**Minutes of the Multicultural Services & Programs Special Interest Group**

Wednesday 18 April 2018, 10.00am to 12.00pm

**Venue:** Sunshine Library, 301 Hampshire Road, Sunshine

**Chair:** Mare Maticevski (Yarra Libraries)

**Minutes:** Anne McLennan (Melton City Libraries)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Minutes** | **Action** | **By** |
| **1. Attendance & Apologies** | **Attendance**: Vitina Agosta (Hobsons Bay), My Van Nguyen Dang (CGDL), Anne McLennan (Melton City), Sanjana Shrestha (READ Nepal), Narelle Stute, Rita Hardy & Lyn McFarland (Moreland), Emma Zeng & Jason Brack (Monash), Christian Kuhlmann (Darebin), Jenny Lawrence (Brimbank), Hien Nguyen (Maribyrnong), Linda Serafini (YPRL), Lachlan Turnbull (Wyndham), Olga Kuftova (Port Phillip), Mare Maticevski (Yarra), Bill Qi (Melbourne)  **Apologies**: Nilupa Mahanama, Jenny Mitchell, Haylee Eagle |  |  |
| **2. Previous minutes** | Previous minutes accepted. |  |  |  |
| **3. Guest Speaker – Sanjana Shrestha, Country Director, READ Nepal** | READ Nepal was founded in 1991. There are currently 800 public/community libraries in Nepal, India and Bhutan and expanding into Cote d’Ivoire. 1.8 million have access to READ Centres. Majority of population is illiterate, 82% have no internet access. READ works with communities to establish their own community library. Each member of the community must contribute towards the establishment of their library. Various ways to raise funds e.g.: everyone contributes some rice, then when it is sold off, the funds go towards the building. Many libraries had to be rebuilt after the 2015 earthquake. Some were rebuilt within a few days before family homes were – one library reopened within 3 hours!  The community is heavily involved in all aspects of the library and the services it provides. Library might open with only books for adults. Community will request for a children’s library, computer classes, and women’s groups and then these will be established.  Outreach services for remote villages. Regular contact with remote communities to see what information they need. Programs/sessions are based on this – cultivating crops etc  The women feel empowered that they have their own space for learning and meeting up with other like-minded women. They don’t need permission from their husband to visit the library. Literacy is very important to the women. They are often uneducated and were married at a very young age. If there is a female librarian, it makes them feel more comfortable.  Moreland will be setting up a ‘Safe Place’ at Glenroy for Nepali women. It’s been successful at Fawkner Library with the Urdu community. They now run their own Urdu story time sessions. Very important to have someone from their own community to help out. |  |  |  |
| **4. Ideas for speakers/vendors/topics for future meetings** | * Foundation House booked for 20 June 2018 * Department of Ethnic Affairs * New CEO of Multicultural Arts | Rita  Mare |  |  |
| **5. Seminar 2018 update** | 33 bookings so far  Oriana will be attending  The first flyer that went out had the incorrect times. Correct times are 9am – 4pm. Registrations from 9am, with a 9.30am start.  There has been a lot of interest from outside public libraries. Also, people wanting to present are contacting us. |  |  |
| **6. New MSPSIG convenor update** | My Van Nguyen Dang and Rita Hardy are our new MSPSIG Convenors.  There is less pressure having 2 convenors. |  |  |
| **7. LOTE DVD classification update** | Below is a copy of Tony Iezzi’s email that was sent out late March.  For those who didn’t get the update regarding the status of LOTE DVDs, please find below from the State Library of NSW:  Dear all,  About two weeks ago Karina Laurance from the Classification Branch, Department of Communications and the Arts, rang to inform me that they have sent the documents to the lawyers to draft the final classification instrument.  The Classification branch is committed to deliver the instrument by July, this is their own deadline.  The current acting Director Margaret Anderson hopes to have this document ready before July.  All good news  Karina said that in drafting the instrument they have considered feedback received from the national survey, input from a survey carried out by libraries in Victoria and S.A. The Office of Classification has added also included films classification training that will be delivered online at an approximate cost of $150 per person.  Who will need to have this training?   * The library staff that write purchasing profiles or select on behalf of the library, this will be one off until the person changes jobs and another person takes the responsibility of selecting feature films. * Suppliers of films will need training every 3 years. This would be mandatory to be considered as a supplier- (only when they supply to public libraries)   The instrument is only for film content, we do not worry about format eg DVD’s because it will change as technology changes.  Karina also spoke to 3 large suppliers of LOTE DVD that no longer were providing materials.  Kind regards  Oriana  Tony Iezzi  Executive Officer  Public Libraries Victoria Network Inc  Mare would like to thank everyone for their contributions over the years in helping get this issue resolved – it all helped. |  |  |
| **8. Romance Fiction in other languages – Jenny Lawrence** | With the ageing of communities, it’s harder to source romance and other materials in community languages. Jenny has been in touch with a local romance writer via the Romance Writers Association. Hers and other members of the RWA’s books, are often translated and a copy given to them. As the local writer has no use for them, it’s suggested that they are donated to public libraries for their collections.  Discussion of other formats for ageing community. Many elderly are illiterate in their own language which makes the AV collection very important. |  |  |
