

migrantvoice

December 2018 - A quarterly newsletter published by Mackay Regional Council

Edition 26



Crowds Groove around the globe

Global Grooves headline act Babash in action at this year's festival.

Global Grooves, Mackay's annual multicultural festival that takes you on a journey around the globe in one day, went off with a bang on Saturday, October 27. This year the weather was fine, the grounds were set, and the community responded to make 2018 one of the biggest Global Grooves festivals yet. Read more page 2...

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.

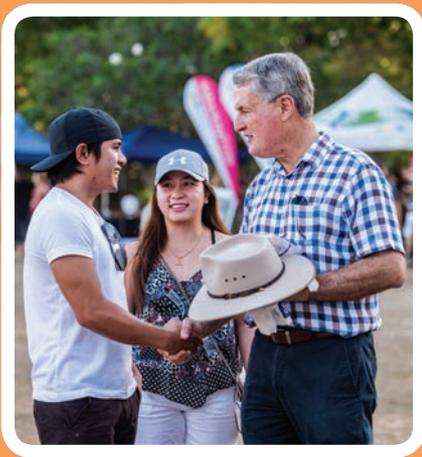


Council has an ongoing responsibility to provide communications suitable to the needs of all residents. If you wish to receive information in an alternative format or require an interpreter, contact 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).



In this issue:

Mayor's Message	Page 2
Global Grooves	Page 2
New Drivers	Page 3
Italian Book	Page 3
Students Party	Page 3
What's on	Page 4



A message from Mayor Greg Williamson

Welcome to the latest edition of **Migrant Voice**.

How good was Global Grooves! What a tremendous celebration of our local multiculturalism. Between the food, costumes, activities and entertainment, it was a true feast for the senses. The fact that council and the hard-working team at the MECC can pull off such an event, and the level of support from our community members, makes me extremely proud. I can't wait till next year.

And the celebrations don't stop there, Christmas is indeed just around the corner, and whether you celebrate it or not, I would like to personally invite you to one of the council-supported, community Christmas events being held around our region in December. You can find a complete list of events at www.mackay.qld.gov.au/christmas These 15 events are free and inclusive celebrations and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy themselves. If you are new to our region, they are the perfect opportunity to relax, mingle and enjoy wholesome family fun.

Our wish is that you, your family and friends have a wonderful Christmas season and that 2019 will be a great year for you. 2018 has been a fantastic year for our region. Mackay is a tremendous place to live, work and play and we believe things are only going to get better.

Kind regards,
Mayor Greg Williamson



The Islamic Society of Mackay enjoyed Global Grooves.

Global Grooves goes off with huge crowd

More than 7000 culture hungry residents turned out to feast their senses in the diverse offerings on the day from our local multicultural community.

Live performances from local cultural groups, bands and visiting artists provided the backdrop for an event filled with entertainment, activities and food representing the bright diversity of our region.

Community workshops under the tent, including palm weaving and drumming, provided participants with a rich, hands-on, cultural experience while surrounded by the sights, sounds and smells of our multicultural community.

The diversity of the day was reflected

in the people, the music, the dance, the activities and the food, with a smorgasbord of offerings. From Baklava in the Islamic Society tent to spring rolls in the Filipino tent and bubble tea from Kool Temptations, every taste bud was catered for.

The event was capped off with a sky lighting fireworks spectacular that left the crowd thrilled after what was a huge afternoon of entertainment.

Global Grooves Festival is made possible by Mackay Regional Council in partnership with our wonderful multicultural community and the support of the Queensland Government's Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program Multicultural Events fund.



Dancers from the Nepalese Australian Association of Mackay region.

English students celebrate in style

To celebrate United Nation's Day (October 24), CQU Mackay English students donned traditional dress and shared lunch with women from George Street Neighbourhood Centre's World Cafe at CQUni Mackay's City Campus. Through the English classes, CQUni has helped migrants from many different countries, including Thailand, China, Japan, Taiwan, Nepal, Pakistan,

Myanmar, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Brazil, Russia, Moldova, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Philippines, India and Cambodia, to learn English and settle in Australia.

Many people can receive FREE English classes. For more information call 4940 3306 or 4940 3414. Or, email e.stevenson@cqu.edu.au



Pictured in their traditional dress are Nonglak (Goy) Ranork (from Thailand), Neha Sharma (India), Mae Khaochan (Thailand), and Jane Tolentino and Vicky Ogilvie (both from the Philippines).

New drivers hit the road

Congratulations to the successful participants of the Migrant Drivers Program who gained their Queensland Learners Driver's Licence during the five-week drivers program provided by George Street Neighbourhood Centre in August and September.

Special mention to Michelle Handley from Michelle's Driving School and to

Karen Cantoni from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The same goes to our valued volunteers: Robyn, Conchi and Michael, as well as Margie Armstrong (MSP coordinator).

