

migrantvoice

DECEMBER 2013 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 12



Countries gather to celebrate UN Day

Celebrating UN Day in October from left to right are: Vivien Hanrahan from Zonta, Lyn Gargano from George Street Neighborhood Centre, Dilmini Boteju, Mia Sammut-Landt, Kalpna Devi, Mohan Kano, Mehwish Arshad and Meiry Puspita.

An inspiring group of men and women met at Shakespeare Child and Family Centre on Thursday, October 24 to celebrate United Nations Day.

It was a global fiesta with guests each bringing a dish of traditional food to share and many wearing traditional clothing.



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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 our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It was pleasing to see our community rally behind the victims affected by Typhoon Haiyan that devastated parts of the Philippines. Your sense of community was heart-warming. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Mackay Filipino Association for their ongoing efforts.

As temperatures continue to rise, it is a timely reminder to prepare for the summer storm season. Council's Emergency Action Guide provides valuable information and can be collected from any of our Client Service Centres or from council's website.

Lastly I'd like to invite you and your families to join our Australia Day celebrations at Mirani State School on Sunday, January 26, 2014 (refer to the next page for more information).

On behalf of Mackay Regional Council I wish you and your family the love, joy and peace Christmas offers. May that peace remain with you throughout 2014.



The Mackay Italian Association

The recently formed Mackay and District Italian Association Inc. have had several functions throughout the year including two luncheons and two sausage sizzles.

All events were well attended by members and friends of the Italian community, many of whom were able to renew acquaintances and share their immigration stories.

The stories from our early Italian migrants are being compiled into a

book. Anyone with an interest in the aims of the Mackay and District Italian Association is welcome to attend.

Photo above is a display from a recent luncheon the Mackay and District Italian Association held.



Lamp update - Lamp update - Lamp update

With Christmas fast approaching, this will be our last edition for 2013 and Mia and I would like to thank everyone in the community for their stories and contributions to this publication.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in, or visited the Global Grooves multicultural festival in October. The cultural displays, the traditional dress parade and the diversity of food stalls really showcased the cultural diversity of Mackay.

It has been a busy year with the Mackay Indian Association becoming incorporated and celebrating Independence Day. We participated in several celebration days including Waitangi Day, Papua New Guinea Independence

Day, Maltese Festa tal Vittoria, the Italian Association barbecue, Fiji Night, and Filipino Independence. Two successful Muslim activities were the swimming program for Muslim women and the Open Day at the Mosque.

The Origami Workshop and the "Together We Grow" programs at the Library were a success. The Welcome Centre has been operating for over a year and their free Bus Tours for newcomers to Mackay were very popular.

Look out for the next edition of Migrant Voice in March 2014 - if you have any story ideas please email lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au.

We wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season!

Mia and Mandy

West Ambae Cultural Dancers from Vanuatu



Global Grooves 2013 - the best yet!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the 2013 Global Grooves multicultural festival such a wonderful event this year. We are very appreciative of the time and effort that all the cultural groups put in to make the event run smoothly.

The diversity that was represented at this year's festival is a sure sign that the number of people moving here from different nationalities around the world is growing and contributing to the unique makeup of the Mackay community.

As the Australian South Sea Islander 150 years celebration draws to a close, Mayor Deirdre Comerford would like to congratulate everyone who took part in the various events throughout the year.

This year's Global Grooves had a strong focus on the South Sea Islands with music and dance performances by the Solomon and Cook Island communities.



Traditional Dress Parade



Columbian Dancers

One life, many cultures: Part 2

by Prabha Srinivasan

Exposure to new traditions, new values, beliefs and new ways of thinking are some of the gifts migrants enjoy, while their counterparts back home may be unaware of ways other than their own.

When we come across contrasting styles of living, we come to question the things we do, why we do it and how we do it. In other words, we switch out of the 'cruise' mode and start taking matters into our own hand. We start designing our lives and recreating it using the best of both worlds.

Now, when it comes to passing our experiences to children, the majority of us struggle to pinpoint how our thinking has been shaped and how our life has been hybridised.

So, we tend to let our children grow up as 'true locals' cut off from their roots.

Every culture has its ups and downs and as parents, don't we have the responsibility to guide our children to internalise the good in everything? Yes! But how?

Taking children to visit grandparents frequently, taking regular holidays to our hometown and spending considerable time talking about the cultural commonalities and differences, can help us in this mission.

After all, our children are entitled to the wisdom that we have gained, if not more.



Australia Day

Our 2014 Australia Day community event will take place at Mirani State Primary School (12 Maud Street, Mirani) on Sunday, January 26 from 10am.

Join us for a day of free entertainment including an 'Aussie' themed kids zone, live music, BBQ lunch and the presentation of the 2014 Australia Day Awards. If you'd like to nominate someone for an award visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday

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.

Migrant Settlement Program

The Migrant Settlement Program at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre is a free service to help eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five (5) years. The program provides 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 Liz Stevenson for more details.

Phone: 4940 3415 or email:

elizabeth.stevenson@tafe.qld.edu.au



The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD) Program

Supports individuals (children and adults) from other cultures who have a mental illness, disability, chronic medical condition, or are frail/elderly and family members and friends who are looking after them.

For more information, please contact:

Deb Parker - CALD Program Officer

Ph: 4944 0544 Email: dparker@carersqld.asn.au

Mackay office: 4/19 Palmer St. North Mackay 4740



e-news!

Sign up online for regular news updates.

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

Remember these dates:

**New Year's Eve
Tues 31st December
at the MECC -
free entry!**

*New Year's Eve Family
Superhero Party 6pm - 9pm
(fireworks at 9pm for kids)*

*70s and 80s Party
Eurythmics & Fleetwood
Mac tribute band show
9pm - Midnight*

**Ice City II at the MECC
Dec 26th - Jan 19th**
To book tickets visit
www.mackaytix.com.au

**Sports Expo at MECC
Sunday 9th February**
Come along and enjoy a fun
and FREE day out with the
family and sign-up on the
spot to your choice of over 50
different sports.

Useful Contacts

> Migrant Settlement Services

Phone: 4957 2626

> Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program

Phone: 4961 9596

Email: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au

> Welcome to Mackay Centre

Phone: 4957 7757