



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 3 August 2009 at Knox Civic Centre

### PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson/Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Vice-Chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Publicity Officer)	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	Temple Society Australia
	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	Boronia Church of Christ
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer

### GUESTS:

Cr John Mortimore	Knox City Council, Chandler Ward
Cr Joe Cossari	Knox City Council, Collier Ward

### APOLOGIES:

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna  
 St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave  
 ISOMER  
 Uniting Church, FTG  
 Uniting Church, FTG

### WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40pm and provided the opening prayer.

### 1. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 1.1 Gwenda noted that Minutes Item 1.4 should refer to the Hindu community rather than the Sikh community.  
 Cr John Mortimore noted that the topic ascribed to him under Minutes Item 2.3 related to a DVD of the Bishop from Northern Israel, rather than the Bishop speaking in person.  
 Minutes of meeting of 3 August 2009: Moved for acceptance with these amendments by Rolf, seconded by Gwenda – passed.
- 1.2 Eastern Region Councils on Interfaith Networks  
 This proposed activity has not progressed further since the last meeting, in part because the person driving it at City of Whitehorse has resigned. Lisette will keep monitoring possible activities.

1.3 Parliament of the World's Religions – 3-9 December 2009

Peter noted the call for volunteers distributed with the meeting agenda.  
Gwenda distributed new brochures for the event and noted she would be attending.

1.4 Incorporation Discussion

Mark reported very positively on the Knox Council workshop on incorporation that he and Maher attended. He took up the offer from the speaker to review the draft he had prepared previously. This review was positive.

Mark also reported on the tax office requirements, taking up Rowland's comments on clause 35 noted in the minutes of the 1 June 2009 meeting.

The Chairperson thanked Mark and Maher on behalf of the Network.

Discussion led to the following proposed positions:

- The faith organisation would be the Member and nominate an individual person as their delegate. (Mark noted that this was raised with the speaker at the Knox Council event, and the proposed structure was not unusual.)
- Membership fees would be paid by the delegate on behalf of the Member, with the receipt made out to the Member.
- Minutes would be made available to all people on the mailing list, as they are published anyway on the web-site and so are available publicly. Distribution of the minutes to the Member organisation would be the responsibility of their nominated delegate.
- The bi-monthly meetings would be considered as Special General Meetings.
- The Executive would be required to meet (as Committee) at least one time per year outside the Special General Meetings.
- The Network would hold an Annual General Meeting as required by the rules.
- The financial year would remain as the calendar year, with the Annual General Meeting being moved from December to February.
- We would use clauses 14.1 and 14.2 as is and not have a separate role of Chairperson compared to President.
- Accepting Rowland's proposed change noted in the minutes of the 1 June 2009 meeting to change the percentage in clause 10(5) to 30%.
- Accepting the proposed wording from the tax office for Clause 35, with the change of the Dissolution Clause to refer to "another interfaith or multifaith organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members."
- That the duration in Clause 13 (3) (ii) be changed from 1 week to 1 month.
- Recognising the valued role that Council members and representatives play, that the following be added to the Statement of Purposes, "Other interested parties may attend as observers at any Special General Meeting or at the Annual General Meeting and will be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Chairperson."
- Clause 4(5) be modified to read "The committee must present a recommendation on whether to approve or reject the application to the next Special General Meeting. Approval or rejection of the application would be voted on by a simple majority at that Special General Meeting."

A revised motion (modifying that passed at the June 2009 meeting) was then moved: **Motion** that Mark include the proposed amendments to the draft rules and statement of purposes and that the modified version be submitted to the Executive by 31 August 2009 in order that a proposal with a view to adoption be circulated at least 14 days prior to the October 2009 meeting.

- moved Maher, seconded Rolf – passed unanimously (by 6 voting members).

1.5 Schools Program

The subcommittee had been unable to meet – action carried over.

1.6 Treasurer's report

Rolf advised there was no change in finances since the last meeting. The current Network account balance at month-end June was \$XXXX.

Peter asked about investigating whether he could source a price for a license for a web content management tool, to be presented at the October 2009 meeting for approval. The Network Members present assented to Peter doing this.

1.7 Correspondence Received

Peter noted we are now linked on the Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly web-site and commended this web-site to Members.

**Action** Peter to contact Kim Rosenfeld at Maroondah Council.

**Action** Any Network Member with knowledge of faith leaders in Maroondah Council to send their contact details to Kim Rosenfeld at [krosenfeld@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:krosenfeld@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

1.8 Event Reports1.8.1 *JCMA Conference, 6-9 July, 2009.*

Riad reported on the conference, which was attended by 35 people. The event focused on the place of religion in our society. Speakers included people from outside the attending group. The event was very positive and rewarding. The event next year will most likely again be in the first week in July.

1.9 Future items of interest1.9.1 *City of Greater Dandenong – National Grassroots Conference*

Gwenda is planning on attending. Several Members are interested in attending but unable to attend.

1.9.2 *Victorian Interfaith Networks Annual Conference*

Peter will attend and will clarify the purpose and format of the presentation.

**2. PLANS FOR 2009**2.1 October Meeting

**Decision** The meeting decided to view the DVD from the Bishop from Northern Israel at the next meeting, to be followed by an open discussion.

**Action** Lisette to confirm availability of a suitable room for this for 5 October.

2.2 End of Year Meeting – Possible joint meeting with Knox Multicultural Advisory Group

The purpose of this would be to exchange views across faith and culture, and to have the groups meet each other and explore possible areas of activity.

**Decision** The Network Members present agreed to the proposal for this meeting of 23 November.

**Action** Peter to notify Belinda Gillam at Knox Council of the decision.

2.3 Other Major Upcoming Events

Cr John Mortimore noted the annual Music Festival at The Basin and queried whether the Network would be interested in participating at the next Festival, to be held 19-21 March 2009, with a spiritual music program. Network Members present agreed to explore the possibility and asked Cr John Mortimore to set up a group to discuss it.

Cr Joe Cossari suggested the Network consider involvement in an outdoor multi-cultural event or festival in the Knox Council area. This is also being discussed within the Knox Multicultural Advisory Group and also as a theme for the Knox Festival. The Network Members present agreed to explore this possibility and asked Cr Joe Cossari to keep the Network informed.

**3. OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

Gwenda raised the options paper on the Equal Opportunity Act, released in May 2009. This is considering retaining freedom of religious workshop, but cancelling some religious freedoms related to religious practice. A group scrutinising the proposed changes (including those related to religion) is hearing submissions on Tuesday 4 August and Wednesday 5 August this week, and Gwenda noted that there is likely to be some controversy about the proposals as they relate to limiting how faith is lived in daily life, e.g., the operation of religious schools, the operation of religiously-based health and welfare agencies.

Gwenda asked all Network Members to pray for the presenters on the days involved.

**4. NEXT MEETING**

Monday 5 October 2009.

The meeting was closed at 9:40 pm.