Please contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre early next year for further information on this program. Ph. 4957 7222 or 4957 2626.



The successful participants of the Migrant Drivers Program.

Safer Pathways for Migrant Women looking for support

The Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Women Program is delivered by George Street Neighbourhood Centre and has been operating in Mackay for a year. With one more year to go, there is still lots to do. The program aims to help CALD women living in Mackay who are experiencing, or at risk of, domestic and family violence, access the support they need. We are looking for community members who would like to provide support for women from their own cultural groups and become first respondents in their community. Safer Pathways volunteers meet once every two months to learn about domestic and family violence and how they can support vulnerable women, to learn about support and services available in Mackay, and to share thoughts, ideas and feedback on what we can do together. If you would like to be involved, or have any questions, please contact Valeriya at George Street Neighbourhood Centre on 4957 2626 or via email: valeriya@georgestreetnc.org.au

History of local Italian community book launched

Members of the Mackay & District Italian Association (MDIA) have been working tirelessly on writing the history of the Italian community in our region and have now achieved their goal. "For A Better Life" launched on Sunday, November 25, at Rydges Mackay. This is a massive milestone for MDIA, which has been working towards this goal for five years. The commitment of its members who have been involved in the preparation and collection of stories is a testament to their passion to share their history with our community.

For more information you can visit their Facebook page under Mackay & District Italian Association Incorporated.

What's on at George Street Neighbourhood Centre?

Survey to roll out - George Street Neighbourhood Centre, with support from Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), is working on a survey to gain an understanding of how some members of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in the Mackay region. The work will also define Domestic and Family Violence at this point in time and gather ideas about how Domestic and Family Violence services can better support women in CALD communities. The survey is planned to roll out in January 2019 and will target CALD individuals living in the Mackay region. Further updates and research results will be shared in the following Migrant Voice editions, as well as be available through George Street Neighbourhood Centre. If you would like to participate, please contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre (Valeriya) on 07 4957 2626 or email: valeriyae@georgestreetnc.org.au

CAMS Multicultural Community Program (MCP) creates opportunities for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to connect with the local community. There are four main activities which fall under this program.



World Café: a migrant's support group where activities, projects and information sessions are created to encourage migrants and provide them tools to step out of their comfort zone.

Prep-Ready Kids: a program for migrant/CALD families with children under five that focuses on helping parents help their children develop skills they need for prep school.

English Conversation Circles: Free English program delivered by the program coordinator in partnership with Dudley Denny City Library and Artspace Mackay. Small group and one-on-one tutoring is also available by arrangement during Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm.

Migrant Women's Toolkit: a two-day workshop created to help empower migrant women in cross cultural marriages. George Street Neighbourhood Centre was recently named finalist at the 2018 Queensland Multicultural Award. The group also participated in Mackay Regional Council's biggest multicultural event of the year, the Global Grooves Festival, where they helped with a media launch of the event and performed an indigenous number depicting the culture, music and dance of an indigenous group in Northern Philippines. For more information on any of the programs, contact George Street Neighbourhood Centre on 4957 7222.

Events and Activities

United Women's Cultural Group Craft

When: Every Monday 9am to noon
Where: ATSIHCS, 31 Victoria St Mackay
Info: Newcomers of all ages/cultural backgrounds welcome. Cost is \$2 per week. Bring a plate of food to share. Call 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

Tune in to 107.5FM or online at 4crm.com.au
Tuesdays 6pm to 7pm – Bonsoir Mackay (French)
Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm - Radio Filipino
Saturdays 11am to noon MaCheDici (Italian)
Sundays 6pm to 7pm – Fiji Hour

IELTS Tuition

When: Every Thursday, 10am-noon Reading and Listening and 6pm to 8pm Writing and Speaking
Where: Mackay Baptist Church (cnr Shakespeare & Brisbane Street)
Info: Targeted at migrant women, sessions cost \$10 (if cost is a barrier please call).
Contact Conchi on 0403 316 010

Lubra Tok Meta – Indigenous Women's Group

When: Tuesdays, 6pm to 8pm
(except school holidays)
Where: Mackay Women's Services, 418 Shakespeare St
Info: Come together in a safe environment and enjoy all the different activities on offer.
For more information, contact Julie on 4953 1788.
Cost: \$2 – food and tea/coffee provided

Support Group valuable

George Street Neighbourhood Centre, in partnership with Mackay Women's Services, is running a Women's Support Group for culturally and linguistically diverse women of Mackay to connect, to learn about women's health and wellbeing, to share stories and experiences, to learn new skills, and most importantly to enjoy themselves in a safe environment.

The group meets every Friday from 9.30am to 11am at Mackay Women's Services, 418 Shakespeare Child and Family Centre.

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.