

migrantvoice

May 2019 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 27

Harmony Day 2019 pays tribute to Christchurch victims



The Mayor, councillors, staff and members of the multicultural community held hands for a minute's silence to acknowledge the Christchurch victims.

A moving show of respect and support, including a minute's silence, was paid to the victims of Christchurch shooting when Harmony Day took place on Thursday, March 21. Organised by council's Community Programs team in partnership with George Street Neighbourhood Centre, the community gathering exceeded everyone's expectations.

The Harmony Day colour, a sea of orange worn by community, was well represented under the Civic Precinct fig tree. Emceed by Community Development Officer Mulum Stone, this event was a way for community members from diverse cultural backgrounds to share a plate of food and a few stories. (Continued Page 2)



*Everyone Belongs
#HarmonyDay*

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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 May edition of **Migrant Voice for 2019**. This is the only newsletter of its kind in the Mackay region and provides a voice for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. It's also where you will hear about all the events, activities and issues that matter to you.

We have recently celebrated Harmony Day here in our council grounds. The response from the community to this gathering really blew us away. We asked those attending to bring a plate of food from their culture to share, and the resulting banquet was a multicultural feast of epic proportions. On top of the food, the other highlight was the stories from our guest speakers. Rather than speak about overcoming diversity, they praised the Mackay community for their acceptance and making newcomers feel welcome. That's great feedback for our community.

Another exciting event is also rapidly approaching - the Mackay Volunteer Expo, on June 8. Held at the Mackay Senior Citizens Centre, this event offers new arrivals in Mackay an opportunity to gain skills, meet new people and help out the community by finding a volunteer organisation that suits and interests them. With around 50 different organisations on site, there is something to suit everyone. I hope to see you there.

Kind regards,
Mayor Greg Williamson

Harmony Day continued

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Following a warm Welcome to Country from Yuwibara traditional custodian Deb Netuschil, and a welcome by Mayor Greg Williamson, representatives from the African and Filipino community shared their uplifting stories about immigrating to Mackay. They spoke about how welcoming the Mackay community was to newcomers.

A beautiful rendition of the national anthem sung by Nathan Gooch



Nathan Gooch sang the national anthem beautifully.

helped to set the scene for a wonderfully harmonious event, with community joining in dancing to the drumming and singing by members of the Zimbabwean community.

The event concluded in the sharing of a cultural feast of foods.

Chinese New Year celebration

MACKAY'S Chinese community embraced the Year of the Pig as they celebrated Chinese New Year on February 9.

Celebrations included a Tai Chi fan dance, Chinese New Year song, Cheongsam show, The Amazing Face

Changing performance by Xianghong Li and much more.

The night included a fabulous Chinese feast of foods and fun activities to engage the younger members of the community.

About 150 people attended this event.

Take Root (Colony): Project Another Country

ARTSPACE Mackay hosted internationally-acclaimed artist duo Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan for a week-long artist-in-residence program in late March. During this time, Alfredo and Isabel facilitated community art workshops at Artspace Mackay, George Street Neighbourhood Centre, Dudley Denny City Library, Mackay West State School, Mackay Central State School and St Patrick's Secondary College as part of their new project Take Root (Colony): Project Another Country. Over 300 Mackay children and adults participated in these free workshops, which saw them making unique cardboard homes that will be added to a huge art installation at Artspace Mackay, which opens on June 14.



Over 300 Mackay children and adults took part in the workshops.

Alfredo and Isabel's Project Another Country has seen them working with communities around the world to create complex installations that reflect themes of migration, displacement and community.

Their latest Mackay project Take Root (Colony): Project Another Country is supported by Glencore's Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund and the Artspace Mackay Foundation. More details at artspacemackay.com.au.

Mackay and District Italian Association launch "For a Better Life"

THE association is proud to have launched their "For a Better Life" book in November last year. It is the history of Italian families who migrated to the area from the late 1800s to 1960. It was a result of six years of collecting, researching and working with families to publish their stories. The committee raised money, which was used to publish the book, through many avenues. The most popular being the home-made Italian biscuits made by the association's wonderful cooks.

The association is presently putting together a photographic exhibition to be

held at the Jubilee Community Centre. The exhibition will include an artefact display as well. Many families supplied photos for the exhibition. It will be held between May 13 and 17 and May 20 and 24. Entry is free.

Street party back in May

The Jayco Italian Street Party is on again this year in the City Centre. It will be held May 18 from 3pm to 9pm. The last two years have been very successful, and this year is shaping up bigger and better. To keep up-to-date please check out the association's Facebook page.



The For a Better Life book was gifted to local schools.



The Italian Street Party is on May 18.

Mulum Stone has taken on the Community Programs' multicultural portfolio.



Community Programs team update

Please give a warm welcome to Mulum Stone, who is now looking after the Community Programs' multicultural portfolio. Some of you may know Mulum from Harmony Day, Chinese New Year and other support she has provided to the multicultural community. Mulum is excited for the new challenge and is looking forward to working with our wonderfully diverse community. Mulum has a passion for all things multicultural, having her own diverse background with Malaysian, Torres Strait Island and Australian South Sea Islander heritage. Mulum can be reached, Monday to Friday, on 4961 9435 or at mulum.stone@mackay.qld.gov.au

The Multilingual Disability Hub is a national multilingual hotline and website that provides information in-language on disability and the NDIS.

