

# migrantvoice

MARCH 2017 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 22



## We welcome Year of the Rooster

*The colourful Chinese Lion Dancers were a hit with crowds in the City Centre.*

*Chinese New Year Celebrations held last month were a mass of colour and held a sense of new beginnings for all who attended.*

*The dancing lions once again entertained the crowds with three captivating performances. The final performance even gave the crowd an unexpected fireworks display. The face-changing performance saw a new mask appear at every turn, with the final mask revealing local performing artist Xiang Hong Li.*



### In this issue:

Mayor's Message	Page 2
Pasifika recap	Page 2
Events & Activities	Page 3
Services & Support	Page 4



**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 first edition of Migrant Voice for 2017. 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.

It has been a busy start to 2017. Hosting our Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony on January 26 was an absolute honour. To be able to welcome 89 new citizens from 17 different nations to our region and hear their stories made for a tremendous morning.

It's amazing just what a diverse number of countries make up our community. Since 2013 we have welcomed almost 3000 people from 73 different nationalities.

The Chinese New Year festivities in the Mackay City Centre in February were an amazing spectacle and an overwhelming success. About 7000 people flocked to Victoria Street and, like me, they were blown away by the excitement and colours of the Chinese Lion Dancers. If you enjoyed the tastes, sights and sounds of this year's event, rest assured planning is already under way for next year. In fact, plans are being developed to take the cuisine on offer to the next level!

In March there's International Women's Day and a plethora of related celebrations and events occurring through the region. Please get involved and take the time to celebrate a special woman in your life.

### Sister city visit

Delegates of Mackay's Sister City Matsuura, Japan, including Mayor Ikuhiro Tomhiro (pictured above right), received a warm welcome when they visited us recently.



Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson pictured with Matsuura Mayor Ikuhiro Tomhiro during the recent visit.

From cane farms to country crafts, lawn bowls to local beaches, and even a tour of some of our local industrial facilities, our friendly visitors enjoyed their visit and received a taste of what it's like to live in our region. The Mackay-Matsuura Sister City relationship is a special one that continues to grow and flourish, each and every year.

All the best until next time,  
**Mayor Greg Williamson**

## PASIFIKA 2016 A HIT!

Meadowlands Amphitheater was the perfect spot for Pasifika in September last year. This family fun day event gave families time to relax and be entertained while watching their children play.

One of the standout acts was inspirational, 10-year-old Fairlane Tui (pictured below), who performed a traditional solo dance and lifted the hearts of many who were present.



The event was organised by Yvonne Tui, who coordinated the event with just a few helpers. This year, Yvonne looks forward to making the event bigger and better. The aim is to include as many groups as possible. This truly colourful event promises a taste of the Pacific with its food, music and dancing. Pasifika 2017 will be held on Saturday, September 9, at the Meadowlands Amphitheater.

## Living Well Multicultural Program

### Paul Tomane will be visiting Mackay in March.

Paul is a Samoan multi-cultural health worker based in Brisbane and looks forward to presenting his work regarding chronic disease.

A Living Well Multicultural Program for Pacific and South Sea Islanders in Mackay invites the community to discuss any concerns about chronic disease and also provides opportunity to become informed about improving

health and longevity.

The community will be advised of the time, place and date via networks in the weeks to come.

Members of the Pacific Islander and Australian South Sea Islander communities are invited to participate in the Living Well Multicultural Program.

If you are interested, please contact Yvonne on 0479 137 055 or Starrett on 0488 113 181.



The Cook Island Queen's Representative was welcomed by our Mackay Cook Island Community.

## The Cook Island Queen's Representative visits

The Mackay Cook Islands Community was privileged to have the Cook Islands Queen's Representative visit his people last year. The QR was welcomed with the traditional turou, as well as a welcome to country by Philip Kemp,

traditional custodian of the Yuibera people of this region. The evening was filled with prayer, songs, dancing and laughter from the Cook Islands people of Mackay. It was one evening that will not be forgotten for many years.

## 2017 marks 150 years of ASSI History

May 13, 2017 will mark 150 years since the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders in Mackay as indentured labourers.

Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) are the Australian-born descendants of the South Sea Islanders brought to Australia to help establish the cotton and sugar industries.

In Mackay particularly, the contribution made by South Sea Islanders to the sugar industry was extremely significant and over 150 years the ASSI community has continued to contribute to the development of Mackay.

The community will be holding a number of commemorative events throughout the year.