| **9. Around the table** | **Hobsons Bay**  On Saturday 17th March we launched the very successful ‘Life on a Plate (recipes and stories from Hobsons Bay)’. With around 90 plus people in attendance, we celebrated the journey, the people, their food and story. It was an extremely successful project and event. Participants brought along family members and there was a great sense of pride and achievement for all those involved. The project has been a great community connector, bringing people together through the power of food and story. This is not the end of the story either. We plan to build on the energy of these individuals as a group and increase their capacity to connect with each other, their neighbours and community. Cooking for each other to foster further intercultural, inclusive and intergenerational experiences. Cultivate opportunities for further lifelong learning in literacy, presentation and formal food handling learning.  During Cultural Diversity Week, a Cultural Games Day was held in partnership with Hobsons Bay Settlement Network. Over 120 people in attendance. Games included origami, limbo stick and much, much more.  **Moreland**  Italian Conversation Club, run in partnership, is aimed at travellers wanting to learn or polish their Italian before they go. English Conversation Club now has four sessions with one in the evenings for Libraries After Dark.  Cultural Diversity Week – Bilingual storytimes and Rhymetimes with rhymes in other languages. Myths and Legends of the Tarantella and Japanese tea demonstration.  Using Italian radio programs to promote events through local radio98.9 and 3zzz.  Collections: Arabic and Vietnamese removed from Brunswick. Vietnamese removed from Glenroy and consolidated into the one collection at Coburg.  **Moreland would be interested to know who everyone’s periodical suppliers are.**  **Monash**  For Cultural Diversity Week in March we ran a series of bi-lingual storytimes across several branches. Featured languages included Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Italian, Spanish and Hindi. On 14 April Glen Waverley Library hosted the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health, who conducted a session (presented in Mandarin) on providing support for carers (around both health and wellbeing). As part of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, both Mount Waverley and Oakleigh libraries held for one week special collection promotions of their Sinhalese and Tamil collections. The promotion was held in partnership with CAVAL Inc. The English language and life skills partnership program with AMES Australia resumed at Glen Waverley and Clayton libraries on 17 and 18 April. The program will for 11 weeks this term. The monthly Chinese Shared Reading Program has been running well. Participants read aloud excerpts from books, magazines or digital devices. Some of them read from their own writing to the group. Consumer Affairs Victoria had conducted two Chinese information sessions in March to help landlords, tenants and real estate agent workers to better understand their rights and obligations in regards to Rooming Houses (shared accommodation). We are going to try a new approach of delivering tech help at Ashwood public housing. Our Chinese speaking librarian will work together with volunteers, who are from a local Chinese group. Together they are going to utilise their social media skills to deliver outreach tech help.  **Maribyrnong Library Service**  Cultural Diversity Week was celebrated with:   * French Screenings at three branches featuring *Amelie, Cat in Paris* and *The Intouchables.* * Community Language Book Selections with suppliers displaying new books for patrons to choose from in Vietnamese, Chinese, Greek and Italian, morning tea was provided and was very well received and attended. * New Book and DVD Afternoon Tea featuring French Mimes and Carnival Stilts. * Citizenship Test Assistance session, part of an ongoing program which has been really popular (many success stories). * Dr Julie Rosengren’s seminar ‘*Understanding Australian Culture*’ aimed at people wanting to adjust to their new community, workplace and school, and for people wanting to help those to settle in. * ‘Book a Librarian in Your Language’, with many one on one sessions of a variety of topics catering to patrons speaking in Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish, Italian, Arabic and Amharic. * ‘Cultural Dress Up’ during storytime was much enjoyed by parents and children.   **Darebin Libraries**  Recent events:  \* 17 March: Making History: Your Family Legacy (during Cultural Diversity Week) – Greek family history talk by Virginia Orfanos, Secretary, Fairfield Hellenic Senior Women and Partners Inc., with Greek interpreter, Nick Chalas.  \* 20 March: Say NO to Racism: panel discussion of young East African residents facilitated by Eugenia Flynn, recorded by radio 3CR.  \* 28 March: Maltese Cooking with cookbook author Sharon Spiteri.  \* 5 April: Film screening of The Big Sick as apart of Libraries After Dark at Preston Library.  \* 12 April: Film screening of Appropriate Behaviour as apart of Libraries After Dark at Preston Library.  Upcoming events:  \* 22 May: In Their Own Image: A History of the Hellenic Presence in Australia, presented by Leonard Janiszewski and Effy Alexakis.  \* 26 May to 3 June (Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week): Sorry Day books will be available with displays at all four branches for people to sign and/or leave messages/comments throughout the week.  Ongoing:  \* Conversation Café twice a week (Preston and Reservoir branches) – developing new activities, including more games.  Collections:  \* New collection – investigating options for adding a new language collection and/or other items in additional languages (e.g., newspapers and/or DVDs only).  **Melton City Libraries**  Busy looking at the CALD magazine subscriptions for 2018/2019. Possibly introducing a couple of new languages and removing some as well. The languages we hold haven’t been reviewed in quite some time. |  |  |

* **Next meeting:** Wednesday 20th June 2018, 10.00am to 12.00pm at MAV, Room 1103
* **Minute taker for meeting:**

**Future meetings:**

Wed 22nd August – Clayton Library

Wed 24th October – Flemington Library

Wed 28th November– working lunch in City – suggestions welcome!