



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 23 November 2009 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson/Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
	(ISOMER)
	ISOMER
	ISOMER
	Temple Society Australia
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Uniting Church, FTG

GUESTS:

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

APOLOGIES:

(Vice-Chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
(Publicity Officer)	ISOMER
	Boronia Church of Christ
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Mayor Cooper opened the joint meeting of the Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee and Knox Inter-faith Network at 7:30pm, after a shared dinner. This meeting is minuted separately, but a brief summary follows below under "Discussion Topic".

Peter Evans opened a brief meeting of the Knox Inter-faith Network on the conclusion of the joint KMAC-KIN meeting. Minutes of that meeting follow from Item 2 below.

1. DISCUSSION TOPIC – JOINT KMAC-KIN MEETING

A lively discussion occurred around the agenda. Topics raised for future consideration and possible joint activities included:

- Media characterisation of different religions and cultures – is it fair or biased? Should KMAC and/or KIN adopt a public, zero tolerance posture towards media reporting based on stereotypes? If so, what would we do and how?
- Could we run a forum to debate the media characterisation of religious and cultural groups? If so, which media groups?

- The acknowledgement that often small differences which people have can cause people to be uncomfortable.
- What are the causes of violence in our community? Could we arrange a talk by someone representing Victoria Police?
- Could we find a general, shared activity or project to put our words into practice? (John mentioned the work done by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints regarding contributing to the rebuilding of fences after the 2009 Black Saturday fires.)
- Could KIN look to engage various cultural groups to provide entertainment as part of the annual meeting? (This is something being done by the Casey Interfaith Network.)

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

2.1 Minutes of meeting of 5 October 2009: Not discussed as meeting was impromptu.

2.2 Incorporation Discussion

As per the motion from the 5 October 2009 meeting, Mark had completed a review of the proposed documents, with assistance from Peter. Mark reported that Peter and he had finalised the documents within the scope of that previous motion and that they would be submitted for review and approval. Peter thanked Mark for his efforts.

Mark further noted that we should seek an income tax exemption and ABN once the incorporation occurred. The general sense of those present was to support this.

2.3 Web-site

Peter explained why the Knox Inter-faith Network had been unavailable. The domain registration for www.knoxinterfaith.org.au had expired, and the hosting company had notified the original web designer, not Peter. Peter's wife (Imelda) has arranged for it to be fixed, and the web-site is now available again.

2.4 Victorian Multicultural Commission Grants

Mark raised this and the timing. Applications for funding for events to run between July 2010 and January 2011 will open in February 2010. This topic will be picked up at the February 2010 (AGM) meeting.

2.5 Annual General Meeting

This will run on 1 February 2010.

2.6 2010 Meetings

The nominal April 2010 meeting was to run on 29 March but cannot due to meeting room unavailability. As 5 April is Easter Monday we need to agree another date.

The June 2010 meeting will run on 7 June.

Meetings for the second half of 2010 will be agreed at the AGM.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

- Cr Mortimore noted that the DVD he showed at the October 2009 meeting will be shown at the Parliament of World's Religions in December. KIN network members congratulated him.
- John offered the use of his church's facilities should meeting rooms not be otherwise available.
- Sr Moya noted she would be moving to a new assignment early in 2010. Members present thanked her for her contributions and wished her the best for her move.

4. NEXT MEETING

Monday, 1 February 2010 - AGM.