A list of events will be available on the Mackay Regional Council website in March.



## Global Grooves highlights

Performing artists from the Filipino community (pictured above left) stood proudly alongside many multicultural performing artists who showcased their traditional dance and costumes at Global Grooves in 2016.

This annual event has become a welcoming introduction to visitors and permanent residents of Mackay's multicultural and diverse community.

Performances by the Mackay Chinese Community (pictured above right) were also a standout. The heat of the day seemed to bring extra brilliance to the many colours which make up Mackay's Global community.

This year's event is planned for Saturday, October 21.

## Italian Street Party

The Mackay and District Italian Association Inc. (MDIA) is proud to bring the first inaugural Mackay Italian Street Party to Mackay on Saturday April 29, 2017.

Everyone is invited to an open-air, traffic-controlled event that will showcase the very best Italian culture has to offer. Between the hours of 3pm and 9pm, Wood Street will transform into a "Little Italy", turning it into a sea of green, white and red and with Italian food, drink and entertainment, at the very least as good as any in Italy!

Italians know how to celebrate and have a good time. Italian culture, food, drink, fashion and music is world-renowned. Mackay is lucky to have a rich, vibrant Italian culture and ours is the perfect community to host this fantastic cultural extravaganza.

### Did you know?

More than 3300 residents in the Mackay region claim direct Italian heritage...

# migrantvoice

## Events and Services:

### Grants available

Do you have a multicultural program or event in the works for 2017 or 2018? We want to hear about it. Council's Arts Development officers might even be able to help. Grants are available and the officers can assist you with the process of applying. Phone: 4961 9554

### United Women's Cultural Group Craft Mornings

When: Every Monday 9am - noon

Where: ATSIHCS, 31 Victoria St, Mackay

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

### Italian Association Chat & Coffee

When: 5:30pm on the 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](http://4crm.com.au)

Tuesdays	7-8pm – Radio Filipino
Saturdays	11am-noon – Ma Che Dici (Italian)
Sunday	4pm – 5pm - Bangaldesh
Sunday	5pm - 6pm - Café Ole Spanish
Sundays	6pm – 7pm – Fiji Hour
Tuesday	6pm -7pm – Bonsoir Mackay

### Many Cultures Story Time

Held at Dudley Denny City Library from 10.30am - 11.00am on Tuesday, March 7 and Tuesday, May 2.

This is an innovative program of stories, songs and rhymes. Sessions are specifically targeted at children aged two to five from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

### Free English Classes

Did you know CQU's Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) provides up to 510 hours of free English language tuition to eligible migrants and humanitarian entrants?

To register for the AMEP please phone 4940 3306, email [AMEP.Mackay@cqu.edu.au](mailto:AMEP.Mackay@cqu.edu.au) or visit Student Services at CQUniversity Mackay's City Campus in Sydney Street.

## 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](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au) - or phone council's Multicultural Community Development Officer on 4961 9655.

## Harmony Day Shared Lunch Tuesday March 21, 2017

Celebrate Australia's diversity by joining with community members for a Multicultural Shared Lunch at the Shakespeare Child and Family Centre - 43 Shakespeare St, East Mackay.

Entry is free, gold coin donations are appreciated.  
> Call 4957 7222 or 0497 139 745.

*Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity and is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.*

## What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?



### World Cafe

Do you want to meet people and 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 11am – 12.30pm

Where: Call George St Neighbourhood Centre for latest meeting place on 4957 2626

This month: Flavours of Vietnam cooking demo (\$5), Tuesday March 14. Cultural highlight, The Russian Empire, Tuesday March 28, by Valeriya Edsall.

### Migrant Settlement and Migrant Drivers Programs

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, driving, health services, schools, childcare, renting and more.

Phone: 4957 7222, English classes 6 - 8pm Wednesday, 43 George Street Neighbourhood Centre.

### Multicultural Playgroup

When: Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am

Where: Shakespeare Child and Family Centre, 43 Shakespeare St. Cost: \$3 Phone: 4957 7222

### Prep Ready Kids (for two to five year olds)

When: Monday 9:30-11:30

What: The aim is to teach target skills in readiness for school. Phone: 4957 7222

### Mackay migrant women toolkit

A two-day workshop for migrant women, especially those who are new to Australia and in cross-cultural marriages. This serves as a support group and info source for these women. To refer a participant, please contact the Multicultural Program Coordinator on (07) 4957 7222. This program runs bi-annually.