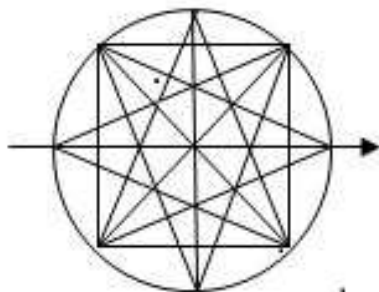


Contact:

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P O Box 94
Forest Hill VIC 3131**Email:** chair.msc@gmail.com**Website:** www.ccoei.org.au**MIGRANT SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE (Eastern Region)**

Standing Committee of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Inc.

Reg. No. A0017562S

Minutes – Friday 03 June 2022**Zoom meeting 9:30 am – 11:00 am****Chairperson:** Carole Pondevie-Lay, Melbourne Polytechnic**1. Acknowledgement of Country – Carole Pondevie-Lay****2. Attendance****Present**

Barbara Reeckman	Melbourne Polytechnic
Brian Tu	Maroondah City Council
Bwe Thay	Victorian Multicultural Commission and CCOEI
Carole Pondevie-Lay	Melbourne Polytechnic
Chris & Heather Cosgriff	Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and CCOEI
Con Pagonis	COOEE eNews Editor
Cynthia Shaw	CCOEI Committee of Management
Emma Wilkinson	Boroondara City Council, Social Inclusion and Policy Project Officer
Helen Forbes-Mewett	Monash University
Jane Barbieri	
Ken Pang	CCOEI and MSC
Krishani Dassanayake	CCOEI, Community member
Michelle Waters	EAL Teacher, Box Hill Institute
Paul Croft	Eastern Regional Libraries
Sameera Abdeen	Yarra Valley Water
Samer Albadin	Australian Multicultural Community Services
Saarah Ozeer	Bounce/CCOEI Committee of Management
Sally Brooks	Migrant Information Centre
Sameera Abdeen	Yarra Valley Water
Taylor Tran	Volunteer Tutor Officer, Melbourne AMEP (Ex AMEP student)
Tamika O'Brien	Neami National
Tina Andriotis	Box Hill Institute
Vincent Hu	Chinese Community Social Services Centre (CCSSI)

Apologies

Daniel Noel	CCOEI President
Gitta Clayton	CHCC
Helen Jurcevic OAM	Women's Friendship Group
Madeleine Parker	Education Victoria
Megan Cook/Vicki Selimi	Services Australia, MSO (Phone in)
Nora Fernandes	Palliative Care Victoria
Sam Navarria	CCOEI Life Member – Previous MSC Chair

3. Minutes of the previous meeting:

Moved by Cynthia Shaw. Seconded by Emma Wilkinson

4. Business arising:

Incorporated into the Agenda when and as required

5. **Correspondence:** Correspondence regularly forwarded to members
6. **REPORTS:**

Con Pagonis:

As reported, CCOEI is still seeking a new editor for our 'Cooee!' newsletter, the position has been re-advertised as unfortunately Mary Guy is now unable to proceed as editor.

The June issue <https://mailchi.mp/01402bdf43ac/cooe-e-june-newsletter?e=d76b9e9e28> was successfully migrated to MailChimp by Mary Guy. In seeking a new editor, Con said that he would be available to advise and guide on selecting and editing content (a scaled down version) over the first couple of issues. Con has commenced a new position with ECCV and so the newsletter will be furloughed until a new editor can be recruited.

Helen Forbes-Mewett – Monash University Research Project

Monash University are exploring intercultural relationships in Australia. Undertaken by Prof. Dharma Arunachalam, Prof Andrew Markus and A/Prof Helen Forbes-Mewett. Helen clarified that they were limited to the groups taken from the ABS data. For more information contact: Rebecca Powell email: Rebecca.powell@monash.edu or check the emailed information titled: "Support for participant recruitment for Monash University research project on intercultural relationships" sent to MSC members on Tuesday 31 May 2022

Bwe Thay – Victorian Multicultural Commission

VMC will be holding the [Victorian Refugee Awards](#) on the 20th June. Please share information about the upcoming Refugee Week celebrations.

Sally Brooks – Migrant Information Centre.

