

migrantvoice

MARCH 2011 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 1



Swimming program a splashing success!

Participants always look forward to their weekly swimming lessons.

The multicultural learn-to-swim program has commenced with a real splash with the first lesson kicking off on Sunday, January 30.

A total of 40 people from various culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have enrolled in this years course to learn basic swimming skills and to increase their confidence in and around water.

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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).



Message from Mayor Col Meng

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the March edition of Migrant Voice. Migrant Voice is the only newsletter of its kind in the Mackay region and provides a voice for ethnic communities, as well as promoting multicultural issues, events and activities.

I hope you that you find this newsletter to be of value; the information in the newsletter is an important link between council and the region's migrant community.

An important event to look forward to in March is Harmony Day which is celebrated on 21 March each year. Harmony Day is about bringing people together to promote Australian values and to celebrate community participation.

We are all very lucky to live in Australia, a country that nurtures the common values of respect, fairness, participation, acceptance and a fair go for all.

Harmony Day provides an opportunity for Mackay to celebrate our successes as a culturally diverse community and re-commit ourselves to harmony and mutual respect.

For details on what we have planned phone either Lara or Mia on 4961 9596 or email lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au.

Lessons a success...

...Continued from cover story...

The participants involved are originally from countries including India, Peru, The Philippines, United Kingdom, Ireland, China, Thailand, Nigeria, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Poland and Papua New Guinea.

Classes run every Sunday for one hour over a twelve week period.



German Group in Mackay

Are you interested in meeting German speaking people in Mackay? Or do you want to make new German speaking friends? Join and meet us to hear interesting stories and exchange experiences about our migration to Australia and lives in the new world. For more information and to receive the activity/meeting schedule please contact Katrin Ruediger on 0400 938 806 or email katrin31780@hotmail.com.

If you know German speaking people in your neighbourhood please forward this information. Everyone is welcome to join.

Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



Driving on our roads - the give way rule

How do you drive through an intersection that does not have a Give Way or Stop Sign, and is not controlled by traffic lights?

The answer is to obey the Give Way Rules and drive through the intersection carefully. There are many different Give Way Rules. However the three most important rules are:

1. You must give way to your right.
2. You must give way to turn right.
3. You must give way to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.

It is important that you know these rules, especially when the traffic lights are not working. If there are people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds living in the Mackay region that would like to attend a workshop to learn about road rules, please contact Mia Sammut-Landt or Lara Payne on 4961 9596.



Languages, Literacy and LOTE collections

For comprehensive information on how Mackay Regional Council libraries can assist migrants with resources to learn English please visit Mackay Regional Council's library web page (www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries/languages_and_literacy).

Libraries provide leisure reading in various languages, as with all our resources, if you don't see it, just ASK! We are happy to seek out specific items for you. Happy reading!

Staff Profile >



Anil Silwal Network Support Officer

1. What is your position in council?

Network Support Officer.

2. What does that entail?

Ensure smooth operation of council's Information Technology Infrastructure (Telephone Systems, Computer Hardware and Network).

4. When did you move to Mackay and where are you originally from?

Moved to Australia (Melbourne) from Nepal in 2005 and then moved to Mackay in June 2006.

5. What is the biggest difference between Australia and your Country of Origin?

To be able to live the Australian lifestyle: safe, equal opportunity and democratic.

6. What's your favourite thing/ attraction to do in Mackay?

A prosperous region with lots of job opportunities stimulated by thriving mining business, lovely tropical paradise to live, gateway to Bowen Basin & Whitsunday Islands.

7. What is your number 1 tip for new people who have moved to Mackay?

Leave your jackets and sweaters behind and be cyclone prepared.

Homestyle Cooking!

Chicken Tikki Masala

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp coriander seeds
- 2 tbsp paprika
- 2 tbsp jeera
- 1 tsp mango powder
- 1 tsp chilli powder
- juice of a lime
- 10 good thick yoghurt
- salt to taste
- 2 lb chicken, diced
- 5 to 6 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- chicken stock or water
- oil



Grind the spices and mix with marinade ingredients. Marinade chicken in the fridge for 24 hours. Heat oil in a frying pan or wok until becomes very hot. Stir fry chicken vigorously for about 5 minutes. Take out chicken and keep warm. Fry the onion and garlic until just browning and return chicken with any remaining marinade, plus stock, plus more spices if you think the sauce needs it an extra tsp of cumin and coriander may 'lift' it a little. Simmer until chicken is cooked and Sauce is nice and thick. Ready to serve.

Did you know?

All dogs and cats in the Mackay region are required by law to be registered.

Payment can be made at any of council's Customer Service Centres in Mackay, Sarina and Mirani - for location details phone 1300 622 529 today.



World Cafe > English Conversation Group



If you are interested in improving your English conversation skills and meet other people, you should join our group. Each week, we talk about different topics such as living in Mackay, preparing for a natural disaster and health care. We have monthly cooking sessions too. We are currently working on developing and publishing a cookbook with recipes that have been shared by people in the group.

When - Every Tuesday
Where - George Street Neighbourhood Centre, George Street
Time - 10.30am to 12 noon

Please call before coming, contact Natasha on 4957 2626.

Training and career information available for resident migrants

Newly arrived and resident skilled migrants are able to obtain information on Australian recognition of their overseas qualifications from Skilling Solutions Queensland.

The service can also assist resident skilled migrants to gain formal recognition of their workplace skills and experience towards an Australian qualification or to identify career pathway options.

Contact Skilling Solutions Queensland on 1300 654 687 to make an appointment with a specially trained consultant to open up your career options today or visit www.skillingsolutions.qld.gov.au for more information.

Migrant Settlement Program

This program aims to increase the independence, knowledge and ability to access mainstream services for all eligible clients in Mackay. Through the Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funding, the program will assist clients to become self reliant and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival.

The program will provide clients with information and referrals. Clients can seek information but not limited to: Centrelink, employment, training/education, childcare, health care and transport.

For more details or to make an appointment contact the Migrant Settlement Worker on 4957 2626.

Remember these dates:

Fri 11 March

Half year rates ending 30 June 2011 are due

Mon 21 March

Harmony Day
www.mackay.qld.gov.au

Every Friday 9.30am - 11.30am

Multicultural Playgroup

Shakespeare Child & Family Centre
43 Shakespeare Street
For info ph:4957 7222

Every Sunday 1.30pm - 3pm

Community English Program
George St Neighbourhood,
4 George Street
For info ph: 4957 2626

Many Cultures Storytime

These sessions are for children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Storytime sessions dates are below, each session runs from 10.30am to 11am:

Friday, March 11
Friday, April 8
Monday, June 6
Friday, October 7
Friday, November 11
Friday, December 9



For more information please phone council's Library Assistant - Cultural Services officer Norell Binsiar on 4961 9387.

e-news > online newsletters!

Subscribe online at council's website to receive regular e-news updates that interest you.

www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/newsletters

Useful Contacts

- > Migrant Settlement Program
Phone: 4957 2626
- > Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program
Phone: 4961 9596
Email: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au
- > Migration Agent Listing
www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/are_you_new_to_mackay