



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 August 2014 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Vice-president)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
(Publicity Officer)	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville Uniting Church, FTG

APOLOGIES:

(President)	Uniting Church, FTG Egyptian Coptic Church
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GUESTS (part of meeting)

Rudy Monteleone Cr Joe Cossari	KMAC – Representing the Afghan community Director, Victorian Multicultural Commission Knox Council
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WELCOME AND OPENING BLESSING:

Peter opened the meeting as acting Chairperson at 7:05pm.

Gwenda provided the opening prayer from *God's Prayer: The Sacred Task of Living*, by Michael L. Kagan; Gaon Books: Santa Fe, New Mexico; 2012.

The draft agenda was confirmed.

1. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

1.1 *Minutes of meeting of 9 April 2014:*

Minutes moved for acceptance: Mark; Seconded: Riad. Approved.

(Post-meeting note: Mark had previously asked for a small correction to the title of AGM Minutes 3.6 – to read “Election of 2014 Office-bearers” and a suggestion to provide the title for Rev. Stephen Morris at point 7.2.)

1.2 *Actions Arising:*

9.2 completed; 9.3 done by Pat;

11.1 discussed at agenda item 7.3 in this meeting; 11.2 completed.

Peter confirmed the Rules of Incorporation proposed and endorsed at the April AGM have been approved by the relevant State Government authority and thus take effect.

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. The end July bank balance is \$XXX, of which \$YYY is KIN funds and \$ZZZ remained from the VMC/OMAC projects (\$AAA from the Golden Rule events and \$BBB from the photographic event). \$CCC of this remainder has been committed already, with the residual \$DDD to be used on photobooks.
2. **ACTION:** Mark is checking about renewal of our insurance policy and the possibility of receiving funding for this from the Knox Council Contingency funds.

3. EVENTS ATTENDED:

1. Positive feedback was received from all communities involved in the 2 June KIN Photographic Closure Event, including from Jaya Manchikanti from Knox Council. The opportunity (and challenge) for KIN is to continue to build relationships and trust with other faith communities in the Knox area which are not currently members of the Network. All present agreed that this was best done by personal relationship-building and invitation wherever possible.
2. Riad gave a brief summary of his recent trip to Jerusalem with members of other faiths, following on from the public JCMA forum on Sunday, 3 August. A particular personal highlight was being in Jerusalem on the Night of Ascension by Muhammad. A lively discussion followed covering Riad's experience, the experience of the others who participated and the JCMA forum on 3 August.

4. MAIN TOPIC – REFLECTION: REST OF 2014 AND 2015 + BEYOND

- Key goals remain as:
 - Increasing the number of active members
 - Increasing the diversity of membership to non-Christian communities
 - Sadi will follow up to seek a contact from ISOMER
- Members were reminded that the new Articles of Association allow individual members to become Associate (non-voting) Members at a reduced rate
- Various views were put forward, with the general consensus being that KIN should continue with a mixture of 1 major project each 1-2 years (e.g., the photographic event, the 'Golden Rule' event, but subject to funding from external sources) and periodic meetings or visits to supplement this
 - Candidate major projects include those previously discussed:
 - The Knox local variant of the Tree of Life project run by the Ballarat Interfaith Network in November 2013
 - The project with schools running in the Maroondah Inter-faith Network area
 - Candidate visits include:
 - A visit to the new Islamic Museum of Australia, possibly in October. The Museum is located at 15A Anderson Rd, Thornbury, VIC 3071. It is open Monday - Thursday from 10am – 4pm, and Friday from 10am – 9pm. Guided tours are available for groups of eight or more and take about 90-120 minutes. There is a dinner service every Friday evening, so a Friday evening visit is a possibility, combining a light meal with a tour. Admission is \$12 for adults.
 - A multi-faith visit to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries, per the information sent by Peter prior to the meeting; these run 3.5 – 4.5 hours and include a light lunch, so are likely to be on weekdays.
 - The October 2014 KIN meeting will focus on continuing the discussion about future projects and activities, with an eye towards the VMC Community Grants Program Major Round 2015-2016. Applications for this round will be open between mid-October 2014 to mid-December 2014 for projects and activities taking place between July 2015 and June 2016.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY

Imelda discussed the opportunities, benefits and work involved in running a social media strategy for a small volunteer group, based on her experience

- It is essential to engage people how they want to engage as simply putting information into the social media environment will not necessarily attract attention. For KIN to adopt a social media strategy:
 - We need to be present, e.g., with a Facebook page
 - Need to be present where the people we are interested in contacting are
- It is also important to understand that social media is ephemeral and transient, so not a good place for archiving longer lasting information
- Possible benefits to KIN include:
 - Promoting engagement with ideas / ideals
 - Interacting with people who are active already and have communities
 - Linking with others
 - Putting up a calendar
 - Guiding people to the Knox Inter-faith Network web-site, which contains the longer lasting and more detailed information about the Network
- **ACTION:** Imelda offered to work with Peter to set up a basic Facebook page. This will need at least 1 hour per week of activity / maintenance to keep it current. It is also possible to pin key contact details (e.g., web-site) to the main page and have it link to generating twitter announcement.

6. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

- 6.1 Gwenda alerted members to a talk she had attended which claimed that community organisations needed to adopt something about Online Hate Prevention in their charter. Other members were unaware of this and it was decided to monitor the situation before taking further action. Members thanked Gwenda for raising the issue.
- 6.2 As the Network is now gathering a small but valuable set of assets, it was agreed to set up a register of assets with current locations.
ACTION: Peter to prepare a draft Asset Register.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lee alerted members to two events in her community of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Cathies Lane, Wantirna South:
 - Family History Fair, Saturday 30th August, 1-4pm.
 - Service Project Event, Saturday 18th October, 1-4pm. This will focus on preparing blankets and hampers for distribution by The Salvation Army.

8. REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2014

- 8.1 Dates for meetings:
 - 6 October: Focus on planning future projects
 - November – likely to be the annual joint meeting with KMAC on a date to be advised

9. NEXT MEETING

6 October 2014, starting at 7:00pm

Meeting closed at 9:25pm.