

migrantvoice

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Edition 17



150 years of Queensland Rail

The Maltese stall at Queensland Rail 150 celebration was a huge hit.

Multicultural Mackay's contributions to the rail and sugar industries were celebrated at Queensland Rail's 150 year celebrations at Mackay Railway Station. A civic ceremony was held and many groups including the Mackay Maltese Club and the Mackay & District Italian Association had stalls with a display of photos and historical artefacts. Some were lucky enough to catch a ride on a historical steam locomotive that hauls a beautiful set of wooden carriages, most of which are over 100 years old.

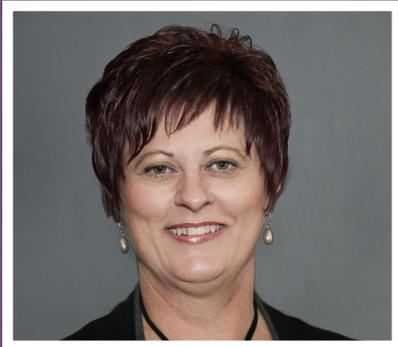


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Council has an ongoing responsibility to provide communications suitable to the needs of all residents.

If you wish to receive information in an alternative format or require an interpreter contact 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).



A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of Migrant Voice for 2015. This is the only newsletter of its kind in the Mackay region and provides a voice for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, as well as promoting events, activities and issues.

It has been a very busy start to the year, with an Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony held on January 26 where I had the honour of welcoming 48 new citizens to our country and to their new home here in the Mackay region. I continue to be amazed by the diverse number of countries that make up our community. Since 2013 we have welcomed over 1700 people from 63 different countries.

Keep an eye out for the many activities coming up over the next few months, including Chinese New Year on February 21 which I am excited to be opening especially since my children are Taiwanese and we embrace Chinese New Year activities in our home. There are also three events council will be hosting for International Women's Day in early March.

I also encourage readers to check out the #MackayPride DVD on www.mackay.qld.gov.au and to discover the "101 things to do" in Mackay and region by going to www.mackayairport.com.au. We live in a beautiful part of the world and we need to go out and explore its treasures.



Mackay and Matsuura celebrate Australia Day

Sister Cities Mackay celebrated Australia Day with their annual Skype with students and friends in Matsuura, Japan.

This year a record number of about 150 Matsuura students participated in the activities in Matsuura. Adults and students from Mackay who had visited Matsuura and students who have applied to join the council-sponsored tour to Japan in September came to St Patrick's College hall to talk to them via Skype.

There were many games on the day, and one of the highlights was a inflatable

kangaroo race between Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford and Matsuura Mayor Tomohiro, who did Japan proud by winning.

Other special guests included Martin Cowan who demonstrated Japanese martial art Kendo to the group and two Wildlife Carers who brought a joey and a possum to show our Japanese friends, which were a big hit!

We are very lucky to have such a friendly sister city and we invite anyone interested to attend our celebration with Matsuura next year.

Free IDEAL training for migrants

IDEAL Placements has secured funding to roll out a Community Learning program which includes offering free training for migrants, up to a Certificate III. A key aim of this program is to increase employment rates of the local migrant community.

Identified skill areas that will be targeted for training include Business, Aged Care, Construction, Food Processing and Hospitality. The training will include workshops

covering job ready skills, careers counselling and on-the-job support.

Information sessions should be held in March where eligibility requirements will be available as well as hearing from guest speakers in the various employment areas.

If you would like to register your interest in participating contact Sue at IDEAL on 4957 8177 or email her on suethompson@idealplacements.com.au

WANTED: Volunteers to help with 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 Alex at CQU at a.page@cqu.edu.au or 4940 3380 for more information.

Haka, Hungi and Harmony

Mackay Host Lions Pacific Islander Community (PIC) hosted an event to celebrate Waitangi Day (New Zealand Day) on February 7, 2015, at the Australian South Sea Islander Hut at the botanic gardens.

The day celebrates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand that guaranteed Māori rights to their land and gave Māori equal rights alongside the British.

About 500 people attended and enjoyed a delicious hangi, traditional foods and wonderful performances from a range of groups including the Māori Kapa Haka Group, Pacific Island and the Cook Island Communities.

