

migrantvoice

JUNE 2014 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 14



Mackay Maltese community help children of the Philippines

Mackay residents Maree Bezzina and Judy McIntosh with the Sisters and children of a school in Manilla.

In February 2014 Maree Bezzina, a registered nurse at Saint Francis of Assisi home in Mackay and Judy McIntosh, Administration Officer, visited the Philippines to volunteer with the Franciscan sisters in the poorer areas of Manilla. They also visited Mother Margherita De Brincat Catholic School, which has 800 students.

This school is run by the sisters, Sr Gemma Fenech, Sr Cellina and some very dedicated support staff.

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Council has an on-going 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 June edition of Migrant Voice.

Last month, we recognised and celebrated Volunteers Week. Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community and to make new friends. I volunteer and encourage everyone to get involved in volunteer activities. You could join a local service club or volunteer at the Library, Artspace or a local charity.

July is a wonderful time to be in our region as we prepare for the Mackay Festival of Arts, an exciting program of music, dance, comedy, theatre, food and art. For information and tickets visit mackaytix.com.au.

During the Festival there are some fantastic free family-friendly events including the G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day at Queens Park on July 19.

I encourage you to stay informed with what's happening in your community by joining council's eNewsletters (visit mackay.qld.gov.au) and by following us on Facebook.

Cr Deirdre Comerford



Dig into your pockets for the Philippines

Continued from page 1...

Sister Maria Esther Attard is known to the children (all 6000 of them) as Local Superior for the Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus Order. Sister Esther's mission work with Third World children and their mothers started in 1985 and has taken her to Brazil, Kenya, Pakistan and now her current posting in the Philippines.

She delights in the beauty of these countries, however these encounters have brought her close to the realities of life - the refugees, the street children and the destitute who have no option than to beg for their daily survival. Currently her main aim is to give the children a sound education.

To be able to pursue their studies she and her sisters, together with several community members, are able to provide a food programme to make this dream a reality. With \$40 Australian, Sr Esther feeds 80-100 children each Saturday.

Few of us are in a position to serve in another country as Missionaries, but we can all share in the wider mission through prayer and by financial support. By doing so we will make a huge difference in the lives of many in need.

For more information on Sr Esther's Appeal please contact Marie Bezzina, Registered Nurse and Mackay Maltese Committee Member on 4942 4790.

Lamp update • Lamp update • Lamp update

Hello and welcome to the June edition of Migrant Voice. Firstly Mandy and I would like to congratulate the Thai community on a very colourful and successful Songkran Festival which was held at the Andergrove Community Centre in April.

We look forward to supporting and helping you to host another wonderful festival next year to share with the broader Mackay community.

We also would like to extend thanks to the Islamic Society of Mackay for our invitation to the Mosque Open Day. This annual event is a great opportunity to learn about the Islamic faith in an effort to dispel the myths associated with Islam. Lastly we would like to thank and acknowledge the participants from



our recent round of employment pathways workshops for migrant job seekers. We look forward to offering this program again after the school holidays in July in partnership with Ideal Placements.

**Enjoy this edition,
Mandy and Mia**

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Persian's celebrate the New Year!



Featured Mackay local Persian community L-R: Olya Kalantary, Homa Mousavi, Majid Saghiri, Robert Kalantary, Rayan Valian, Hamed Kafashzadeh, Kazem Kafashzadeh, Zinat Azmoun, Tara Kafashzadeh, Pegah Zarei.

"Nowruz IPA: [nou'ru:z], meaning "The New Day") is the Persian New Year.

Nowruz marks the first day of spring or Equinox [21] as and the beginning of the year in the Persian calendar.

It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical Northward equinox, which usually occurs on March 21 or the previous/following day depending on

where it is observed. The moment the sun crosses the celestial equator and equalizes night and day is calculated exactly every year and families gather together to observe the rituals.

Nowruz is celebrated by people from diverse ethnic communities and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. It originated in Persia in one of the capitals, in Iran and is also

celebrated by the cultural region that came under Iranian influence or had migrations by Persians including Azerbaijan, Kurdish inhabited regions of eastern Turkey and Northern Iraq and Afghanistan to name a few.

Haft Sīn or the seven 'S's is a traditional table setting of Nowruz, the traditional Iranian spring celebration. The haft seen table includes seven items all starting with the letter sīn (س) in the Perso-Arabic alphabet.

