migrantvoice

MARCH 2013 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council **Edition 9**

Make your mark on the AFL field

Indian-born Rohith Kallem is one of the Eastern Swans most dedicated players.

Sport is an important part of Australian culture and a fantastic way to make new friends. AFL or Australian Rules Footy is one of the most popular sporting codes.

Have you seen AFL being played on TV? It is a great game for both men, women and children to play. You get fit as well as learn skills such as kicking, marking and hand-balling and you'll meet new people. *Continued on 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).

In this issue:

Mayor's Message . . Page 2

Harmony Day . . Page 3

Migrant Worker . . Page 3

Qld Law's . . Page 3

Reminders/ contacts . . Page 4

Mayor Deirdre Comerford with Bhargavi and Lakshman Pulapa and their son Nikhil at the Mackay Baby Welcoming Ceremony.

A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of Migrant Voice for 2013.

Sport is a fantastic way to meet people and it is great to see Mackay AFL encouraging our migrant residents to get involved in this great Aussie game.

Another way to make new friends is through sharing stories and this is what Harmony Day 2013 is all about, "Many Stories - One Australia."

Our Australian Story is a diverse one, as we come from many countries around the world.

Council looks forward to celebrating Harmony Day with you and all members of the community this year, at a free outdoor movie night at Bluewater Quay on Friday, March 22.

Everyone has a story to tell and we would love you to share your story for the June edition of Migrant Voice.

Mackay AFL Juniors have games for boys and girls from under 7 years to under 11 years which are played under lights on Friday afternoon's at Harrup Park. Under 13s to under 18s play on Saturday mornings. Mackay AFL has Reserves and Seniors grades that play on Saturday afternoons.

The Clubs that play in the AFL Mackay League are: Alligator Creek Bombers, Bakers Creek Tigers, Eastern Swans, Mackay City Hawks, Moranbah Bulldogs, North Mackay Saints, Magpies Northern Beaches, Pioneer Valley Power, Sarina Demons and Whitsunday Sea Eagles.

The big event for AFL Football in Mackay this year is on ANZAC Day (Thursday, April 25) the Brisbane Lions will play the Gold Coast Suns with a number of elite footballers playing in both teams. This will be a great game to watch and see some of the very talented skills that are used in AFL Football. All Clubs have food and drinks available during the games so even if you want to just watch a game you will be made to feel welcome.

For more details about how to get involved visit www.mackay.aflq.com.au or contact Ben on 0459 242 452 or email ben.faulkner@aflq.com.au

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Welcome to the first edition of Migrant Voice for 2013! We hope that you all had a safe and restful Christmas and New Year period.

We are really looking forward to celebrating Harmony Day on the 21st of March and hope to see many of you at the outdoor film screening the following evening (Friday, March 22). If you would like any help to organise any events or activities to celebrate Harmony Day please let us know.

Congratulations to the committee behind the very successful Waitangi Day 2013. It was a wonderful day and we wish you the best of luck for future events!

Global Grooves planning meetings will be kicking off in the next few weeks – if you would like to be involved in our multicultural festival this year please let contact us.

If you have any news or stories you'd like to share in the June edition of Migrant Voice, please contact Lara or Mia by calling: 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).

Lara & Mia

Profile> Lynn Bartlett

My name is Lynn Bartlett and I am the new Migrant Settlement Worker at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre. I offer a free service to help eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five (5) years.

I can help people coming to the Mackay area on a range of visa types, including families and those on working visa's who have low-level English. I can provide information, referrals, support and help new families and individuals settle in the area and become independent as quickly as possible.

>> *Continue reading on page 4.*

A lesson in QLD law

Sgt Nigel Dalton checks if permanent resident Kazuki Oyama is okay to drive.

Central Queensland TAFE's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) students in Mackay have learned about Queensland's laws first-hand after a friendly visit from local Police Sergeant Nigel Dalton.

Sergeant Dalton this week visited the campus to inform the students about the state's laws regarding rights and responsibilities of both citizens and police.

"Laws in Queensland are about fairness for all, and this isn't always the case where some students come from", Sgt Dalton said.

AMEP teacher Kellie George said Sgt Dalton's visit was part of the course's "Settlement Program", which all AMEP students must participate in as part of their Certificate in Written and Spoken English.

Every year the AMEP assists students to settle into local life by conducting excursions such as using Mackay public transport, learning about council services, and teaching about local environment at Mackay Community Garden and Mackay Botanic Gardens.

"We also invite many presenters such as Sgt Dalton to our classroom to help students understand cultural differences between life in their homeland and their new life in Mackay", Ms George said.

For further information contact:
1300 CQ TAFE
(1300 27 8233).

Harmony Day Outdoor Film Screenings

Friday, March 22 at 7.00pm
Bluewater Quay, River St

Harmony Day is a day of celebration and reflection of Australian society, a day to tell stories and welcome new faces. Colourfest showcases the best of multicultural Australian stories through a selection of short films collected over three years.

To mark Harmony Day, a collection of short films will be featured during a FREE outdoor screening at Bluewater Quay on Friday, March 22.

The featured short films show a glimpse into the lives of people from other countries and how they learn to navigate the ways of Australian life.

Congratulations Max!

Mackay Language College would like to congratulate Maxence Gouyer on completing his studies at TAFE.

Max studied English in Mackay and then continued his studies in hospitality at TAFE in Brisbane.

After his recent graduation he has found work at a restaurant in Airlie Beach.

The team at Mackay Language College welcome Max back to this beautiful part of the world and we wish him every success.

>> Maxence Gouyer is on a real high after completing his English course at Mackay TAFE.

• World Cafe •

English Conversation Group

If you are interested in improving your English conversation skills and meeting 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, George St
Time - 10.30am to 12 noon
Please call before coming, contact Lyn on 4957 2626.

welcome to mackay centre

The *Welcome to Mackay Centre* is located in the Old Town Hall on Sydney Street (adjacent to the Mackay Police Station) and operates as a one stop information and referral shop for any new families who have arrived in Mackay from inter/intrastate or from other countries.

If you are new to town or having difficulties settling in Mackay, please stop by the Welcome Centre where the friendly team of volunteers can provide information and support on anything from housing and accommodation assistance, providing links to community services and helping make new friends.

The Centre is seeking further sponsorship to ensure that this important service remains open.
For further information contact the Welcome Centre on 4957 7757 or email: welcomecentre@rsdc.org.au

>> Lynn Bartlett's profile continued

I have been involved in cross-cultural work for many years now, both in a voluntary and work capacity.
In Australia, I've worked with new arrivals and refugees through teaching English at TAFE and also from a counselling and welfare perspective. At various times over quite a few years I've also lived with families of other cultures, both here and overseas.

I am looking forward to my new role as the Migrant Settlement Worker as it will enable me to engage with and serve the migrant community in the Mackay area.

For more details or to make an appointment contact Lynn Bartlett on 4957 2626.

Remember these dates

Many Cultures Storytime
First Friday of the month
10.30am - 11am
Mackay City Library
**excluding public holidays and school holidays.*

New Friends Group Coffee Mornings
Every Friday at 9am
Gordon White Library

Multicultrual Play Group
Every Friday
9.30am - 11.30am
Shakespeare Street Family Centre
For info ph: 4957 2626

Harmony Day Outdoor Screening
Friday, March 22 at 7pm
Bluewater Quay, River St

e-news! ***Sign up for regular updates.***
www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/newsletters

Useful Contacts

> Migrant Settlement Services
Phone: 4957 7222

> 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