



Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) Inc.

PO Box 94, Forest Hill, VIC 3131

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Reg. No. A0017562S

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3 NOVEMBER 2023

WILLIS ROOM

WHITEHORSE CIVIC CENTER

379 WHITEHORSE ROAD

NUNAWADING

9.30 AM TO 1 PM

Chairperson: Daniel Noel: President

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Chris Cosgriff - Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP)

2. ATTENDEES

Jess Ness – Chair MSC

Pradeep Kanthan – Secretary CCOEI

Nora Fernandes – CCOEI

Mo Elrafihi- ECCV- Guest Speaker

Minwen Wu - Chinese Australian Network

Chris Cosgriff – MMIGP

Heather Cosgriff – MMIGP

Geraldine Daniels-DFFH

Jess Bishop-MIC

KC Boey-NGO Conservation at the Crossroads

Krishani Dassanayake- CCOEI

Erin Cuthbertson-AccessHC

Dana Kearney- NDIS

Deepak Joshi – The Humanism Project

Madaline Parker-Education Vic

Nora Fernandes- CCOEI

Raviana Sailo- Pyslaw

Clary Verbunt-Dutch Community

Bruce Wong-RCCA

Ding Cai – Victoria Police

Bwe Thay-CCOEI

Jaya Manchikanti-Indiacare

3. Apologies:

Dilnaz Billimoria – CCOEI

Con Pagonis – CCOEI

Cynthia Shaw- CCOEI

Proceedings:

Jess Ness – Chair MSC moderated the proceedings.

The meeting commenced with the Acknowledgement of Country by Chris Cosgriff of the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP).

This was followed by the President's welcome. The Chief Guest of the meeting Mr Mo Elrafihi, the CEO of ECCV was invited to speak on the occasion.

Keynote Address

Mr Elrafihi sought a minute of silence for the people who have died in the recent conflict in the Palestine-Israel-Gaza conflict. He stressed on the importance of an evolving multicultural society in Australia. He quoted from his lived experience as being bought up as a child of multi-faith parents.

Yeng Gali Choir

A Performance by the Yeng Gali Mullum, a reconciliation singing group of the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place followed. They beautifully sang a welcome song and several pieces on working together. 'Imagine' by the Beatles was a highlight.

Presentation of the Annual Report

Daniele Noel, the president presented the Annual Report for 2022-2023. She highlighted the lack of face to face meetings due to COVID and the spirit of volunteering by the committee members in making the MSC meetings a success.

The Financial Report was presented by Pradeep Kanthan.

The reports were proposed by Chris Cosgriff and seconded by Bwe Thay.

Constituting a new committee/board

The nominations were presented by Jaya Manchikanti, who had kindly agreed to be the returning officer. As the ordinary members were unrestricted, every nomination was considered with out the need for an electoral ballot. The following is the board for 2024.

Daniele Noel President
Jess Ness Vice President
Pradeep Kanthan Secretary
Krishani Dassanayake Treasurer

Ordinary Members

1. Heather Willison
2. Dilnaz Billimoria
3. Nora Fernandes
4. Jess Bishop
5. Bwe Thay
6. Minwen Wu
7. Iresha Buthgamuwa
8. Thang Za Tawng (Since removed as no response to a certificate requirement).
9. Saarah Ozeer

Presentation of Awards

Three awards were presented for outstanding commitment to the community.

- Cynthia Shaw of CCOEI. (Presented by Bwe Thay received by Chris Cosgriff)
- Sam Navarria of CCOEI. (Presented by Bwe Thay received by Heather Cosgriff)
- Raviana Sialo of PsyLaw (Presented by Jess Ness)

The meeting concluded with refreshments and time for networking.

Next MSC meeting:

- Friday 1 December 2023 at Forest Hill Office