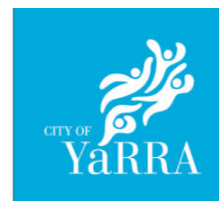


Minutes

Multicultural Advisory Committee



Date	Wednesday, 5 August 2026
Time	10:00 am – 11:30 am
Location	Richmond Town Hall: Councillors' Office, 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond VIC 3121
Chair	Councillor Meca Ho; Councillor Kenneth Gomez
Minute taker	Amani Godwin
Content Manager Ref	D26/0322961

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Councillor Meca Ho; Councillor Kenneth Gomez
Committee members	Xiao Yue Wang, Kim Chua, Hassen Mohamed-Saeed
Council Officers	Amani Godwin; Cristina Del Frate, Catherine Tranter, Younge, Laurice, Elly Murrell
Guests	Nicky Barry, Vinh Ngoc Nguyen
Apologies	Sarita Narayan, Steven Chu

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	The meeting was opened by the Chair. An acknowledgment of Country was provided. Committee members, Council officers, and guest speakers introduced themselves and provided an overview of their roles.
2.	Declarations of conflicts of interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.
3.	Victorian Seniors Festival	An overview of the Victorian Seniors Festival was presented. Key points included: • The Victorian Seniors Festival is an annual statewide festival for and involving older people, running from 1–31 October. • The festival provides opportunities for older people to participate in community, cultural, recreational and social activities. • Members were encouraged to help promote festival events and activities through their networks. • Information was shared about programs that support older residents, including the Carers Walking Group, Companion Animal Support Program, and Seniors and Sprouts. Matters raised by the Committee • No matters were raised by committee members. Actions • Members were encouraged to share information with older residents and community groups who may benefit from

		participating in festival activities and related programs.
4.	2026 Census	An overview of the 2026 Census was presented by Census Engagement Manager at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Key points included: • The 2026 Census will be held on Tuesday, 11 August 2026 and is compulsory for everyone in Australia that night, including visitors and babies. • Census forms can be completed online or on paper. Assistance is available for anyone who has not received instructions. • The ABS provides multilingual and accessible resources, community information sessions and form-completion support. • Language assistance is available through TIS National on 131 450. General Census support is available on 1800 181 227. • Community organisations were encouraged to promote Census information and support services through their networks. Matters raised by the Committee • Members discussed the value of collecting accurate cultural and community identity information through the Census to help inform government planning, service delivery, and community support initiatives. • Concerns were raised about older people living alone who may experience difficulties reading, understanding, or completing the Census form without assistance. Actions • Members were encouraged to remain vigilant about Census-related scams and to report any suspicious activity. • The Australian Bureau of Statistics advised that Field Officers and support services are available to assist eligible community members with completing Census forms. • Promotional materials and Census resources to be provided for distribution through community networks.
5.	2026 Yarra Community Grants Program	An overview of the 2026 Yarra Community Grants Program was presented. Key points included: • Approximately \$1.547 million is available across six funding streams aligned with the Council Plan 2025–2029. • Grants are available in three categories: small (up to \$4,000), medium (\$4,001–\$20,000) and large (\$20,001–\$40,000). • The redesigned program is intended to simplify the application process and improve transparency in the assessment and allocation of grants. • Members received information about eligibility requirements, funding priorities, application timelines and the support available to applicants. • Community information sessions and multilingual assistance are available to help community organisations and groups prepare strong applications. • Members were encouraged to promote the grants program through their networks and community organisations. Matters raised by the Committee • No matters were raised by committee members. Actions • No follow-up actions were identified.

6.	2026 Community Awards	An overview of the 2026 Community Awards was presented. Key points included: • Nominations for the 2026 Yarra Community Awards are now open. • The awards recognise individuals and community groups that have made a significant contribution to the Yarra community. • Community members are encouraged to nominate local “everyday heroes” whose work has positively impacted the community. • Award categories recognise individuals, community initiatives, sustainability, sport, arts, culture, diversity and inclusion. • The awards ceremony will be held in November, with cash prizes available to winners. • Nominations close on Sunday, 23 August 2026. Matters raised by the Committee • No matters were raised by committee members. Actions • Members will distribute promotional materials and nomination information through their networks. • Committee members will nominate deserving individuals and community groups before the closing date.
7.	2026 Victorian State Election	An overview of the 2026 Victorian State Election was presented by Democracy Ambassador at the Victorian Electoral Commission. Key points included: • The election will be held on Saturday, 28 November 2026. • Eligible voters must enrol or update their details by 8 pm on Tuesday, 3 November 2026. • Voting is compulsory for enrolled Australian citizens aged 18 or over who have lived in Victoria for more than one month. • Voting options include election-day, early, postal, interstate and overseas voting. • Translated information and accessible voting resources are available from the VEC. Matters raised by the Committee • Members asked about voting options for people away on election day and whether evidence of their absence could help avoid a fine. • The VEC advised that early, postal, interstate and overseas voting options are available. Anyone receiving an apparent failure-to-vote notice should respond within 28 days and explain their circumstances. Actions • Members will share VEC information and resources through their networks. • Members will check and update their enrolment details. • A VEC information session will be held at the Learning Bank in Richmond on 26 August 2026. Committee members were encouraged to promote the session to community members who may need assistance with voting.
8.	Yarra Updates	Councillor Gomez provided an update on the following: • 30 km/h Speed Limit Trial – Fitzroy and Collingwood: Community members were encouraged to provide feedback on the trial through the online engagement process. • Bargoonga Nganjin Rooftop, North Fitzroy: The rooftop space

		is temporarily closed for renovation works until further notice. • Glass Recycling Collection: Residents were advised that glass recycling collections are now scheduled every four weeks.
9.	Other Business	• No other business was discussed.
10.	Meeting closed	The meeting closed at 11:03 am.
11.	Next scheduled meeting	Wed, 11 Nov 2026 – Richmond Town Hall (Councillors' Office)