

migrantvoice

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Edition 25



Local organisation nominated for prestigious state award

The George Street Neighbourhood Centre team.

GEORGE Street Neighbourhood Centre (GSNC) has been named as one of four finalists at the Queensland Multicultural Awards 2018 under the Community category. The multicultural awards recognise the valuable contributions of Queenslanders who support and promote a united, harmonious and inclusive Queensland community.

The theme for the 2018 awards is, "Building a prosperous, fair and harmonious Queensland". GSNC has been a key resource supporting the multicultural community in Mackay for almost 30 years. GSNC prides itself on being the leading organisation in promoting and enhancing multiculturalism in the Mackay region.

Congratulations GSNC on this prestigious nomination and all the best for the awards luncheon held in Brisbane on August 19.



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Life with Boundaries support group



Mayor Greg Williamson and Mayor Yoshiyasu Tomoda, of Matsuura.

A message from Mayor Greg Williamson

WELCOME to the July edition of Migrant Voice. Winter is probably our busiest time of year here. It's the perfect time to enjoy our amazing weather and get outdoors. As I write this, the Mackay Mazda Festival of Arts is in its last days, and this year has been tremendous. More than 20,000 people joined us for an amazing celebration of great food and music at the G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day in Queens Park, and DBCT Illuminate at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens was visited by about 16,000 people.

It's also an amazing time for tourists to visit our region, with residents from our sister city in Japan, Matsuura, taking advantage of our clear July skies to tour Mackay. Matsuura Mayor Yoshiyasu Tomoda and 13 citizens toured our region from the cane fields to the coal port and were warmly welcomed by locals.

There's still plenty of action to come, with several key events approaching on our social calendar. The Mackay Seniors Expo is a free event offering vital information for seniors. It's held on August 21 from 9am at the Mackay Showgrounds. Global Grooves, our biggest multicultural event, follows on October 27 from 3pm to 8pm at Queens Park. We hope to see you there!

Kind regards,
Mayor Greg Williamson

LIFE with Boundaries is a Mackay support group for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women who are experiencing, at risk of, or recovering from, domestic and family violence and/or sexual assault.

The aim of the group is to assist CALD women to address the impact of domestic and family violence and to:

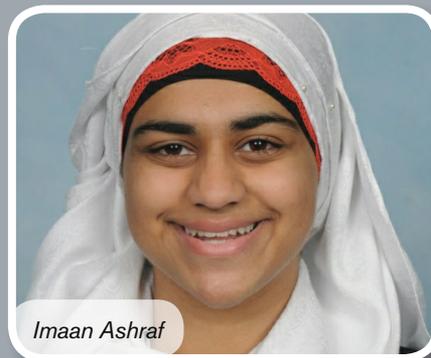
- Provide a supportive and safe environment for women to talk about their experiences.
- Provide opportunities for women to gain strength and understanding through shared experiences.

- Meet other women and help break down social isolation associated with living with domestic violence.
- Provide education and information about domestic and family violence and sexual assault.

This is a closed support group that meets once a month at Mackay Women's Centre and is facilitated by George Street Neighbourhood Centre.

For more information please call 4957 7222 or 0400 788 218, or email admin@georgestreetnc.org.au.

Local student nominated for prestigious state award



Imaan Ashraf

LOCAL Year 12 student Imaan Ashraf has been nominated under the Outstanding Young Achiever category for this year's Queensland Multicultural Awards.

Imaan is a School Captain at Whitsunday Anglican School and has been attending there since kindergarten. Imaan migrated to Mackay with her parents from South Africa when she was one.

Imaan's cultural background is Pakistani and she describes herself as an "interesting mix of both Australian and Pakistani cultures".

Imaan is a passionate advocate for equity in our community and building positive relationships and connections between cultures.

Imaan's goal upon leaving school at the end of this year is to continue to help people either through health and medicine or through international relations and diplomacy.

Imaan is supported in her achievements by her parents who instilled values of hard work and dedication into their children from a young age.

Imaan's key message in her work with the community, be it through public speaking, volunteering or events, is that: "We have come so far in acknowledging our diverseness and realising that it's our uniqueness that binds us together, so I think embracing each other's cultures and now focusing on how we are the same is the next step in further harmonising our community".

Congratulations to Imaan and all the best for the awards luncheon in Brisbane on August 19.

Mackay and District Italian Association annual luncheon

THE Mackay and District Italian Association hosted their annual luncheon on Sunday, June 24, with about 150 members in attendance. The MDIA had the honour of hosting two special guest this year; Laura Lucas from RACQ and Judy Ferrick from Francis of Assisi.

Looking forward in the year, MDIA is hosting a Pasta a Pranzo event at Sorbellos on Sunday, August 12.

All are welcome and bookings can be made directly with Sorbellos restaurant on 4957 8300.

