

migrantvoice

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Multicultural groups shine at festival

The Mackay Filipino-Australian community at Global Grooves.

At this year's Global Grooves festival 14 multicultural community groups participated in a range of capacities, holding food and market stalls and performing traditional dance. The food vendors and market stalls were kept busy all night with their offerings of delicious traditional foods.

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Have stories or events to contribute to Migrant Voice? Contact council's Community Development Officer at mulum.stone@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9435.



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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 few words from Acting Mayor Amanda Camm

WELCOME to the latest issue of **Migrant Voice**. Our mayor, Greg Williamson, is taking a well-deserved break, so it's my pleasure to introduce this last issue for the year. And if you have newly arrived in our community, I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our region.

We are truly blessed to live in Mackay. While our region is known for its strong industrial and agricultural sectors, Mackay shines both in its natural beauty and the generosity of its residents. Just last week GoFundMe named Mackay the most generous town in Queensland and second most generous town in Australia. It's honestly not something that surprises me. Our annual anti-poverty food drive produces van-loads of goodies to stock up our local charities and we have so many amazing, kind people in our community.

Raj and Jess from Roshni Indian restaurant in Victoria Street are perfect examples of this generosity. Roshni is running a free "No one eats alone this Christmas" lunch on Christmas Day. They are making hundreds of meals for anyone who might be down on their luck or are new to town and spending Christmas alone. No questions are asked, just come along and be part of something that exemplifies the Christmas spirit.

While on the subject of generosity, nominations are currently open for next year's Australia Day awards. This is your chance to nominate someone who contributes selflessly to our community. There are several categories to choose from. Nomination forms can be found at mackay.qld.gov/australiaday

Thank you to everyone from our local multicultural communities for all the work you did to make this year's Global Grooves festival such a success. I know many hours of preparation went in to your performances and stalls. I hope to catch up with all of you in 2020. Merry Christmas,
Acting Mayor, Amanda Camm



The Salaka Ensemble put on a great performance to close the night.

Global Grooves goes off in new venue

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The incredible line-up of local cultural dance groups and performers was very popular, with traditional dances and some very intricate and beautiful costumes. Of particular mention was singer Jonte Tupaea and the Sakwalo dancers – both featuring young performers and contemporary music, who were participating at Global Grooves for the first time.

Headline act, The Salaka Ensemble, hailing from Ghana via Sydney, were hugely popular and energetic. The group had every child and most of the adults up, dancing and joining in.

Council's Community Programs team engaged with the multicultural

and diverse community in planning meetings for the event.

Global Grooves is an event in partnership with the multicultural community, without whom the event would not be possible. Funding from Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) has been secured for a further two years following a successful grant application in 2018.

Positive feedback was received regarding this year's event and most people were positive about the temporary venue change from Queen's Park to Meadowlands due to the works at the park. Early planning for Global Grooves 2020 has already begun. A festival date and time is yet to be confirmed.



Dancers from the Mackay Thai-Aussie Community.

Best Wishes to Georgine

GEORGINE Crawford has been coordinating the CAMS program at The Neighbourhood Hub (formerly the George Street Neighbourhood Centre) for about four years.

Prior to obtaining a position with the centre, Georgine volunteered for three years and worked as the support person for the Early Years Health and Wellbeing Program.

In February 2016, Georgine commenced as the coordinator of the CAMS program and is credited with bringing together two programs – Prep Ready Kids (multicultural) and the Mackay Migrant Women’s Toolkit.

The CAMS program activities included World Café, and community events such as Harmony Day, United Nations Day and International Day of the World’s Indigenous People.



Georgine Crawford and Mulum Stone.

Georgine said some of the highlights from her role were making connections and having the privilege of being in a position to work with people to make positive and lasting changes. “Seeing new migrants blossoming into confident members of the community was a huge highlight,” she said.

Georgine said she will take some quiet time, re-charge and come back strong and ready to further advocate for “at risk” women and children from the multicultural and diverse community in the new year.

Best wishes in your new endeavours Georgine!