The Haft Seen items include:

1. Sabzeh-wheat, barley, mung bean or lentil sprouts growing in a dish - symbolizing rebirth
2. Samanu -sweet pudding made from wheat germ - symbolizing affluence
3. Senjed-dried oleaster Wild Olive fruit - symbolizing love
4. Sir - garlic - symbolizing medicine
5. Sib - apples - symbolizing beauty and health
6. Somāq - sumac fruit - symbolizing (the color of) sunrise
7. Serkeh - vinegar - symbolizing old-age and patience"

One life, many cultures: Part 4

by Prabha Srinivasan

When was the last time you felt as if you were living split lives? Would not be too long ago, if you come from a multicultural background (smiley face with wink)! Now, what I mean by 'split lives' is not some sort of psychological disorder but the experience of living in a different world while at home compared to life experienced outside the house.

It is rich and stimulating, for children especially, to experience such variations as it can expands their views. Sometimes though, children may struggle with their 'split lives' as it makes them different to other children.

They may feel embarrassed, shy or even pretentious about having

a different way of life compared to an 'aussie' child.

At such moments, it can be helpful if parents take the time to explain to their child that -

- 1) it is normal to feel lost between these contrasting experiences
- 2) it is similar to having to behave differently at different places (a movie theatre compared to a party for example) and,
- 3) coming from a different background can help tell interesting stories and jokes to make more friends!

Children learn most of their thinking from the adults around them and hence the confidence we show, as parents, mirrors in our children.

Community Radio Mackay

(4CRM) has been supporting various community groups and businesses for over 20 years.

There are 3 options for Not for Profit groups to become involved :

- 1) A Community Notice to be listed on our website and read on air.
- 2) An interview to be recorded and played on air explaining your groups general objectives or promotion of a particular event.
- 3) We will train a representative of your group to go on air in a regular program slot to play music and speak in your native tongue (\$10 cost for this option).

Our station motto is - "Something for Everyone" and we encourage diversity. Please phone 4CRM on 4953 1411.

World Cafe

English Conversation Group



If you are interested in improving your English conversation skills and meeting other people, you should join our group. Each week, we talk about different topics such as living in Mackay, preparing for a natural disaster and health care.

We have monthly cooking sessions too. We are currently working on developing and publishing a cookbook with recipes that have been shared by people in the group.

When - Every Tuesday

Where - George St Neighbourhood Centre,
George Street, Mackay

Time - 10.30am to 12 noon

Please call before coming, contact Lyn on 4957 2626.

Migrant Settlement Program

The Migrant Settlement Program at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre is a free service to help eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five (5) years. The program provides:

- information about driving, health services, public transport, schools and child care, renting, staying safe and making friends
- access to services in the community - employment, English classes, Centrelink, housing and volunteering.
- help making appointments eg Doctors and government departments.

For more details or to make an appointment phone the Migrant Settlement Worker on 4957 2626.

Become a volunteer home tutor today...

Mackay Institute of TAFE offers a FREE home tutor course. Learn the skills needed to assist migrants with low literacy to improve their English language and literacy skills in a one-to-one environment, within the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)* Home Tutor Scheme. You may also assist teachers in the classroom.

Duration: Ongoing

Location: Mackay and surrounding regional districts

Volunteer tutors make a valuable contribution to the community.

Please contact Liz Stevenson for more details.

Phone: 4940 3415 or email:

elizabeth.stevenson@tafe.qld.edu.au



Congratulations to Bailey Manuel Isaacs who was part of the Diversity AFL team which is made up of players from different multicultural backgrounds across Qld. Bailey is now preparing for the World team to compete at the National Championships in Sydney mid year. AFL Mackay are also pleased to have four multicultural AFL ambassadors selected in Mackay out of 170 named nationally.

The Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CALD) Program

Supports individuals (children and adults) from other cultures who have a mental illness, disability, chronic medical condition, or are frail/elderly and family members and friends who are looking after them.

For more information, please contact:

Deb Parker - CALD Program Officer

Ph: 4944 0544 Email: dparker@carersqld.asn.au
Mackay office: 4/19 Palmer St. North Mackay 4740



Save the date:

The Welcome to Mackay Centre Familiarity Tour is aimed at helping new arrivals understand key services available and to get a sense of the layout of the city. **Sunday June 15** from 10am - 1pm. To register please call 4957 7757 or email welcomecentre@rsdc.org.au.

Useful Contacts

> **Migrant Settlement Services**

Phone: 4957 2626

> **Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program**

Phone: 4961 9596

Email: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au

> **Welcome to Mackay Centre**

Phone: 4957 7757