

migrantvoice

November 2017 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 23



Grooving the Globe at Queens Park

Headline act Mzaza were supported by students from Mackay State High School for their Global Grooves set.

The annual celebration of our bright and thriving multicultural community, Global Grooves, came to life at Queens Park on Saturday, October 21.

Despite the rain, the community spirit shone through with standout performances from local and out-of-town multicultural groups entertaining the strong crowd who brought their umbrellas and raincoats and soaked up the atmosphere. Read more page 3...

Have stories or events to contribute to Migrant Voice? Contact council's Community Development Officer at Cara.Gjuzi@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9655.



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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).



A message from Mayor Greg Williamson

Welcome to the latest edition of *Migrant Voice*. We've had a busy end to 2017 and our multicultural community has been extremely active.

The region's largest multicultural event, Global Grooves at Queens Park, was a tremendous occasion despite a bit of drizzling rain that refused to leave for much of the afternoon. Congratulations to everyone who grabbed an umbrella and came along. You contributed to a warm, welcoming atmosphere that built into a real party as the sun went down. A special thanks to all in the community who volunteered time to run the stalls and put on performances and other activities.

Congratulations must also go to the Fijian Association on their Fiji Day celebrations and Fiji Greenhouse event at CQ University in October. The exhibition and celebrations were the talk of the town.

Lastly, may you all have a safe, happy and relaxing festive season. Whatever your religion or beliefs, this time of year is one of family gatherings, good cheer and goodwill to your fellow man. I hope you enjoy it.

All the best until next time,
Mayor Greg Williamson



Local Group takes out Prestigious Award

The Mesh and Knot's MASSI MATSI Women's Group were recently announced as the winners of the prestigious Minister's Multicultural Award at the Queensland Multicultural Awards Gala Lunch held at the Logan Entertainment Centre on Sunday, August 6.

The group consists mainly of Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) elders who are passionate advocates of the ASSI community in Mackay. They raise awareness about heritage by promoting their culture through community projects, education and sport.

Some of Mesh & Knot's projects include:

- The cemetery project (identification of 114 graves)
- The development and delivery of a

historical component for inclusion in the education curriculum at Mackay State High School

- The inaugural Kanaka Proud Cup
- The Greg Fatnowna Memorial Shield.

The group is working to strengthen ties between Mackay and Rockhampton ASSI communities and contributed to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders to Mackay.

While Mesh & Knot considers itself Australian with a deeply rooted history in Queensland, they are committed to contributing their stories to the Mackay conversation and promoting the township as their home and the home of their ancestors - a place where all people are welcome.

Cultural Diversity in the Workplace Forum

George Street Neighbourhood Centre is hosting a Cultural Diversity within the Workplace Forum on November 24, 2017 at Ocean International Hotel.

There are currently about 25 different nationalities represented in the Mackay region and our success relies strongly on the employment of a wide range of diverse cultural backgrounds. The forum will create opportunities for employers, employees and job seekers to understand the benefits of a culturally diverse workplace.

Speakers will share their experience of working within a multicultural society and how it has been beneficial to the workplace. The forum will also support employers in accessing a range of resources and support from within the Mackay region. This is a free event and invites the general public, community leaders, business and community organisations to discuss how we can better utilise our strong international networks.

The forum will commence at 9:30am until 1:30pm with light lunch included.

Please RSVP before November 20, 2017.

Ph: 07 4957 2626 or E: valeriyae@georgestreetnc.org.au

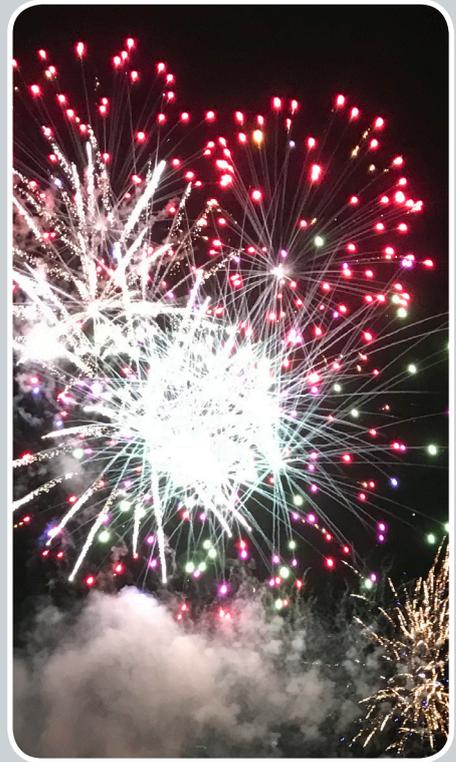
Global Grooves

Over 2000 residents in attendance were immersed in a multicultural experience of the senses with crowds thrilled by performances from both local and out-of-town groups showcasing their culture and traditions through song, dance and food.