Harmony Day Festival of Cultures

SAVE the date - Mackay Regional Council and The Neighbourhood Hub are happy to announce the Festival of Cultures to celebrate Harmony Day on March 21, 2020, from 9am to 1pm at Mackay Civic Precinct, Gordon Street.

This event will bring the community together to engage in multicultural experiences, fun children’s activities, arts, crafts and to learn about the diversity of our community.

We invite local cultural groups to participate and hold a stall at the event to showcase their culture and traditions. If you are interested, please phone 4957 2626 or email admin@tnhub.org.au



Busy time for Italian Association

THE Mackay and District Italian Association has had a busy time since the last Migrant Voice.

Italy’s National Day on June 2 was celebrated with a luncheon at Rydges.

August saw a Sausage Making Competition. This year one of the ladies who makes some of the group’s delicious biscuits, Jennifer Borg, won the competition.

September saw Bocce in the Botanical Gardens and October was busy as the group partnered with MADASSIA and

the Maltese community to celebrate the contribution the three cultures made to the sugar industry.

The Association’s wonderful biscuit makers cooked up a storm with homemade biscuits, almond bread and crostoli to sell at the Association stall at Global Grooves.

Check out the Mackay and District Italian Association Inc Facebook page to keep up-to-date with upcoming functions, as well as photos of previous events. All are welcome to attend events held by the Association.



The Association joined with other communities for a project that explored the history of the sugar industry.

The Easy Way to Find Funding!

MACKAY Regional Council is excited to provide “Funding Finder” to all local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. This site provides a list of grant and funding opportunities available to you.

This free service means you will never miss a grant opportunity again. Register to receive emailed alerts for new grants, save your favourites and access tips to help you apply for grants.

Council is proud to partner with GrantGuru to provide you with this service. See the website for top tips and a list of grant writers if you need additional help. Find a grant today at mackay.grantguru.com.au

CALD Women's Club is open

CALD Women's Club is a free social club for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women who live in Mackay. The main focus of the club is to provide free activities and workshops for CALD women to connect, support each other and learn new skills. The club was created at the end of 2018 by The Neighbourhood Hub in partnership with Mackay Women's Services to empower CALD women, support them to gain new skills and build confidence, and provide access to relevant services.

We invite you to join the club!

CALD Women's Club meets every Friday, 9.30am to 11.30am at the Mackay Women's Centre, 418A Shakespeare Street.

For more information, please contact Val on 074957 2626 or email vale@tnhub.org.au



The CALD Club at a pastel art workshop facilitated by artist Rosemary Payne.



CALD Women's Club activities in 2019 included a macrame workshop facilitated by artist Fiona Flohr.

The Neighbourhood Hub 2019 Christmas Closure

THE Neighbourhood Hub will be closed from 3pm, Friday, December 20, 2019, and will re-open 8.30am Monday, January 6.

We want to wish you a wonderful Christmas festive season with your families and friends!

Events and Activities

United Women's Cultural Craft Group

When: Every Monday, 9am until noon

Where: ATSIChS, 31 Victoria St, Mackay

Info: Newcomers of all ages/cultural backgrounds welcome. \$2 per week. Bring a plate of food to share. Contact: Leslie 0413 438 779

Italian Association Chat & Coffee

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

Where: Coco Cubano, Wood Street.

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

4CRM Multicultural Radio Shows

Hosted by local community members.

Tune in to 107.5FM or online at 4crm.com.au.

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: 6-8pm, Tuesdays (except school holidays)

Where: Mackay Women's Services, 418 Shakespeare Street

Info: A safe environment to enjoy arts, crafts, cooking, indigenous art, guest speakers, cultural activities, yarnning session, family trees and more. Cost: \$2 – food and tea/coffee provided.

Contact: Julie on 4953 1788

"No one eats alone at Christmas" lunch

Join Raj, Jess and their team at Roshni Indian Restaurant for their annual free Roshni Indian Community Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day.

This generous gesture is their way of spreading their philosophy of happiness and light and "making Christmas a little bit better" for those who are alone or down on their luck by opening their doors and providing a warm, friendly meal to those in need. Lunch will be served from noon to 2pm.

Helpful Links

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