

Multi-Cultural /Multi-Faith Gatherings



Gathering together in unity as one people, the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island, Turkish, Persian, Indian, Swedish, Danish, English and Australian, the Bahai community of Mackay enjoy the richness of individual cultures and the friendship that merges it all into one.

The emphasis of this group of people, when they meet is on unity and oneness, equality and equity; These principles are held with such high priority, that they are practiced in their daily lives.

These peace-loving people meet on a regular basis in Mackay for devotional, study classes, virtue classes (Treasured Gems) pot luck dinners and firesides.

Living by a set of virtuous principles gives focus, hope, direction and meaning.

For any information about the devotionals, childrens' classes and study classes, please phone 4944 0547 – 4953 3906

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 Street Neighbourhood Centre
 4 George Street, South Mackay
Time – 10.30am to 12.00pm

Please call before coming. Contact Natasha on 4957 2626.



Useful Contacts

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

Translating and Interpreting Service
 13 14 50
 Multicultural Community Worker Program
 George Street Neighbourhood Centre
 4957 2626

Multicultural Community Worker Program

This year, the program will continue to have the World Café English Conversation Group (see advertisement on page 4 for more details), Multicultural Family activities as well as support ethnic groups, migrants and people from diverse cultural backgrounds. The program is able to support you to access information, funding and link with other migrants in the area. The program also provides support to schools and other organisations.

If you have any issues resulting from migration such as difficulty accessing services, interpreters, translators, information on healthcare, etc. please contact me.

Over the months, I have received increasing requests to assist newly arrived migrants to link with others from the same ethnic background. If you are a leader or member of an ethnic group, please contact the program so that I will be able to put other people in contact with you and your community.



CONTACT DETAILS
 Natasha Syed Ali
 George Street Neighbourhood Centre
 Phone: 4957 2626
 Email: multi@georgestreetnc.org.au
 4 George Street, South Mackay

OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK



Mackay's O.W.N is a relaxed group of women who are aged between forty something and ninety plus. They meet every Tuesday morning, 9:30 am, at the Blue Nurses Seminar Room, Evans Street, South Mackay.

The Network participates in workshops covering topics such as relaxation, grief and loss, decision-making, health issues. There is no real criteria for joining this group only that you identify yourself as an older woman and are looking for ways to enjoy life. There is much emphasis on enjoyment and the group often spends more time laughing and socialising than anything else.

GOAL: To improve and enrich the health and wellbeing of older women living in the Mackay region through education, information, encouragement, support, success, equity, choice and self-help.

If you are looking for a group with a difference come along and join in, bring a friend or make new friends. For more information, contact Helen on 49557098.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

PAYNE PRINT



migrantvoice

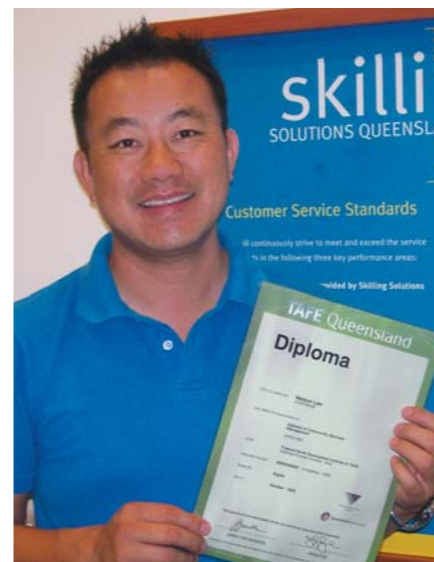
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Council has an ongoing responsibility to provide communications suitable to the needs of all residents. Anyone who wishes to receive Council information in an alternative preferred format or text-only version, should phone 1300 622 529.

Service available to assist resident migrants with training and career information



Above: Nelson Lee

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.

Skilling Solutions Queensland is the Queensland Government's free training and career information service. The service is available at sixteen customer service centres across Queensland and can assist individuals identify recognition of prior learning, training and career pathway options.

Customer Nelson Lee worked with Skilling Solutions Queensland in Cairns to identify how he could turn his experience as a multicultural youth worker and community development officer into a qualification in community

services. Skilling Solutions Queensland provided Nelson with an indication of the recognition he could achieve towards the Diploma of Community Services Management.

After his interview with Skilling Solutions Queensland, Nelson was referred to Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE to undertake the formal recognition of prior learning process.

Nelson was also eligible for a Skilling Solutions Queensland subsidy towards the cost of the formal recognition process.

"Every step of the way was a great process, Skilling Solutions Queensland was very pleasant to deal with and very helpful and friendly," Nelson said.

Customer Vishavdeep Singh visited Skilling Solutions Queensland in Rockhampton to identify how he could get his overseas qualification recognised in Australia. Having recently arrived in Australia, Vishavdeep was unsure of his training and career pathway options.

The Skilling Solutions Queensland consultant provided Vishavdeep with information on Overseas Qualification Assessment and assisted him to complete the application forms.

Vishavdeep then obtained a General Academic Assessment which provided a comparison of his overseas qualification to the Australian equivalent.

"Skilling Solutions Queensland is a good service provided by the Queensland Government which can help new Australian residents to access services," Vishavdeep said.

Contact Skilling Solutions Queensland on 1300 654 687 to make an appointment with a specially trained consultant to open up your career options today.