The annual luncheon.



Meet the new Migrant Settlement worker

My name is Margie Armstrong and I am the Migrant Settlement Coordinator at George Street Neighbourhood Centre. This role, as well as my prior experience as a case manager, tutor and volunteer with the migrant English program at CQUniversity, has allowed me to engage with and serve the migrant community in the Mackay area for the past six years.

The Migrant Settlement Program offers a free service to newly arrived migrants with low-level English. We assist new families and individuals in the area to settle, feel welcome and become independent. We do this by providing information, offering support and helping migrants to connect with services in the community, including education, healthcare, Centrelink, housing, volunteering, driving, transport, making new friends and much more! As a migrant myself, I appreciate the challenges of moving to a new country and am passionate about helping others with this transition.

For more details, or to make an appointment, please don't hesitate to contact me on 4957 7222. I look forward to meeting you!

World Café Project success



THE CAMS Multicultural Community Program aims to create connections between migrant groups in Mackay. One of the many ways it achieves this is through the World Café Culture and Conversations Project where a cultural group is invited to present and highlight its country and culture during a World Café session. The last two cultures which presented have been from Spain and Zimbabwe.

The team behind this project hopes to foster friendship between cultural groups, camaraderie, understanding, connectivity and a sense of belonging through their presentations and sharing of information, food, music and dance.

The World Café group also travelled to Moranbah last month to help the Moranbah Development and Support Services establish its own group within the area, aptly named as World Café, Moranbah.

To join any of the above multicultural programs or events, please contact the Multicultural Community Program Coordinator on 4957 7222 or 4957 2626.



Margie Armstrong

What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?

CAMS Multicultural Community Program (MCP) creates opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to connect with the local community. There are four main activities which fall under this program:



World Café: a migrant's support group where activities, projects and information sessions are created to encourage migrants and provide them tools to step out of their comfort zone.

Prep-Ready Kids: a program for migrant/CALD families with children under five that focuses on helping parents help their children develop skills they need for prep school.

English Conversation Circles: Free English program delivered by the program coordinator in partnership with Dudley Denny City Library and Artspace Mackay.

Migrant Women's Toolkit: a two-day workshop created to help empower migrant women in cross cultural marriages. Just recently the program organised and hosted "International Flavours", a Harmony Day celebration where migrants and locals came together and enjoyed cultural entertainment and international dishes. The group also participated in Mackay Regional Council's Harmony Day gatherings, both at the Jubilee Community Centre and at Dudley Denny City Library.

For more information on any of the programs, contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre on 4957 7222.

Safer Pathways for migrant women

Multicultural Women who come to live in Australia quite often don't have the support of family and friends around them. If you, or someone you know, might be experiencing domestic and family violence, the Safer Pathways for CALD Women program can provide you with culturally sensitive and confidential support.

For more information please call 4957 7222 or 0400 788 218 or email admin@georgestreetnc.org.au

Other Contacts:

- Call 000 if you are in immediate danger
- Domestic Violence Resource Service Mackay runs from 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday
Phone: 4953 1788
Email: admin@domesticviolenceservice.com.au
- DV Connect 1800 811 811 (DV hotline)
- 1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732 (support line)

Events and Activities

IELTS Tuition

When: Every Thursday

10am-noon Reading and Listening

6-8pm Writing and Speaking

Where: Mackay Baptist Church

(Cnr Shakespeare & Brisbane Street)

Info: Targeted at migrant women, sessions cost \$10 (if cost is a barrier, please call).

Contact: Conchi on 0403 316 010

United Women's Cultural Craft Group

When: Every Monday, 9am until noon

Where: ATSIHCS, 31 Victoria St, Mackay

Info: Newcomers of all ages/cultural backgrounds welcome. \$2 per week. Bring a plate of food to share. Contact: Leslie 0413 438 779

Italian Association Chat & Coffee

When: 5:30pm, second Friday of every month.

Where: Coco Cubano, Wood Street.

Practise your language skills in a relaxed environment over a cuppa. All levels of Italian welcome.

4CRM Multicultural Radio Shows

Hosted by local community members.

Listen by tuning in to 107.5FM or online at 4crm.com.au.

Tuesdays, 6-7pm – Bonsoir Mackay (French)

Tuesdays, 7-8pm – Radio Filipino

Saturdays, 11am-noon – MaCheDici (Italian)

Sundays, 6-7pm – Fiji Hour

Migrant Drivers Program

The Migrant Drivers Education Program is a five-week workshop open to migrants subject to visa requirements. The program will run every Wednesday from August 15 to September 12, 2018. Please call the Migrant Settlement Coordinator on 4957 7222 for further information.

Did you know?

Council has an ongoing responsibility to provide communications suitable to the needs of all residents.

If you wish to receive information in an alternative format or require an interpreter contact 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).