



The Interfaith Network – City of Greater Dandenong

IFN Members Meeting

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

12.15pm-3.30pm

Meeting Minutes

Training Room,

Level 1, 39 Clow Street, Dandenong

Item Number	Agenda Item	Discussion Lead	Decision Outcome
0	Present	Agnes Kean Gisela Rankin Koholandkala Kovida Acharya Avadhuta Venerable Bodhicitta Venerable Thich Thien Tam Livia Carusi Paris Sard Lilian Poke Mehtap Williams Linda Davidson (Guest Speaker) Halina Hali (Guest Speaker) Ursula Aruma Kamla Peddy David Moffat Christos Kastaniotis Pannasobhana Thero Jasbir Singh Suropada Father Jean Mawal Ann Ly Thiviya Nagenthiram Malkanthi Walton (Guest Speaker) Tina Van Cuylenberg (Guest Speaker) Be Ha Venerable Then Sen	
0	Apologies	Loreto Cannon Anita Davine Mevlid Osmanovic Elizabeth Elllen Forough Leng Chaiwatanatom Michelle Channon	Apologies received were noted

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0		Welcome and Housekeeping	IFN Executive Officer, Liv Carusi	IFN Members meeting agenda was noted IFN Previous meeting minutes were noted Available IFN resources were noted and Members were encouraged to take the offered resources made available at the meeting including the revised IFN Bookmark
1.0		Acknowledgement of Country	IFN Executive Officer, Liv Carusi	Acknowledgement of Country was led
2.0		Opening Reflection	IFN Administration Officer, Lilian Poke	In addition to leading the Opening Reflection, Lilian encouraged Members to consider submitting a 'Message of Hope'. Each week IFN submits a Message of Hope to the Star Journal – Dandenong. The Message of Hope is also uploaded onto the IFN Website, in the section, 'About Us' If you would like to discuss submitting a Message of Hope, please contact Lilian at administration@interfaithnetwork.org.au Liv Carusi also noted that the contact details of IFN Staff can also be found on the IFN website.
3.0		Official Welcome	IFN President, Mehtap Williams	Please see below Official Welcome led by the IFN President
4.0		IFN Members Meeting Minutes (Draft), December 5 th , 2024	IFN Executive Officer, Liv Carusi	The draft meeting minutes dated December 4 th , 2024, were tabled reviewed and discussed. The draft meeting minutes were approved by Members. Moved: IFN President Mehtap William. Second: Father Jean Mawal, IFN Executive Committee Member.
5.0		South-East Monash Legal Service, Healthy Relationships, 'Family violence and the law", our rights and responsibilities.	Malkanthi Walton and Tina Van Cuylenberg	South-East Monash Legal to provide IFN with a copy of the training presentation and IFN will attach the presentation to the meeting minutes. South-East Monash Legal service encouraged IFN Members to contact them directly if they would like tailored training on this topic specifically for their community.

				IFN President, Mehtap Williams thanked South-East Monash behalf of IFN.
6.0		'What is Palliative Care and Who Is Palliative Care South East?'	Linda Davidson and Halina Hall.	Palliative Care South East offered to present to IFN Members at a future meeting. IFN expressed interest in this invitation and would approach the organization in early 2026. Palliative Care South East is a not-for-profit organization offering home-based palliative care services. They enable people to live their best life, whilst navigating the challenge of a life-limiting or terminal illness for which there is no cure, by providing a full suite of programs to support them, their carers and families. The following resources were shared by the organization: • Palliative Care South East • Advanced Care Planning – Fact Sheet for Individuals • The Help App for people with life-limiting illness. IFN President Mehtap Williams thanked Palliative Care South East on behalf of IFN.
7.0		Other Business	Liv Carusi, IFN Executive Officer	'Back your Neighbor Campaign'. Representatives from the City of Greater Dandenong attended the meeting and offered Members the opportunity to participate in individual and group photos supporting the Campaign. IFN expressed much thanks to the representatives and the City of Greater Dandenong for this invitation and inclusion in the Campaign.
8.0		Next IFN Members Meeting	Liv Carusi, IFN Executive Officer	Next IFN Members meeting is scheduled for Wednesday September 2024. Full details can be found on the IFN website, 'Events' Section noting information will be emailed to Members.
9.0		IFN Members Meeting – Closed	Liv Carusi, IFN Executive Officer	Members thanked for their continued support

