

migrantvoice

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Edition 2



Get involved in upcoming cultural event!

The local Fijian community performing at last year's Global Grooves festival.

On Sunday, October 30, Mackay Regional Council will be holding their annual Global Grooves festival at Queens Park, Goldsmith Street, East Mackay.

*This family favourite event celebrates our local multicultural community through music, arts and cultural experiences. There will be a diverse range of stalls and workshops for adults and kids including dance and drumming activities. **Cont page 2...***



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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).

Festival celebrates multicultural community

...Continued from cover story...

2010 saw over 6000 people attend and this year we are expecting an even bigger crowd with over a dozen different ethnic food stalls on offer which will be serving up something delicious and home cooked from around the world.

The festival will include a Citizenship Ceremony as well as a national costume parade. Last year's Costume Parade saw over 30 people showcase their national costumes with pride, if you would like to be involved this year, please contact Lara or Mia at Mackay Regional Council.



During the day the main stage will come alive with the best singing, dancing and music by Mackay's ethnic artists and communities. Headlining the acts this year will be King Marong, a flamboyant and dynamic West African band from Melbourne. Kind Marong will be holding workshops in drumming and community singing prior to Global Grooves.

The event runs from 10am to 8pm and all are welcome! For more information or to register your interest and get involved please contact Mia or Lara on 4961 9596.



Message from Mayor Col Meng

Welcome to the June edition of Migrant Voice. As we have now reached the middle of the year residents will start to see our region come alive with an array of events including the 2011 Mackay Region Festival of Arts, Global Grooves, the Diwali Festival, Coal to Coast and River to Reef to name a few.

I hope you, your families and friends will join your local community to celebrate and be involved in these exciting festivals because without the ever-growing support from residents these kinds of events just simply wouldn't exist.

I am extremely proud to share with you a recent milestone council has achieved, the opening of the \$2.6 million revamp of Caneland Park along the Pioneer River.

The playground, barbecue facilities and picnic shelters value-add to the Bluewater Lagoon and now make the area a family-friendly environment. The work is part of council's Bluewater Activation Strategy which delivers a range of activities and projects along the riverfront and facilitates residential and commercial opportunities within the City Centre. Once the redevelopment of Caneland Central is complete, this area will become an iconic part of Mackay.

So if you are looking for a new picnic spot, I encourage you to check out Caneland Park, it certainly won't disappoint.

Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



What a busy time of year for us LAMP girls!

Planning for this year's Global Grooves has really stepped up and we are really excited by how many new cultural groups are involved this year!

If you would like to be involved in any capacity this year please contact myself (Lara) or Mia.

Dates have also been tentatively set for the biannual seminar Do you Speak my Language? Please keep your ear to the ground for some promotional information coming soon!

This year Natasha from GSNC and I hope to have some wonderful speakers coming up from the Department of Immigration, RAILS (Refugee and Immigrant Legal Service), QPASTT (Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma) and Transcultural Mental Health.

Please contact Natasha or myself if you would like any further information about Do You Speak my Language? Please come into Council anytime to speak to Mia or myself even if it is just to introduce yourself or just to say hello!

Women's group makes a difference



Soroptimist International Mackay is part of a global network of women who work to advance human rights and the status of women. At the latest Regional Meeting, Wendy Logan was inducted as North Queensland Regional President. Guest speakers, Natasha Syed Ali and So Jeong Kim, George Street Neighbourhood Centre workers, gave an amusing and informative presentation about their personal experiences migrating to Australia.

Being a member of the group is very rewarding. It is an opportunity to make new friends and also make a difference to the lives of less fortunate women around the world.

For all enquiries please contact Shirley on 4942 2682.

Migrant project explores new terrain >>

Stories of migration and the sharing of art and craft techniques are the focus of a new community arts project devised by Crossroad Arts. The 'Terrain' project is a pilot program for Crossroad Arts, which engages new migrants in a series of free visual art workshops, with the aim of creating unique artworks that explore people's migration to Australia and their settlement in Mackay.

The workshops are facilitated by local artist Tracey Heathwood.

"The workshops are really designed as a space to share cultural knowledge. We all learn from each other, exploring art and craft techniques, both traditional and contemporary. It's an opportunity for new migrants to come together in a creative environment, to share their stories and to learn from each other," Mrs Heathwood said.