Local businesses and multicultural not-for-profit groups provided a smorgasbord of tasty offerings for the crowds to delight in while they watched performances or participated

in interactive workshops under the Teepee Tent. The event was closed off with an illuminous display of fireworks in celebration of our diverse community and how it enriches the Mackay region.

Global Grooves is a highlight event on the Mackay festival calendar with cultures mingling to provide an opportunity for sharing and learning with the wider community.



Pasifika offers non-stop entertainment

Pasifika drew a crowd from amongst Mackay's diverse community to participate and celebrate at Meadowlands Amphitheatre for the third year in a row.

Host Lions Pacific Island Community co-ordinated the event which included many of Mackay and regions Pacific Island community and the broader community. This year performers from the island of Kiribati travelled from the Whitsunday Islands, where they perform regularly, and entertained Pasifika audiences.

The dancers were welcomed by local performing artists and choirs including groups such as Off Da Railz, Pelican Zen Duo and drummers, and Bella Mammass.

Children featured in many of the performances, some for the very first time, emphasising the importance of

keeping traditional and cultural dance and music very much alive in a new generation of emerging musicians and performers.

A moving finale of Esa-Lei (a beautiful traditional farewell song from the Island of Fiji) was performed on stage by all performers and some of the audience who were familiar with this moving tribute of family and friends parting.



MOVER and Shakers

MOVER (Multicultural Opportunities Valuing Equality in Recruitment) is a new community group in Mackay that was created by a few highly-motivated women in conjunction with George Street Neighbourhood Centre's Multicultural Work Pathway Program (MWPP).

The MWPP program supports culturally and linguistically diverse community members to get into the workforce through a series of workshops that help build confidence, educate about different industries, teach resume writing and job interview skills.

MOVER's goal is to support the multicultural community of Mackay to have a rewarding career. They believe that cultural diversity within the workplace is a huge benefit to any organisation. International skills and experiences add value, open new possibilities and bring unique ideas to any workplace. MOVER is currently busy planning their future. They are planning to host a Career Expo at the beginning of December 2017.

For more information visit their Facebook page: [mover.mackay](https://www.facebook.com/mover.mackay)

CAMS Multicultural Community Program

This George Street Neighbourhood Centre program specialises in creating opportunities for people from culturally diverse backgrounds to pro-actively partake in the local community. CAMS can support people in Mackay, Proserpine, Sarina, Bowen, Dysart, Middlemount, Moranbah and the Whitsundays. The program provides information, referral and support to individuals and families from CALDS backgrounds.

Contact: CAMS Program worker on 07 4957 7222

Events & Activities

United Women's Cultural Group Craft Mornings

Newcomers of all ages and cultural backgrounds welcome. \$2 per week. Bring a plate of food to share.

When: Every Monday, 9am - 12pm

Where: ATSICHS, 31 Victoria St Mackay

Contact: Leslie: 0413 438 779

Italian Association Chat & Coffee

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

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

Where: Coco Cubano, Wood Street.

4CRM Multicultural Radio Shows

Hosted by local community members. Listen by tuning in to 107.5FM or online at 4crm.com.au.

When: Tuesdays 6-7pm – Bonsoir Mackay (French)

Tuesdays 7-8pm - Radio Filipino

Saturdays 11am-12pm MaCheDici (Italian)

Sundays 6-7pm – Fiji Hour

Free English Classes

Did you know CQU's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) provides up to 510 hours of free English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants?

Contact your local AMEP team on 4940 3414, 4940 3472 or amep.mackay@cqu.edu.au for more information about the course and eligibility.

What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?

World Cafe

A free culture-sharing group where migrants and other culturally and linguistically diverse (CALDS) individuals come to meet new friends, practice English, swap recipes, learn arts and crafts and participate in community events.

When: Every Tuesday from 10.30am - noon

Where: George Street Neighbourhood Centre Shed

Contact: 4957 2626



UFP Days

Project for November - Poppy Flowers for Anzac Day 2018.

When: Every second Tuesday of the month.

Culture and Conversations

This program showcases the different cultures in Mackay. Highlights: History, Culture, Music, Arts and Food.

When: Last Tuesday of every month.

Prep Ready Kids (two - five year old's)

When: Mondays from 9.30am to 11.30am

Small Group and One on One English Program

When: Every Tuesday afternoon 3pm – 4pm

Mackay Migrant Women's Toolkit

Next Workshop -

Day 1: Friday, November 3, 2017

Day 2: Friday, November 5, 2017

Venue: Ocean International Hotel, Bridge Road, Mackay

Contact: Multicultural Community Program Coordinator on 07 4957 7222

Migrant Settlement Program

Free support for eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five years. This provides information about making appointments, English lessons, childcare, education, renting in Mackay, driving, interpreters and much more.

Contact: 4957 7222

Helpful Links

For a full list of local Migration Agents and English Language Services visit the **Settling in Mackay** page at www.mackay.qld.gov.au - or contact council's Multicultural Community Development Officer on 4961 9655.