The day was also supported by the band Black Coral and Waha and Scratch. Congratulations to all those who organised the event and performed.



Italian Association Update



The Mackay Italian Association finished off 2014 with a lunch celebrating the group's two year anniversary and started 2015 with their AGM in early February.

They are also having a sausage sizzle on March 22 at the Andergrove Neighbourhood centre. All welcome.

The group is currently compiling stories and photos for a book on the local Italian community's history. They now have more than 50 completed, with 50 nearly completed. Italian families are asked to keep the stories coming if they have not done so. Workshops are held at 26 Keelan Street every Tuesday starting at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

Maltese Club sizzles with MKR contestant

The Mackay Maltese club was very excited to have Jake from My Kitchen Rules attend Global Grooves Festival at Queens Park in October last year to do a Maltese cooking demonstration. He was assisted by the club's secretary Donna Sumpter and they prepared Ravjul moqli (Fried Sweet Ravioli) and Biskuttini tal Lewz Morr (Almond Biscuits). Jake's grandparents on his mother's side are Maltese and his grandmother spent much of her childhood here in Mackay. Their surname was Galea.



Pacifica 2015

Pacifica, an event celebrating all island cultures, is being planned for July 11, 2015, at the botanic gardens' Meadowlands Amphitheatre.

Planning meetings will commence in February and all are welcome to get in touch to discuss ideas for sharing your culture at this event by way of performance, food, cultural arts or more.

People with skills including organisational, voluntary, marketing, media, security or whoever would like to participate in this great event are also asked to register their interest.

Contact Yvonne Tui on 0479 137 055 for more information.



Chinese New Year

February 21 from 4pm to 8pm
Corner of Victoria and Macalister streets, Mackay

Mackay is celebrating Chinese New Year with a market in Victoria Street. Come along and help bring in the Year of the Goat with Asian cuisine food stalls, Chinese Lion Dancers, a fire show, Time Out Tai Chi interactive sessions and more. There will be fun for the kids including FREE Chinese arts and crafts, face painting, a balloon man and jumping castle.

Get your health in check

Breast cancer

Are you female, over 40 and due for a mammogram or have never had a mammogram? Give BreastScreen QLD Mackay a call on 13 20 50 or 4968 3813.

BreastScreens are free for all women over 40 and is one of the best methods for detecting breast cancer early. It is particularly important to be screened if you are aged 50-74 years as this is when you can be more at risk of developing breast cancer.

Your free appointment is one-on-one with a trained female health professional. No doctor's referral is necessary and you will be in and out in about 30 minutes.

Bowel cancer

Around 80 Australians die each week from bowel cancer, but if found early it is one of the most curable types. The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is currently inviting men and women turning 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 & 74 to screen for bowel cancer.

Participants are sent a free, easy to use screening kit that can be completed at home. If you have symptoms such as bleeding from the rectum (back passage), any sign of blood after a bowel motion, cramping or abdominal pain, anaemia, such as general weakness, tiredness and breathlessness, feeling of incomplete emptying of the bowel, or a recent and persistent change in bowel habit, you should see your doctor.

Call the helpline on 1800 118 868 if you have any questions. If you require an interpreter phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50. To book a free information sessions contact bowel cancer screening on 4885 5920 or 1300 766 927.

Mental illness

Talk to Mental Illness Fellowship North QLD. This is a free service. Phone 4951 2973 or email DParker@mifnq.org.au. For more information visit www.mifnq.org.au.

Migration agents and English language tuition services

For a full list of local services visit council's Settling in Mackay page in the Residents section of our website – www.mackay.qld.gov.au. Or, contact council's Multicultural Partnership Officer at lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9596.

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

Contact: 4957 2626

Multicultural Playgroup

When: Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am

Where: Shakespeare Child and Family Centre, 43 Shakespeare St

Cost: \$3

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

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www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/newsletters

Many Cultures Storytime

Stories, rhymes and songs for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds aged 2-5 years and their grown-ups. All welcome. Held on the first Friday of each month excluding public holidays and school holidays at Mackay City Library from 10.30-11am. Phone 4961 9387 for more information.

