

migrantvoice

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Edition 10



You can help preserve our environment

Conservation Volunteers Australia welcomes people with a love of outdoors and the environment.

Volunteering is a great way to gain new skills, meet new people and with Conservation Volunteers Australia you can explore new places whilst also giving back to your community.

Conservation Volunteers Australia are looking for locals and visitors that care and appreciate their parks, reserves and National Parks to join us on our Community Conservation Quests held every Saturday.

(Story Continues Page 2...)



In this issue:

Mayor's Message .. Page 2

Lamp News .. Page 2

Mackay Mosque Open Day
.. Page 3

Bus Tours .. Page 3

Useful contacts .. Page 4



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).



A message from our Mayor Deirdre Comerford

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the June edition of Migrant Voice. Last month, during Volunteers Week we recognised and celebrated our volunteers who donate many hours to our community.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community and to make new friends. I encourage anyone to head along to the Conservation Volunteers Quest Run to lend a hand and meet new people.

July is always an exciting time for our region as we prepare for 16 days of music, art, dance and theatre during the Mackay Festival of Arts (July 6 - 21).

This year's Festival celebrates our cultural heritage through the theme 'My Island Home' and commemorates the 150th anniversary of Australian South Sea Islanders in the community.

During the Festival there are some fantastic free family-friendly events including Sarina Rocks, Wine and Food Day and the Opening Night Concert at council's Civic Precinct on July 6. For tickets and information visit www.festivalmackay.org.au.

Cr Deirdre Comerford



Continued from page 1...

For those who would love to contribute to the environment but can't find time during the busy working week, Community Conservation Quests run from 8.30am to 12noon every Saturday. Bring along your friends and family for a meaningful morning and get dirty for a great cause!

Volunteers can join us for as little or as much time they can contribute on the day. Before the kids 'sports rush' or the weekly shop, every contribution you make counts and you will see

the difference you can make to the conservation of Mackay and Sarina's green spaces.

For further information contact Danielle Crespan at Conservation Volunteers Australia Mackay Office on 4951 0933 or phone 0437 657 564 or email dcrespan@cva.org.au.



Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



This month we will be saying farewell to Lara for a little while who is taking maternity leave to have her first child. She will be missed! The LAMP program will continue to be serviced full time.

We would also like to extend warm congratulations to the Mackay Indian Association and the Mackay Cook Islander Association on working very hard towards becoming incorporated. Congratulations also to Generation II Generation who are also in the process of becoming

incorporated. Generation II Generation are a multicultural performing arts group which includes those from the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa, Indigenous Australians, Australian born people and communities from the Thursday Islands.

Finally we'd also like to congratulate the Mackay Islamic Society for running two very successful projects. The Muslim swimming program is well underway and the ladies are enjoying weekly lessons through Squid Kids Aquatic Centre. The Open Day at the Mosque in May was also well attended with many non-Muslim people attending to find out about Islam.

Enjoy this edition!

Lara and Mia



New to Mackay?

The Welcome to Mackay Centre offers information on everything you might need to know about setting up and adjusting to life in the Mackay region. We would like to invite you on a FREE Welcome to Mackay Bus Tour so you can get to know a bit more about Mackay and the local community.

**Welcome to Mackay Bus Tour
Saturday, June 22
10.30am for 11am departure
from Old Town Hall in
Sydney Street
2 hour tour - returns at 1pm**

Bookings essential phone 4957 7757
or email welcomecentre@rsdc.org.au
to reserve your free seat.

Mackay Indian Association

The Mackay Indian Association aims to help the community in many ways such as:

- providing support and guidance for new migrant Indians to the Mackay region
- celebrating Indian cultural events
- conducting social events, get-togethers to bring community together and promote culture
 - represent community in other regional events.

Visit the “Mackay Indian Association” Facebook page or email mackayindians@googlegroups.com for more information or visit Indian Aroma Grocery and Spice Shop at 326 Shakespeare Street.

Mackay Mosque Open Day!

The Mackay Mosque Open Day held in May was a great success and well attended. Many non-Muslim people came along to find out about Islam.

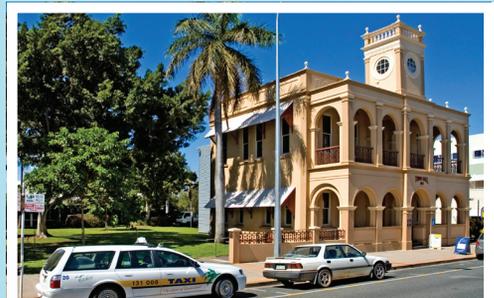
Mayor Deirdre Comerford attended the Open Day along with Member for Mirani Ted Malone and Member for Mackay Tim Mulherin who are photographed below.



Welcome to Mackay Centre sponsorship drive

The Welcome to Mackay Centre has proven to be a popular and useful new service for the Mackay community. Located in the Old Town Hall in Sydney Street, (adjacent to the Mackay Police Station) the centre has already helped many newly arrived residents from interstate and overseas in accessing information to help them settle into the area.

The Welcome Centre operates without any Government funding and is solely funded through sponsorship from business and industry. Unfortunately, the centre is fast running out of funding to support a paid coordinator and without this position, the centre is in danger of closing.



 welcome to mackay centre

In order to ensure the ongoing success of the Welcome to Mackay Centre, the Advisory Committee is urgently seeking sponsorship funds.

Sponsorship proposals are available to any business or organisation who is interested in discussing a sponsorship partnership further with the committee.

For more information please contact either Mia Sammut-Landt on 49619596 or email mia.sammut-landt@mackay.qld.gov.au; or Kym Spandley at community@rsdc.org.au

• 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.

Together We Grow... a family literacy program

Together We Grow is a four week multicultural family pilot project to support newly-arrived and second settlement refugee and migrant families move towards familiarisation and inclusion into their new regional settlement communities through literacy.

State Library of Queensland is partnering with Mackay Regional Libraries as pilot community to deliver the Together We Grow program.

Together We Grow is:

- > Aimed at refugee and migrant women and their children under 6 years
- > Runs weekly for an hour and includes developing adult and child literacy skills through reading, sharing stories, song, rhymes and activities.

Program dates are as follows:

Wednesday, June 5 from 10am

Wednesday, June 12 from 10am

Wednesday, June 19 from 10am

To book for the program or for more information contact Mackay City Library on (07) 4961 9387.

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

Many Cultures Storytime

First Friday of the month
10.30am - 11am
Mackay City Library
**excluding public holidays
and school holidays.*

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

Welcome to Mackay Bus Tour

Saturday, June 22 at
10.30am - Old Town Hall

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

Useful Contacts

> Migrant Settlement Services

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