- Recruiting positions – 3 youth roles. For more information see their website and through Ethical Jobs
- Employment Services program running since last year – specialise in working with people from CALD backgrounds through Jobs Victoria

Cynthia Shaw – CCOEI Refugee Week Celebration

- To be held on the Saturday 25 June 2022 at the Central Ringwood Community Centre from 11:00-1:30pm.
- This is a free event that is family friendly with a range of performances, singing, dancing and storytelling. There will be activities for children and an indigenous smoking ceremony by Aunty Irene Norman.
- Everyone invited to attend

MEETING FOCUS:

Pathways to Employment: VET, Work Placement and Volunteering

Barbara Reeckman - Pathways Guidance Coordinator Melbourne AMEP. Barbara said that clients have an individual Pathways Guide – a document where they set out their goals about study, work and settlement. AMEP clients are entitled to appointments with a suitably qualified Pathways Guidance staff member to receive advice and information to help plan their future. Clients are referred to employment and community services, job opportunities etc.

- **Most job vacancies** in the North Eastern region are in:
 - Health and Social Care (aged care and disability)
 - Construction
 - Retail
 - Professional, scientific and technical services

- **Common VET Pathways for AMEP students:**
 - Community Services
 - Education Support
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Individual Support etc.
1. **Samer Albadin, Case Manager, Australian Multicultural Services** (Ex AMEP student).
 Samer arrived in July 2016 from Syria via Lebanon. His background was Civil Engineering (20 Years). He completed a Certificate in Spoken and Written English and other qualifications such as Cert IV in Community Services at Melbourne Polytechnic in 2018. He volunteered with Arabic Welfare in 2019 and this led to a job in Reception and Admin. He said there were many challenges along the way however there was always someone to help him learn how to express himself. He eventually took a full-time position with Australian Multicultural Community Services as a Case Manager working with home care packages for aged clients in 2022. He said this was a very successful journey in his career and with his family.
Amal, Samer's wife, also had a very good story arriving in Australia in 2016 with a Degree in Agricultural Engineering (13 year experience). After completing various certificates through AMEP, Amal gained an ongoing position as a full-time Multicultural Education Aide at a local Secondary School.
 Barb said they are both forward thinking people and are an example to the community.
 2. **Michelle Waters, EAL Teacher, Box Hill Institute**
 Michelle spoke about people who obtain full time ongoing work through Work Placement positions.
Case Study: Lam Za Ting – Nursery Assistant.
 Left Myanmar and lived in a refugee camp in India, she had little schooling and worked as a housekeeper. She arrived in Australia in 2018. Her AMEP and SEE certificates I & II EAL were undertaken at Box Hill Institute in Lilydale. She obtained her Cert II Horticulture in a dual delivery course in 2019 and later, supported by her teacher, obtained a Work Placement at Humphries Nursery which led to a full-time ongoing job. Michelle reported that her student is now married and working full time. This is a great example of the pathway to employment and settlement success.
 3. **Taylor Tran, Volunteer Tutor Officer Melbourne AMEP (Ex-AMEP student)**
 She said that volunteering changed her life. Taylor arrived in Australia in 2019. She immediately enrolled in a Level 3 AMEP course in Preston. Taylor sent out over 30 responses to job advertisements and also after cold calling organisations she had no success. Taylor said that she is very grateful to her teacher at the time who sat down with her to look over her CV etc. They realised that she needed some local experience. She saw an advertisement to help with newly arrived migrants and refugees. She later obtained a position as a VTS officer which became full time. She recommends volunteering is a very good way to gain work experience leading to full time work.
 Barb said that she thought that volunteering was very good at developing English language and for making contact with people outside one's own community.

In wrapping up, Carole thanked everyone for their lovely stories and their commitment and work on their presentations.

In relation to Ken Pang leaving the MSC to pursue other work and commitments, Carole thanked Ken Pang for his hard work on the Migrant Settlement Committee she said that he would be missed.

Carole also thanked Con for his work on the MSC. Con explained that his work with ECCV would actually mean that he would continue to be in touch with CCOEI and other ECCs in Victoria.

Next meeting: 05 August 2022:

Meeting Focus:

Stop Press!! As the [Yoo-rook Justice Commission](#) outcomes have been deferred for two years, the next meeting focus will be - **Eastern Region Libraries Engaging with Multicultural Communities.**