Artworks produced during the series of workshops will be displayed in a



public exhibition at Crossroad Arts later in the year. The 'Terrain' project commenced in March but it is not too late to join.

For more information, please contact Crossroad Arts on 4953 5122 or email admin@crossroadarts.com.au.

This project has been assisted by The Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. This project has also received financial assistance from The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Homestyle Cooking!

Chinese Fried Rice



Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 2 1/2 tablespoons (tbsp) oil
- 1 egg (lightly beaten)
- 3 drops soy sauce
- 3 drops sesame oil
- 230g cooked lean boneless pork or chicken (chopped)
- 1/2 cup finely chopped carrot
- 1/2 cup frozen peas (thawed)
- 4 cups cold cooked rice (medium grain)
- 4 green onions (chopped)
- 2 cups bean sprouts
- 2 tbsp light soy sauce

*Heat 1 tbsp oil in wok; add chopped onions and stir-fry until onions turn a nice brown colour, about 8 to 10 minutes; remove from wok. Allow wok to cool slightly. Mix egg with 3 drops of soy and 3 drops of sesame oil; set aside. Add 1/2 tbsp oil to wok, swirling to coat surfaces; add egg mixture; working quickly, swirl egg until egg sets against wok; when egg puffs, flip egg and cook other side briefly; remove from wok, and chop into small pieces. Heat 1 tbsp oil in wok; add selected meat to wok, along with carrots, peas, and cooked onion; stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add rice, green onions, and bean sprouts, tossing to mix well; stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add 2 tbsp of light soy sauce and chopped egg to rice mixture and fold in; stir-fry for 1 minute more; serve. *Add additional soy sauce as desired.*

Did you know?

The 2011 Mackay Region Festival of Arts has been launched with this year's theme - Light and Water.

Now in its 24th year, the 16 day festival from July 9 to 24 is sure to have something planned to please everyone.

To view and download this year's jam-packed program visit www.festivalmackay.org.au.



World Cafe

English Conversation Group



If you are interested in improving your English conversation skills and meet 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 Natasha on 4957 2626.

Are you looking after a family member or relative with an illness?

Were you born overseas or if born in Australia with a culture other than Anglo-Australian by virtue of ancestry, ethnic origin, religion, preferred language, language spoken at home; or because of your parent's identification on a similar basis? Are you looking after someone who has a disability, mental illness, chronic medical condition, or frail-aged?

If you answered YES to all these questions, GOOD NEWS! You are eligible for Carers QLD Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Program. It is a free service that will assist you and the person you are caring for get all the services you require that will meet your health, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.

For more details phone Carers QLD on 4944 0544.

Migrant Settlement Program

This program aims to increase the independence, knowledge and ability to access mainstream services for all eligible clients in Mackay. Through the Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funding, the program will assist clients to become self reliant and participate equitably in Australian society as soon as possible after arrival.

The program will provide clients with information and referrals. Clients can seek information but not limited to: Centrelink, employment, training/education, childcare, health care and transport.

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

Training and career information available for resident migrants

Newly arrived and resident skilled migrants are able to obtain information on Australian recognition of their overseas qualifications from Skilling Solutions Queensland.

The service can also assist resident skilled migrants to gain formal recognition of their workplace skills and experience towards an Australian qualification or to identify career pathway options.

Contact Skilling Solutions Queensland on 1300 654 687 to make an appointment with a specially trained consultant to open up your career options today or visit: www.skillsolutions.qld.gov.au for more information.

Remember these dates:

**Friday, October 7
10.30am to 11am**

Many Cultures Storytime
Mackay Regional Council's
Library Services

For info phone: 4961 9387

**Every Friday
9.30am - 11.30am**

Multicultural Playgroup
Shakespeare Child & Family
Centre...

...43 Shakespeare Street
For info phone: 4957 7222

**Every Sunday
1.30pm - 3pm**

Community English Program
George St Neighbourhood,
4 George Street
For info phone: 4957 2626

e-news > online newsletters!

Subscribe online at council's website to receive regular e-news updates that interest you.

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

Useful Contacts

> Migrant Settlement Program
Phone: 4957 2626

> Local Area Multicultural Partnership Program
Phone: 4961 9596
Email: lamp@mackay.qld.gov.au

> Migration Agent Listing
www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/are_you_new_to_mackay