

migrantvoice

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Show your support: Relief for Nepal

Nepal has been left devastated after being hit by two severe earthquakes, less than three weeks apart.

Mackay's Nepalese community have set up a Facebook page where community members can get up-to-date information on fundraising events and activities locally to support the country following the devastating 7.9 magnitude earthquake that hit on April 25 and the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that hit on May 12. The estimated death toll is over 9000 people, however the true scale of the disaster is still unfolding. Roads are blocked, airports are congested and there are few safe places for helicopters to land in the mountainous terrain, making it difficult to reach or provide aid to villages.

Please visit this link and like their page to show your support:

www.facebook.com/NepalEarthquakeReliefFundMackay

The community is now official fundraisers for the Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund. You can donate and track their progress here:

nepalregionearthquakeappeal.gofundraise.com.au/page/MackayCommunity



In this issue:

Mayor's Message . . Page 2

Women's Day . . Page 2

Ramadan . . Page 3

Useful contacts . . Page 4



A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the May edition of Migrant Voice.

Over the past few months Mackay's multicultural community have celebrated a number of events. This includes Chinese New Year and Thai New Year, both of which I was delighted to attend.

It is wonderful that local migrants can stay connected with their home culture through events right here in Mackay.

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.

During the Festival there are some fantastic free family friendly events that I would encourage you to attend.

For information and tickets visit www.mackaytix.com.au.

You can also stay informed with what's happening in your community by joining council's eNewsletters (visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au) and by following us on Facebook.

Cr Deirdre Comerford



Thai New Year – Songkran Festival

The Thai Community last month celebrated their New Year with more than 600 people coming along to the festivities at Victoria Park State School.

Guests were treated to wonderful food, traditional dance and dress, a Muay Thai martial arts show and water fights.

Songkran celebrates the traditional Thai New Year with a water festival, and allows for local Thai people to have the opportunity to participate in traditional activities such as the ritual cleansing of a Buddha image and paying respect to elders.

It is believed that the cleansing brings good luck and prosperity for the New Year.

The organisers of the Mackay Songkran festival created a wonderful balance between a great family fun day and giving due consideration to the spiritual, religious and traditional elements of what Songkran represents.

Congratulations to the organising team and all the performers who put in so much hard work to making the day a success.



International Women's Day

Council celebrated International Women's Day in March in partnership with George Street Neighbourhood Centre and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services with a wonderful author talk, entertainment and morning tea.

About 40 people attended to hear South African author Kathleen O'Dea speak. O'Dea wrote her book 'Marshmallow



Fishes' while living in Mackay about her time living under the Mugabe regime.

The audience was also treated to performances from George Street Neighbourhood Centre World Café members – including an Indian dance and Indonesian songs. Many thanks to all those who contributed to make it such a wonderful morning.



Pacifika 2015

Pacifika, an event celebrating all island cultures, is being planned for July 11, 2015 at the Botanic Gardens' Meadowlands Amphitheatre.

Planning meetings have commenced 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.

Chinese New Year celebrations

The Chinese Community and Mackay City Centre retailers welcomed in the Year of the Goat with an exciting Chinese New Year celebration at the Victoria Street Markets in late February. More than 2000 people attended the event to see the sights, smells and tastes of Asia. The day included a range of activities including Chinese art and craft, performances by local dancers and Tai Chi.

Empower your child

by Prabha Srinivasan

Power. Control. Domination. Authority.

These may be words mostly associated with the adult world. But believe it or not, children between the age of 2 and 5 have their single most important development task as learning all about power.

During this age, a child's primary focus is exploring his potential and learning her abilities. Depending on the type of people the child interacts with primarily (parents, caregivers, teachers, family members etc.) he/she develops their philosophy of power. Let us take a moment right now to think about what we are teaching our children about their power.

We all know that children learn through actions more than words. They pick up their philosophies by inferring from how they are treated. For example, when a child has a tantrum (which is really a power struggle), we as adults often step up our control and authority to say a big fat "NO".

When the tantrum gets out of control, we resort to using bribes or threats, to end the tantrum. These actions over time, result in the child developing the following concepts:

1. They learn that in certain situations, they can use tantrums to get what they want, which leads to the philosophy "I have the power to manipulate, or,
2. They learn that in certain situations, no matter how much they struggle for power, they will get overpowered, which leads to the philosophy "I am powerless"

These philosophies that are absorbed, get carried right through to adulthood leading to manipulating and overpowering their spouse, co-workers and friends or suffering from victim mentality of being weak.

While tantrums are easy to manage in theory than in practice, a healthier alternative to threats and bribes may be the magic wand of distraction. A useful read on this topic may be Jerry Wyckoff and Barbara Unell's book titled, 'Getting your child from No to Yes'.

To conclude, it is important to remember that how we treat our child is how they will treat the world. Love, compassion and equality are concepts that we may have to start practicing today within our own homes in order for the world to experience it tomorrow.

Italians Live on Air

Listen in every Saturday morning from 11am - 12pm on 4CRM 107.5FM to hear your new favourite Italian radio show - MaCheDici - hosted by Diego and Luana!

For more Italian Association updates, follow their Facebook page - www.facebook.com/mdiaisite

Ramadan

The Mackay Islamic Society will be celebrating Ramadan from June 17 to July 17.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and the month in which the Quran was revealed. Fasting during the month of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The month is spent by Muslims fasting during the daylight hours from dawn to sunset.

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, 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

Homework Club for Multicultural Students

When: Monday-Tuesday from 3.15pm to 4.15pm
Contact: 4957 7222 or multi@georgestreetnc.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.



Employment Workshop Graduates

Congratulations to all participants who completed recent employment workshops for migrants, presented by IDEAL Placements, in partnership with the Mackay Regional Council.

At the group's final session members of Mackay's Zonta Club did mock interviews and reviewed the resumes of these talented women who are keenly seeking employment. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to support these sessions.

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 on a.page@cqu.edu.au or 4940 3380 for more information.

Did you know?

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).