

migrantvoice

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Edition 7



Music, arts and culture at Global Grooves

Lady Sojeong Neweu leads a group of children in traditional dress at Global Grooves 2011.

Celebrate our local multicultural community at Global Grooves on Sunday, October 28 at Queens Park on Goldsmith Street. Enjoy live music, arts and entertainment at this popular family-friendly festival. Entry is free.

Taste food from around the world and share cultures and traditions. Visit an authentic Filipino village and dance to the beats of the African drum. From market stalls and free workshops to a spectacular fireworks display, Global Grooves provides fun for the entire family.

(More details Page 3...)



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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).

New Home for Mackay Welcome Centre

Mackay Regional Council has signed a lease for a new Welcome Centre, which will officially open on Friday, November 16.

The Welcome Centre, located at the Old Town Hall, Sydney Street, will act as a one stop information and referral shop to help new arrivals settle smoothly and successfully into life in Mackay.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Deirdre Comerford said the centre will be a great service for the city's newcomers.

"Everyone should feel welcome when they move to a new town, a new community and especially when they move to a new country," Cr Comerford said.

"The Welcome Centre will connect new residents with information regarding what is available in the Mackay Region," she said.



Dr Shane Hopkinson and Mayor Deirdre Comerford sign the lease

"It's vital that we have a safe place where new employees and their families can go to for assistance, locate information and develop networks that will support their move to Mackay."



Message from the Mayor...

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Spring Edition of Migrant Voice. The words 'fun' and 'eventful' certainly sum up the exciting months ahead.

From River 2 Reef Festival, our first Baby Welcoming Ceremony and Global Grooves, I look forward to joining with our community to revel in our upcoming events and celebrations.

I encourage all residents to get into the spirit of Global Grooves, our multicultural festival which brings our community together to show off our love for culture, traditional music and art. We will also welcome some new Australian's to Mackay with a special Citizenship Ceremony held on the day.

The Qantaslink River 2 Reef Festival on October 6 celebrates our beautiful blue river and vibrant City Centre, this event will be another fantastic free family celebration.

I am excited about our upcoming Baby Welcoming Ceremony taking place at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on October 14. Three ceremonies will be held each year to welcome our newest residents. There will be hands on activities to promote what is available in Mackay for parents.

I look forward to celebrating our friendly and vibrant region with you in the months ahead.

Cr Deirdre Comerford.

Lamp update ▪ Lamp update ▪ Lamp update



Welcome to another edition of Migrant Voice.

You might be interested to know that the annual *Multicultural Queensland Partnerships Program Grants* for 2012-2013 have been announced. If you are interested in applying for funding to run a project for your community, you can find information at www.multicultural.qld.gov.au/multicultural.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, October 10. Lara and I are more than happy to assist you.

Lara has been busy updating our local Statistical Profile, which will be available shortly to anyone interested. The booklet details statistics taken from the 2011 Census and documents the people born overseas that are now living in Mackay, among other really useful information. It is amazing to see how the diversity of our community is growing and changing every year.

On a final note, it would be wonderful to see as many people as possible at our annual Global Grooves Multicultural Festival on Sunday, October 28. We are very fortunate to have the Nepalese community participate for the first time. There will also be many other interesting activities and performances for both adults and children alike. See you there!

Mia and Lara.



Baby Welcoming

If you have recently become a new parent to a beautiful bundle of joy, Mackay Regional Council would like to invite your family to take part in a new initiative, Baby Welcoming Ceremonies.

The first ceremony for the region will be held in October at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Three ceremonies are planned to be held each year with a focus on interactive activities and information for parents on the day.

Families who have registered to take part in this month's ceremony are encouraged to bring a picnic and blanket to enjoy a morning celebrating our region's newest additions.

Stay tuned for details on the next Baby Welcoming Ceremony on council's website www.mackay.qld.gov.au/baby.

Dancers from Vanuatu at Global Grooves 2012

The West Ambae Cultural Dance Group from Vanuatu will be a highlight at this year's Global Grooves Festival.

The Global Grooves performance is one of the many events taking place to celebrate and raise awareness of next year's 150th anniversary of Australian South Sea Islanders in Australia.

The Mackay community is thought to have one of the largest Australia South Sea Islander populations in the whole of Australia.

Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity to see this amazing performance by the West Ambae Cultural Dance Group!

For more information please contact council's Multicultural CAMS Officer, Erryn Tomarra on 4961 9545 from Tuesday to Thursday between 8.30am and 3pm.



Conan, Hayley-Rose, Layla-Leah, Pekarora and Mata Carnahan enjoying the festivities at last year's Global Grooves Festival.

Global Grooves Multicultural Festival

10am - 8pm

Sunday, October 28

at Queens Park,
Goldsmith Street, Mackay

Entry is free!

Friendships formed at first Welcome Picnic



Dr Chitra Chopra and Ranjan Chauhan enjoyed the Welcome Picnic in July this year.

Close to 40 residents enjoyed a beautiful morning at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens for the region's first Welcome Picnic, held on July 29.

New friendships and networks were formed while council's LAMP officers lead the group of adults in a game of Trivia, testing and educating our new residents on some of the facts, locations and history of the Mackay region.

Children enjoyed fun games including sack races, twister and an egg and spoon race.

The picnic provided a fun and friendly setting for residents to meet other new families, share a plate of traditional food and find out more information on their new home town.

The next Welcome Picnic is scheduled for November 2012.



Enjoy live entertainment, fantastic food and fun for the family at the Qantaslink River 2 Reef Festival.

Cheer on fellow residents as they take part in The Pelican Push, River Raft Race and the Great Seafood BBQ Burn Off.

River 2 Reef Festival
Saturday, October 6
at Bluewater Quay
10am - 6.30pm
Entry is free!

World Cafe

English Conversation Group



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

Time - 10.30am to 12noon

Please call before coming, contact Linda Brown 4957 2626.

GOOD NEWS for people with chronic illness and their family

Do you come from or identify with a culture other than Anglo-Australian? Do you have 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's a free service that will assist you and the family member looking after you to get all the services you require that will meet your health, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual needs.

For more details, please contact Deb Parker at Carers QLD on 4944 0544, mob 0457 740 107 or email dparker@carersqld.asn.au.

Migrant Settlement Program

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

Access to services in the community - employment, English classes, Centrelink, housing and volunteering. Help making appointments eg Doctors and government departments. For more details or to make an appointment phone the Migrant Settlement Worker on 4957 2626.

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



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.

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