

migrantvoice

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Edition 4



That's a wrap - 2011 Global Grooves!

Photo caption: Sam Vuibeqa displays his weaving skills to Rhys Moorcroft, Zuleika Jones and Alicia Moorcroft at the Global Groove's Fijian stand.

The 2011 Global Grooves multicultural festival was a great success this year.

Mackay Regional Council are particularly proud of the cultural groups who participated for the very first time this year which enriched the variety of food options and displays that were available.

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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).



Be prepared this Storm Season

Living in the Mackay region is beautiful, but it comes with responsibilities, particularly during the Summer Storm Season.

A few hours spent preparing an emergency kit and securing your home could mean the difference between life and death.

After the events of the 2008 floods and the 2010 and 2011 cyclones, Cyclone Ului and Cyclone Yasi, we can ill afford to become complacent about the dangers of these events.

Council's Emergency Action Guide provides valuable information on how to best prepare for the storm season and also includes information on cyclones, floods, storm surges and bush fires.

Every resident should have a copy of the Emergency Action Guide – it is our bible to surviving natural disasters.

Residents and businesses are urged to tidy up their yards, check roofs, clean out gutters and make sure all the building structures on their property are safe and secure.

A copy of council's Emergency Action Guide is available at council's Customer Service Centres for more information on being prepared visit council's website (www.mackay.qld.gov.au).

Mayor Col Meng



Global Grooves a huge success

The Fijian community and the traditional Lovu fire pit proved extremely popular with festival goers.

The Filipino community transformed an area of Queens Park to replicate a traditional village in the Philippines; and the Latin American community volunteers worked tirelessly to provide delicious traditional South American dishes.

The Australian South Sea Islander community also set up a stall showcasing the history and culture of this unique group.

Council is very thankful to these communities for taking the time, energy and effort in participating in this festival and we look forward to working with them and other cultural groups next year.

The National Costume Parade was also very popular this year with many new cultural groups taking the courageous step in showcase their traditional garments from their country of origin - new entries for this year were from Bangladesh, and Ethiopia which added to the already established diversity of groups participating in the parade.

mp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



With Christmas fast approaching this will be our last edition for 2011 and Lara and I would like to thank everyone in the community for their stories and contributions to this publication. Please remember that if you have a cultural event that you would like to promote or share, we are more than happy to receive articles for publication.

We are really pleased with how the Global Grooves multicultural festival went this year. The

additional cultural food stalls and displays were magical and truly showcase how diverse Mackay is becoming.

Also did you know that Mackay Regional Council facilitates a committee designed for people from different cultural backgrounds?

The LAMP Advisory Committee meets four times a year and anybody who has arrived here from other countries is more than welcome to attend. The group works towards developing ideas and projects that will improve council's service delivery to residents and ratepayers who come from other countries.

If you would like to join or find out more details contact us on 4961 9596.



Leigh takes out AIM Award...

Leigh Morgan (pictured right) from the Mackay Language College has won the Australian Institute of Management's (AIM) award for Owner/Manager of the Year in Mackay. The judges said, "Her innovation has seen her develop both local and international relationships that are critical to not only the success of her business, but her students' future development as well." "Through her work she has been able to empower many students and colleagues alike with her infectious passion for her work." Congratulations Leigh!

Driving Change

Migrants in Mackay are developing the skills and confidence to drive safely on Queensland roads. The Driver Education course is for eligible migrants, and is run by the George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Incorporated Migrant Settlement Program.

Getting a licence means the freedom to work, volunteer, attend social events, the shops, and to drive children to school and afternoon activities.

Being able to get to these events helps new migrants to settle more quickly and become more involved in the community. Participants said they have gained confidence, learnt the road rules and made new friends.



Eligible migrants attend four (4) class room sessions with a facilitator and share a practical session with a qualified instructor. The lessons are relaxed and hands on.

Pick up is available in the city area and children are welcome, please note group numbers are limited to eight (8).

The Driver Education classes are part of the Settlement Grants Program funded by the Australian Government/Department of Immigration and Citizenship. For more information phone 4957 2626.

Filipino Community Group Update

The Filipino-Australian Community Association of Mackay and District (FACAMDI) built an authentic village nipa hut for the 2011 Global Grooves held in October. It was filled with examples of Filipino crafts and other items from the culture.

The association took part in the dance demonstrations and the costume parade, as well as cooking authentic dishes. FACAMDI president Tony dela Cruz said "It is a big challenge for FACAMDI to participate in Mackay's biggest multicultural event. We've been very much excited and proud to share a part of our Filipino culture with the Mackay community."



Cultural leaders get together

After the recent training by ECCQ on 'how to establish your community association' the George Street Neighbourhood Centre is looking to form a network/support group to help cultural groups discuss ideas and share experiences in developing and running your organisation.

If you are interested to join and receive future information please contact Natasha Syed Ali on 4957 2626.



Become a volunteer Home Tutor

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 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 kellie.george@det.qld.gov.au for more information 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 St Neighbourhood Centre, George St

Time - 10.30am to 12 noon

Please call before coming, contact Linda Brown on 4957 2626.

Are you looking after a family member or relative with an illness?

Were you born overseas or if born in Australia with a culture other than Anglo-Australian by virtue of ancestry, ethnic origin, religion, preferred language, language spoken at home; or because of your parent's identification on a similar basis? Are you looking after someone who has 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 person you are caring for get all the services you require that will meet your health, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.

For more details phone Carers QLD on 4944 0544.

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.

Do you have a story to tell?

The Mackay Writers Group is a gathering of people who like to write and who come together each month to talk about writing. Our members write anything and everything from poetry to biographies to crime novels and fantasy. We are not a classroom so you don't have to worry that your

writing isn't 'good enough' to be accepted. You don't even have to share your writing with the group if you don't want to. Just come along as a visitor to check us out because we love new people with new ideas. Our meetings are free, held the fourth Monday of each month at the Gordon White Library, and start at 7pm. Contact Brooke McReynolds on makbro@yahoo.com.



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.skillsolutions.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