

migrantvoice

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Edition 11



Get into the Global Groove!

Australian South Sea Islander dancers performing at last year's Global Grooves.

Enjoy Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) and Polynesian fire dancing, a delicious home cooked Indian lunch and sit back under the stars for the Diwali Festival of Light Fireworks display - it's all happening at this year's Global Grooves.

This year's festival shine's a spotlight on the ASSI community and their 150 year history in Queensland. Don't miss Global Grooves at Queens Park on Sunday, October 27 from 10am.



Council has an ongoing responsibility to provide communications suitable to the needs of all residents. Anyone who wishes to receive council information in an alternate format or text-only version can phone 1300 622 529.



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A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Spring Edition of Migrant Voice.

I encourage you and your families to visit the upcoming festivals. Bluewater Ecofest (October 5 at Bluewater Quay) is a new event which celebrates our beautiful blue river, our great lifestyle and also focuses on living sustainability.

One of my favourite events of the year is Global Grooves (October 27 at Queens Park) which is our region's biggest celebration of culture and music - I hope to see you there to learn more about each other's cultures.

I recently had the pleasure of joining our growing Indian community to celebrate Indian Independence Day. It was wonderful to see so many adults and children wearing their traditional dress, doing traditional dances and enjoying great Indian food. The Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day celebrations were a great success with traditional dress, dances and food stalls. I also attended the Maltese celebration of "Our Lady of Victories".

We are indeed blessed living in a multi cultural community. I hope you enjoy this edition of Migrant Voice.

Cr Deirdre Comerford



Photo courtesy of ABC Tropical North - Laura Hegarty

Mackay's India celebrates!

Traditional dress, music, dance and of course delicious spicy food were all on the menu during the Mackay Indian Association's celebration of Indian Independence Day.

Taking place on Sunday, August 25 at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in North Mackay the Association's first event was a wonderful success, attracting hundreds on the day.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford joined in the

festivities taking part in an official flag raising ceremony.

For further information on upcoming Mackay Indian Association events email mackayindianassociation@gmail.com.



Lamp update - Lamp update - Lamp update

We congratulate Lara Payne on the birth of her son Flynn. Lara will be on maternity leave for 12 months until July 2014. Mandy Lavarack commenced work in Lara's LAMP position and is enjoying working with the culturally diverse community in our region.

Both the Filipino Association and the Mackay Indian Association celebrated their respective Independence days in July and August. These were well organised events with over 200 people from each community enjoying the celebrations. The Muslim community celebrated at their Iftar dinner in August as they approached the end of Ramadan.

All of these cultural groups, as well as many other local cultural

groups and networks, together with Mackay Regional Council LAMP and Festivals & Events staff, are starting to prepare for Global Grooves. This annual all day multicultural festival will be held on Sunday, October 27 at Queens Park. If you wish to wear your cultural dress and be part of the dress parade, please contact Mia or Mandy on 4961 9596 or lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au

Enjoy this edition.

Mia and Mandy

One life, many cultures: Part 1

In this new regular Migrant Voice column, Prabha explores the challenges of raising migrant children.

Setting foot in a new country and making a living in a new place is a task no easier for an adult than it is for a child to enter a new school and make new friends.

The first goal for most of us, as migrants, would be to 'speak like a local' or at least to make a local understand what we say. Having gone through this phase, those of us who are parents hesitate to put our child through the same challenge. As a result, we arrive at the 'do I speak to my child in my native language or in English?' dilemma. Experts say toddlers can learn up to three sometimes even four languages and the best time for kids to learn their parents' language(s) is from birth to three years.

Once children learn our language(s) though, the trickiest part is to make it necessary for children to keep using them. The easiest way to do this can be to ask our children to speak to us only in our mother tongue. Being in an English speaking country, our children will pick up English in no time once they understand that this is the language that their neighbours and peers use.

by *Prabha Srinivasan*

Visit council's libraries website for the road to IELTS

International English language Testing System (IELTS) is now available online at Mackay Regional Council Libraries website: www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries.

IELTS online offers preparation resources and practice tests to prepare for the actual IELTS test. It is an English proficiency test useful for higher education and employment and is recognised worldwide.

Festa for Mackay Maltese Club

Mackay Maltese Club held it's annual Festa tal Vittoria on the ground of Francis of Assisi Home for the Aged on September 6. There was a procession with the statue of Our Lady of Victories followed by an open air mass and a light supper. The event follows a successful afternoon tea for seniors held in June where 55 people attended.



Catch-up for South African Women



Aletta Marshall and Mandy Lavarack.

South African women gathered for a breakfast and networking function at Mackay Surf Club in August. Several of the women own their own business in Mackay and were able to promote their business on the day. Over 60 women attended the event which was organised by Mackay Connect – a social network of South Africans in Mackay.

Harmony Day Snapshot

At this year's Harmony Day, the Prayer Group from the Filipino Community rendered a traditional dance number for the day's entertainment.

The ladies performed The Hat Dance or "Salakot", a dance showcasing hats adorned with flowers.



Terry Pfaff, Edna Walpole, Nilda Eslana & Lou Shaw in traditional Filipino dress.

ASSI Day Snapshot

Celebrating recognition and marking the 150th anniversary, Australian South Sea Islander Day took place at the Lagoons Meeting Hut at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on Sunday, August 25.

The event was well attended by ASSI families and everyone enjoyed traditional dancing and food.



The Lagoons Meeting Hut at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

• World Cafe •

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 St

Time: 10.30am to 12 noon

Please call before coming, contact Lyn on 4957 2626.

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



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 elizabeth.stevenson@tafe.qld.edu.au or more details. The Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship.



Migrant Settlement Program

A Migrant Settlement Program is available at the George Street Neighbourhood Centre. This is a free service to help eligible migrants who have arrived in the last five (5) years. They provide information about driving, health services, public transport, schools and child care, renting, staying safe and making friends.

They can also help connect you to services in the community including employment, English classes, Centrelink, housing and volunteering.

Assistance is provided to help make appointments (eg Doctors and government departments). For more information or to make an appointment phone the **Migrant Settlement Worker on 4957 2626.**

Remember these dates

Bluewater Ecofest

Saturday, October 5
Bluewater Quay

Welcome Centre

Bus Tour
September 29
Meet at Old Town Hall,
Sydney Street

New Friends Group

Coffee Mornings
Every Friday at 9am
Gordon White Library

Multicultural Play Group

Every Friday
9.30am - 11.30am
Shakespeare Street
Family Centre
For info ph: 4957 2626

Global Grooves

Sunday, October 27
Queens Park

e-news! Sign up for regular updates.
www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/newsletters

Useful Contacts

> Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program

Phone: 4961 9596

Email: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au

> Migration Agent Listing

www.mackay.qld.gov.au/residents/are_you_new_to_mackay

> Multicultural Community Program Officer

Phone: 4957 2626