenda advised of her changed personal email address.

6. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 20126.1 Visits to places of worship:

- Tina indicated a visit to the Ferntree Gully Uniting Church could be organised once the refurbishments are completed.
- Maher mentioned an intended trip with a close Jewish friend to Israel planned for mid-October. He commended Riad and the JCMA for being able to raise topics of religious differences. Riad felt that such conversations affirm and confirm one's faith.
- Contact with and a possible visit to the new Hindu Temple in Knox – Shree Swaminarayan Temple Melbourne (69 Wadhurst Drive, Boronia) – was suggested.
- Pat will respond in writing to the Sant Nirankari Mission accepting their invitation to visit, although given the Network's priorities for the coming months it is not likely to be before early-2013. In the meantime, an invitation for a representative of their congregation to attend our October meeting will be extended. The invitation will also outline the photographic exhibition anniversary project.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 20 August 2012 – Detailed planning for 10th Anniversary
(at Peter's home)

ACTION:

Mark to cancel Council bookings for additional August meeting

Monday, 1 October 2012 – 10th Anniversary Meeting

Monday, 26 November 2012 (Joint meeting with KMAC – date to be confirmed)

Bookings have been made for these events.

Meeting closed at 9:05pm