Multilingual Disability Hub

Looking for information on disability or the NDIS?

We speak your language!

<p>Arabic</p> <p>معلومات عن الإعاقة القائمة العربية 1800 960 972</p>	<p>Bengali</p> <p>আবিলম্বিততা বা অসুস্থতা কাজের ক্ষমতা 1800 960 976</p>	<p>Burmese</p> <p>အချိန်ချိန် ဖြစ်ရန် တစ်ခု အချိန် 1800 961 059</p>	<p>Chinese</p> <p>殘疾服務資訊 廣東話 1800 960 981</p>
<p>French</p> <p>Informations sur le handicap 1800 961 058</p>	<p>Greek</p> <p>Πληροφορίες Αναπηρίας Καλάστε τη Δευτέρα 1800 960 975</p>	<p>Italian</p> <p>Informazioni sulle disabilità Chiamata al venerdì 1800 960 973</p>	<p>Japanese</p> <p>障害者支援情報 1800 961 060</p>
<p>Spanish</p> <p>Información sobre la discapacidad Español 1800 960 979</p>	<p>Mandarin</p> <p>殘疾服務資訊 中文簡體 1800 961 057</p>	<p>Malayalam</p> <p>അവലംബിതതയ്ക്കെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ 1800 961 058</p>	<p>Tiếng Việt</p> <p>Thông tin về khuyết tật 1800 960 990</p>

www.disabilityinlanguage.info

The Multilingual Disability Hub is an initiative of the Settlement Services International (SSI) FutureAbility project. This project is funded by the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILCB) Program.

SSI settlement services international

ndis

Important information

CALD Women's Club

George Street Neighbourhood Centre, Mackay Women's Centre and DVRS Mackay & Region hosts a CALD Women's Club every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am at Mackay Women's Centre, 418 Shakespeare Street. For more information please call 4957 2626 or email valeriyae@georgestreetnc.org.au

Africa Day celebrations

These celebrations will be held on May 25 at Andergrove Community Hall at 78 Celeber Drive, Andergrove. Commencing at 9.30am, activities will include:

- Traditional dances
- Face painting
- African stalls
- Soccer competition
- Traditional food
- Hair braiding
- Jumping castle
- Parade of African nations

Migrant Driver Education Program

George Street Neighbourhood Centre's Migrant Driver Education Program to be held on Wednesday mornings on May 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at The Annexe, 4 George Street, West Mackay. Enquiries: phone 4957 7222 or 0467 267 748

What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?



The George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc Multicultural Community Program provides information, referral and support to individuals and families who have culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

DV Survey

George Street Neighbourhood Centre, with support from Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), are working on a survey to gain an understanding of how some members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the Mackay region define domestic and family violence at this point in time. They will also gather together some of their ideas about how domestic and family violence services can better support women in CALD communities. The survey rolled out in January 2019 and targeted CALD individuals living in the Mackay region. Further updates and research results will be shared in following Migrant Voice editions, as well as will be available through George Street Neighbourhood Centre. If you would like to participate, please contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre (Valeriya) on 4957 2626 or via email valeriyae@georgestreetnc.org.au

CAMS Multicultural Community Program (MCP)

creates opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to connect with the local community. There are four main activities which fall under this program:

- **World Café:** a migrant's support group where activities, projects and information sessions are created to encourage migrants and provide them tools to step out of their comfort zone.
- **Prep-Ready Kids:** a program for migrant/CALD families with children under five that focuses on helping parents help their children develop skills they need for prep school.
- **English Conversation Circles:** Free English program delivered by the program coordinator in partnership with Dudley Denny City Library and Artspace Mackay. Small group and one on one tutoring is also available by arrangement during Tuesday afternoon from 1-3pm.
- **Playgroups**
Wednesdays: SunTots, 9.30am-11.30am, Cost \$3
Fridays: Tea and Tots, 9am-11am, Cost: \$3

For more information on any of the programs contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre on 4957 7222.

Events and Services:

IELTS Tuition

When: Every Thursday
10am-12pm Reading and Listening
6-8pm Writing and Speaking
Where: Mackay Baptist Church
(Corner Shakespeare & Brisbane Street)
Info: Targeted at migrant women, sessions cost \$10 (*if cost is a barrier please call*). Contact Conchi on 0403 316 010

United Women's Cultural Group Craft Mornings

When: Every Monday 9am-12pm
Where: ATSICHS, 31 Victoria Street, Mackay
Info: Newcomers of all ages / cultural backgrounds welcome. \$2 per week. Bring a plate of food to share. Call Leslie 0413 438 779

Italian Association Chat & Coffee

When: 5:30pm second Friday of every month.
Where: Coco Cubano, Wood Street.
Practice your language skills in a relaxed environment over a cuppa. All levels of Italian welcome.

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-noon – MaCheDici (Italian)
Sundays 6-7pm – Fiji Hour

Lubra Tok Meta – Indigenous Women's Group

When: Every Tuesday (except school holidays) 6-8pm
Where: Mackay Women's Services, 418 Shakespeare Street
Info: Come together in a safe environment and enjoy all the different activities on offer including: arts, crafts, cooling, indigenous art, guest speakers, cultural activities, yarnning session, family trees and more.
For more information, contact Julie on 4953 1788.
Cost: \$2 – food and tea/coffee provided

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 phone council's Multicultural Community Development Officer on 4961 9655.