Official Welcome, led by IFN President, Mehtap Williams

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire team, I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you to the Interfaith Network. It's a true joy and an honor to gather here in a space where people of diverse religious and spiritual traditions come together with a shared commitment to understanding, cooperation, and peace.

Our greatest strength lies in our diversity, and it is through dialogue and collaboration that this network continues to thrive. Whether you're here to share your perspective, to learn from others, or to work together toward common goals, your presence matters and your voice is deeply valued. Let us continue to build bridges, celebrate our shared values, and embrace our differences as we work together for a more compassionate and harmonious world.

It has been a productive year at IFN. In the first half of the year, our staff worked diligently to put essential organisational processes in place. The second half has been full of momentum—developing our tour programs, enhancing our website, and preparing for the Harmony Day celebration. Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly, and I want to sincerely thank and congratulate them for their outstanding efforts. Thanks to their work, IFN's presence and reach have grown significantly, and our membership continues to expand.

We are currently working closely with the council on our funding renewal, and we've also hosted several tours for council staff, including their CEO.

It's my pleasure now to welcome two new members to the IFN Executive Committee: Jasbir and Vivek.

Vivek Shah Following a thorough recruitment process, we have appointed Vivek Shah as our new IFN Treasurer. Vivek is a qualified Chartered Accountant with over six years of experience across the private, public, and state government sectors. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our former Treasurer, Philip Wong, for his outstanding service, and also to Imran Khan for his leadership in the recruitment process.

Jasbir Singh Many of you will already know Jasbir. He joins the Executive Committee bringing with him a wealth of experience. He is the Chairman of the

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Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria and the Founder and Director of Sikh Australian Support for Family Violence. With 14 years of experience in Singapore as a counselor and case manager in areas including family crisis, marital conflict, and rehabilitation, Jasbir brings deep compassion and insight. He represents SICV on a number of peak bodies and advisory councils, including the Victorian Multicultural Advisory Group, Faith Communities Council of Victoria, and the Victoria Police Multifaith Council.

Looking Ahead

Let me highlight a few important updates and upcoming events:

Annual Signing of the Common Statement This will take place on the morning of Wednesday, August 20th, 2025. If you haven't received the "Save the Date" notice, please reach out to Lilian. We look forward to seeing all our members, along with your families and friends, at this special gathering.

IFN Places of Worship Tours If you would like to participate in an upcoming tour or wish to include your faith or spiritual community, please contact Paris for more information.

DGR Status With the support of pro bono legal assistance, we have submitted our application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to the ATO and are awaiting their response.

IFN Website Please visit our website for the latest updates, event announcements, and photo galleries. We also encourage local communities to share their events—reach out to Livia if you'd like your event featured.

IFN E-News Since February, we've been publishing our monthly E-News bulletin. If you haven't subscribed yet and would like to, Lilian can assist you with registration.

Growing Membership Interest in IFN continues to grow, which is a wonderful sign of the relevance and impact of our work.

Review of IFN Values In 2024, we began reviewing and refreshing our core values. The values agreed upon are: Respect, Harmony, Diversity, Integrity, and Education. With valuable input from members and the support of Anita Davine and Thero Pannasobhanna, we've refined the draft wording for the first three values. We will now begin work on drafting the language for Integrity and Education, again in consultation with our members. More details about this process will be shared soon.

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Once again, thank you all for your continued support, your passion, and your presence. Together, we are creating a vibrant and inclusive network that is making a real difference in our community.