

migrantvoice

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Edition 16



Global Grooves a huge success

Mackay Cook Island Dancers perform at Global Grooves.

Congratulations to all community members who contributed to and attended Global Grooves in October in Queens Park. The day attracted about 4500 people and is Mackay's biggest multicultural event, with over 15 cultures represented on the day.

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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).



Have stories or events to contribute to Migrant Voice? Contact council's Multicultural Partnership Officer at lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9596.



A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the December edition of Migrant Voice. The end of 2014 has seen a whole host of exciting activities happening to celebrate and support our local multicultural community.

The region's largest multicultural event Global Grooves at Queens Park was a great success. With approximately 4500 attendees, it was a wonderful chance for the community to showcase and celebrate the many cultures who call the Mackay region home. A special thanks to all in the community who volunteered time to run the stalls and put on performances and other activities.

I would also like to congratulate the Motoring Mackay Migrants program participants who recently gained their drivers licences and are featured in this edition. We hope your new skills give you greater access to all the region has to offer and wish you well in your driving future. I am grateful to live in a community that supports multicultural initiatives such as these.

Shortly the Christmas season will be upon us. May the peace, joy and love that the Christmas message brings, be with you all throughout the coming year.



George Christensen had the opportunity to experience everything from the halls of government to the hills of poverty on a recent trip to the Philippines.

The Federal Member for Dawson took up the opportunity because of his role as the chair of the Australia Philippine Parliamentary Friends network, and it allowed him to strengthen relationships with the country of origin of the large Filipino community in the Mackay region.

“The Australia Philippine Parliamentary Network is the group that links the Australian and Philippine congress, and I wanted to establish

a face-to-face relationship with congressmen and the Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives,” Mr Christensen said.

“It was an honour to meet The Honourable Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr, as well as Congressman Raul Del Mar from Cebu City and Congressman Gus Tanbunting from Paranaque City.

“We discussed the close relationship between Australia and the Philippines, opportunities for economic co-operation and tourism; just about all of the congressmen had some family link to Australia.”

Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪

Welcome Alison McRae Fearnley

This month Council welcomed Alison McRae Fearnley to the role as Local Area Multicultural Partnership (LAMP) Officer.

Alison brings to the position experience in journalism, advertising and community development.

She has also lived in Germany and travelled across Europe, to NZ and the Philippines.

She is looking forward to supporting the LAMP program until it wraps up in June 2015 (as no forward funding for the program has been announced at this stage).

You can contact her on 4961 9596 or lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au.



Australia Day

Sister Cities Mackay invites all in the community to their annual Australia Day Skype with students and friends in Matsuura, Japan. The free event will have lots of activities for all.

Where: St Patrick's College Hall, River Street Mackay

When: Sunday, January 25, 2015, from 10.30am-12.30pm

(This event is being held on Sunday because Matsuura people will be working on Monday, January 26.)

Contact: sistercitiesmackay@hotmail.com

Motoring Mackay migrants on the road



Congratulations to the eight participants in the Motoring Mackay Migrants program who have gained their drivers licence and best of luck to those sitting their tests before the end of the year.

The program supports migrant knowledge of road rules to help them gain their licence by offering free lessons and basic car maintenance skills. The initiative is thanks to a partnership between

Mackay Regional Council and George Street Neighbourhood Centre, funded by the Department of Transport and Main Roads Road Safety Grants initiative with lessons provided by DriveWise Driving School.

When the program finishes in December it will have provided 250 hours of driving lessons to local migrants, improving their confidence, employability and ability to be connected to the community.

Participant Pardeep said, "Now I have my licence I can go to work. Before I had my licence I had to wait for my husband or someone else to go shopping or I had to take a taxi. With my licence I have independence and freedom."

Mackay Sports Expo and Sign-on Day

Council is offering a free tour for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds of the expo. It showcases over 100 sport and recreation clubs.

Come along to learn about different sports adults and children can play in the region and how to get

involved. There will also be lots of free entertainment for the whole family.

When: Sunday, February 8, 2015, from 11.30am-12.30pm

Where: Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)

RSVP to Alison: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9596



Global Grooves

This free family event in October 2014 featured local community members performing live music, serving up authentic foods, performing traditional dance, and hosting market and craft stalls from around the world as well as a Global Village where attendees learnt about Mackay's diversity.

Special guests included Showko, a brilliant Japanese ventriloquist, a Maltese cooking demonstration by Jake from My Kitchen Rules and African dancers Joe Tee and Afrodisa.

Festivals, Events and the Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said, "We're so lucky to have such a variety of different nationalities and backgrounds in our community."

Do you or a family member/ friend who you are looking after have a mental illness, disability, chronic medical condition or is frail/elderly?

The Carers QLD Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Program is here to help you find the support and services you need.

Contact: Marie on 4944 0544 or mnolan@carersqld.asn.au

Mackay Office: 4/19 Palmer St, North Mackay

What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?

World Cafe

Do you want to meet people, make new friends while practicing your English and learning about different cultures? Come along to this free group where we do lots of activities like conversational games, cooking, craft and learning about the community.



When: Every Tuesday from 10.30am-12pm

Contact: 4957 7222 or multi@georgestreetnc.org.au

Where: George Street Neighbourhood Centre Shed

Migrant Settlement Program

George Street Neighbourhood Centre offers free support to eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five years. This includes information about making appointments, English classes, accessing services, driving, health services, public transport, schools, childcare, renting, making friends and more.

Contact: 4957 2626

School Holiday Activity

Keep your kids entertained with multicultural cooking classes these school holidays.

When: January 20 and 21 from 9.30am-2pm

Where: George Street Neighbourhood Centre Shed

Cost: \$5 per family

Contact: 4957 7222 or multi@georgestreetnc.org.au



United Nations Day

Zonta and George St Neighbourhood Centre celebrated United Nations Day at Mackay Regional Council grounds in October.

Brooke McReynolds spoke about her international midwife placements with Medicine San Frontiers, Sister Margaret Graves spoke about her work in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and members of the Indonesian community sang and gave a demonstration of husking and peeling coconuts.

Visitors came from the Italian, Indonesian, Indian, Pakistani and Filipino communities.

WANTED: Volunteers to help teach English

Are you a native English speaker with one hour a week spare to help adult migrants with their language skills? CQU's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) offers free training and ongoing support. Contact Elizabeth at CQU by emailing e.stevenson@cqu.edu.au for more information.

Pacific Island event

A new event celebrating Pacific Island Culture is being planned for July next year and the community is being asked to put forward ideas for performance, food or cultural activities to be showcased on the day.

Volunteers able help with planning and organisation, with skills in areas including event management, volunteers, marketing, media, security are also asked to get in touch.

Contact: Yvonne Tui on 0479 137 055

Employment workshops

Mackay Regional Council and IDEAL Placements are seeking expressions of interest from culturally and linguistically diverse community members who would like to participate in workshops to help them find a job, beginning in February 2015. The five week program (one hour a week 5pm-6pm on Wednesdays) includes sessions on resumes, job applications, interview skills and more. A minimum of six participants is required to run the course. **RSVP to Alison at council - email:** lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au **or phone** 4961 9596