

migrantvoice

JULY 2012 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 6



Welcome to Mackay Picnic - July 29

The community picnic helps to build relationships and links with others in the region.

If you are new to the Mackay region and looking for something to do, you are invited to attend the local community welcome picnic to be held at the Botanic Gardens, Lagoon Street, West Mackay on July 29 from 10am to 12pm.

The picnic aims to help encourage new friendships and links for people within the community. Everyone is invited to bring their favourite traditional dish of food to share. (Story Continues Page 2...)



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).



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Message from the Mayor...

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the July edition of Migrant Voice and my first edition as Mayor of the Mackay Region. I am passionate about building strong and connected communities that residents feel welcome to and a part of and I believe that this valuable publication, Migrant Voice, provides a vital link between council and community services to our migrant community.

As you may be aware, 2012 is an exciting year for the Mackay Region, as a community we celebrate the region's 150th birthday and this month we also celebrate our 25th anniversary for our very own Festival of Arts.

This Festival is one of the largest regional arts festivals in Queensland and I encourage you all to come along and enjoy what's on offer from July 7 to 22.

The 16-day event provides the opportunity for you to try new things and visit different facilities and locations that you normally don't get to throughout your daily travels.

To view the program of activities, visit www.festivalmackay.org.au - see you at the Festival!

Cr Deirdre Comerford.

Community picnic builds relationships

...Continued from cover story

There will be games for the kids and activities for adults in an effort to encourage friendships and connections between new families/new residents. This will be an informal, relaxing and enjoyable morning not to be missed.



Te Korowai Aroha website

For all things to do with New Zealand and Pacific Islanders in Brisbane and Australia, take the time to peruse the newly designed website www.tekorowaiaroha.com. The site would be of interest to anybody who has arrived in Australia from New Zealand or the Pacific Islands who would like to stay connected and involved with cultural activities and celebrations.



Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



Welcome to the second edition of the year for Migrant Voice.

We hope you find the newsletters interesting and informative to read.

Since last edition, Lara co-hosted a very successful employment workshop with Ideal Placements in the month of May. The workshop gave participants the opportunity to learn about job interview

techniques and how to write resumes. If anybody would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us (4961 9596).

Our multicultural swimming program came to an end in May which saw 10 very eager participants learn new confidence in and around water. The group enjoyed their time spent at the beach, the Bluewater lagoon and learning about water safety.

Finally, watch this space very soon for more information about the opening of the local Welcome to Mackay centre. A very committed group of people have been working for many years to see this concept become a reality. We are hoping to launch this one stop information and referral shop for migrant communities and all new residents to the region, very soon.



My Language Website

You are invited to visit the new MyLanguage website www.mylanguage.gov.au.

The website is a joint partnership between the State & Territory Libraries of ACT, NSW, NT, QLD, SA, VIC, and WA.

Explore this online interactive space for public libraries, community organisations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, to access information, language and culture.

The website provides translated information on a range of topics such as health, legal, education, settlement and libraries.

Volunteer opportunities - a pathway to employment

Are you interested in volunteering your time and services? If so why not visit the Salvation Army Family Store located at 2/15 Carl Street, Rural View (opposite Porters).

The store is open from 9am - 4pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 1pm Saturday. Each day is broken into two shifts and you will be able to choose a time which is convenient to your lifestyle.

Anyone interested in volunteering can pick up a set of New Volunteer Forms from the store. Once read and completed, these can be returned and an orientation will be arranged prior to commencement.

As a volunteer you will be doing all types of jobs which will give you a range of skills. Some of these include: sorting, pricing and hanging/displaying clothing and other items; operating the cash register (optional); assisting



customers; cleaning and tidying the shop.

We are also looking for people who may be interested in cutting rags on our ragging machine. We are also keen to secure volunteers with an electrical 'Test and Tag' licence to assist with the testing of our electrical items prior to sale.

If you or anyone else would like any further information regarding our Northern Beaches Shop or volunteering opportunities feel free to contact Rachel Busst on 0402 993 866.

Find out about Family and Domestic Violence Service

What are your rights around Family and Domestic Violence?

How do you protect yourself from a family member, past or present partner?

What is the impact that domestic violence is having on your children?

Did you know that under special circumstances you may be able to stay in the country even after separation from your partner? (in consultation with an immigration agent)

Domestic Violence Resource Service Mackay provides a free service for women and children who are

- experiencing or have previously experienced Domestic and Family Violence.

The service provides:

- > **Women's counselling services**
- > **Child and Adolescent counselling services Court Support, to obtain Domestic Violence Protection orders**
- > **Community Development to provide community information**

The new Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is effective from 17 September 2012 This Act defines family violence as **physical abuse**, causing personal injury to a person, threatening to do so, coercing a person to engage in sexual activity or attempting to do so. **Emotional abuse, Psychological abuse, Economic abuse, Threatening behaviour**, defined as coercion to control or dominate another person, causing them to fear for their safety or wellbeing or that of someone else.

For more information phone 4957 3888 or email admin@domesticviolenceservice.com.au.

Did you know?

If you have a pet dog and/or cat that they must be registered with Mackay Regional Council.

By registering them before July 31 you receive a discount on the registration price. De-sexed dogs will cost \$27 and dogs that aren't de-sexed will cost \$65. For more information call **1300 MACKAY (622 529)**.



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 St Neighbourhood Centre

Time - 10.30am to 12 noon

Please call before coming, contact Linda Brown 4957 2626.

GOOD NEWS for people with chronic illness and their family

Do you come or identify with a culture other than Anglo-Australian? Do you have a disability, mental illness, chronic medical condition, or frail-aged?

If you answered YES to all these questions, GOOD NEWS! You are eligible for Carers QLD Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Program. It is a free service that will assist you and the family member looking after you to get all the services you require that will meet your health, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.

For more details, please contact Deb Parker at Carers QLD on 4944 0544, mob 0457 740 107 or email dparker@carersqld.asn.au.

Migrant Settlement Program

Migrant Settlement Program at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre - this is a free service to help eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five (5) years. We provide: Information about driving, health services, public transport, schools and child care, renting, staying safe and making friends.

Access to services in the community - employment, English classes, Centrelink, housing and volunteering. Help making appointments eg Doctors and government departments. For more details or to make an appointment phone the Migrant Settlement Worker on 4957 2626.

Become a volunteer home tutor today...

Mackay Institute of TAFE offers a FREE home tutor course. Learn the skills needed to assist migrants with low literacy to improve their English language and literacy skills in a one-to-one environment, within the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)* Home Tutor Scheme. You may also assist teachers in the classroom.

Duration: Ongoing

Location: Mackay and surrounding regional districts

Volunteer tutors make a valuable contribution to the community. Please contact peta.hill@det.qld.gov.au or more details. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship.



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.

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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