

Rainbow Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



Date/Time Tuesday 24 June 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Location Collingwood Town Hall / Microsoft Teams

Chair Renee Thompson

1. **Pride Across Communities – THH Event** – Yarra-funded event held at Collingwood Town Hall 25 June, as part of a multicultural queer series run by Thorne Harbour Health. The largest event of its kind with 13 groups involved, fostering connections across queer multicultural and multifaith communities.
2. **Rainbow Policy Update** – Draft policy is heading to Councillor Workshop 15 July; open for public exhibition on Your Say Yarra from 18 August.
3. **Somewhere Sober – Dry July Event** – Almost sold out (197/220 tickets). Huge excitement from the community. Aims to create sober spaces for connection. THH to promote resources. Discussion around alcohol-included Pride events and inclusivity.
4. **LGBTIQA+ Memorial** – Concept design supported by Council, heading to Council Meeting 8 July for endorsement. Funding secured for fabrication and installation in 2025.
5. **Advisory Committee Review** – 14 EOIs received, committee will now meet quarterly with up to 10 members (previously 14), 2-year term. No honorarium available. First meeting of new RAC in September 2025.
6. **Farewell & Thank You to Current Committee** – Celebration of the RAC's journey from 2021 to now—advocating visibility, safety, and inclusion. Heartfelt thanks to long-standing members. Recognition of achievements across strategy, events, advocacy, and diversity initiatives.
7. **Reflections on Diversity & Representation** – Discussion on improving representation, particularly for First Nations, BIPOC and QPOC members. Suggestions included targeted recruitment, keeping places open for underrepresented voices, and exploring honorariums.
8. **Yarra Community Awards** – Nominations open for 2025 awards (Citizen, Young Citizen, Diversity and Inclusion). Ceremony in November 2025.
9. **Other Community Updates** – - "Xmas in July" queer community event 5 July by Positive Attitude hosted by Frock Hudson
 - Safety concerns raised over homophobic attacks through hookup apps—recent forum at The Laird.
 - Multiple Pride-related awards acknowledged within the committee