Above: Vishavdeep Singh

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The March edition of *Migrant Voice* is one I thoroughly enjoy welcoming you to. It is the first edition following the wonderful Australia Day celebrations held throughout the region on January 26.

I had the pleasure of presenting awards to our local heroes and also congratulating 29 new Australians who were naturalised in a citizenship ceremony. At each of council's celebrations – at Mackay, Sarina and the Pioneer Valley – their pride in becoming part of our country was evident by the smiles on their faces.

From South Africa to India, our newest Australians participated in a citizenship ceremony highlighting commitment, responsibility, public recognition, a celebration of the past and hopes for a common future.

Our next citizenship ceremony will be held in conjunction with Harmony Day on March 21. On this day we join together as a nation to embrace traditional Australian values like justice, equality, fairness and friendship and to celebrate our diverse multicultural society. Mackay's Australia South Sea Islander Hut, at Ram Chandra Place, near the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens will be this year's venue. The ceremony begins at 3pm.

2010 is shaping up to be a bumper year for the region's migrant community. In January, State Minister for Multicultural Affairs Annastacia Palaszczuk gave the green light to Mackay Regional Council's adult multicultural learn-to-swim classes with a \$5000 State Government grant. This 10-week pilot project for adults of non-English speaking backgrounds highlights the importance of learning to swim at any age. Participants in the program come from Thailand, India, Zambia, Ghana and the Philippines.

Last year's Global Grooves, an annual multicultural world music concert, attracted a record crowd of more than 5000 people to Queen's Park. This year's event on Sunday, October 24, has been given a boost with a \$6000 grant from Multicultural Affairs Queensland. The event has been embraced by local cultural groups and the wider community and its success has cemented a place for future multicultural events for many years to come.

Currently underway is the State Government's Multicultural Policy Review, which will create a revised policy on multiculturalism in Queensland.

On Sunday, April 4 the Easter bunny will hop into town for the City Centre Easter Carnival in Victoria Street from 8.30am to 12.30pm. Kids can join the monster egg hunt, egg-and-spoon races, bunny hop race, pin the tail on the bunny and enjoy a range of amusements and rides while Mum and Dad explore the huge range of market stalls and shopping. Be sure to enjoy all the fun and festivities on offer and win some great prizes.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and hope you continue to enjoy the truly great facilities and services our region has to offer.

Col Meng
Mayor
Mackay Regional Council

LAMPnews -2010- UPDATE

Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of *Migrant Voice* for 2010. We hope to have three other editions throughout the year so please feel free to contribute your stories and information.

It has been a hectic year so far with the visit of Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs, Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk MP; who came to Mackay to announce the successful applicants to the Multicultural Assistance Program. Mackay was successful with three applications: Global Grooves – A Maltese Story, Multicultural Swimming Lessons and Filipino-Australian Community Association of Mackay and District to celebrate their 20th Anniversary. If you would like to be involved in any of these projects please contact Mia or myself on 4961 9596.

Early this year Mia Sammut-Landt was also welcomed back into the LAMP role after being away on Maternity Leave. I am in the office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mia on Thursday and Friday.

We both look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Lara Payne
LAMP Officer Mackay Regional Council

FILM PROGRAM FOR AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

Film and Arts Mackay brings to Mackay the best of International cinema. Films from around the world are shown at 7.30pm on the first Friday of the month in the Cook Theatre, Building One at CQUniversity Campus, Boundary Road, Planlands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS YEARS' FILMS PLEASE GO TO:
<http://content.cqu.edu.au/FCWViewer/view.do?page=7425>

Friday 5 March 7.30 pm

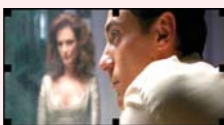


Many Kisses Later (G)

Language: Italian (English Subtitles)
Genre: Romance

"Many Kisses Later" follows six couples between Christmas and Valentine's Day – episodes that intertwine and revolve around the matters arising from the end of a love affair and the ways former romantic partners can reshape our lives. **120 mins**

Friday 9 April 7.30 pm



The Early Bird Catches the Worm

Language: Italian (English Subtitles)
Genre: Comedy

The story of the rise and fall of one of Italy's most famous radio presenters – Marco Baldini – a man who was an expert at brightening up other people's days while he made his own more miserable with a secret obsession. When offered a radio job he jumped at the chance and teamed up with an impulsive funny man on the morning show. He quickly became one of Italy's most popular on-air personalities, but with long afternoons to kill, his casual gambling habit started to become an addiction. **100 mins**

ADMISSION: Members: \$8.00 Non Members: \$12.00
PRICE INCLUDES COMPLEMENTARY BEVERAGE AND LIGHT SUPPER AFTER MOVIE.

JOINING THE LIBRARY SOCIETY IS ONLY \$25 A SINGLE OR \$40 A COUPLE FOR A CALENDAR YEAR. HOLDERS OF CONCESSION CARDS CAN JOIN FOR \$20 FOR \$35 RESPECTIVELY.
JOIN AT ONE OF THE FILM NIGHTS OR COME TO OUR AGM AND SEE THE NEW CQUNIVERSITY MACKAY CAMPUS LIBRARY ON TUESDAY 23RD MARCH 2010 AT 7.30PM.

BMA KIDSPACE DATES FOR 2010
9 March • 20 April • 11 May
8 June • 20 July • 10 August
7 September • 12 October
9 November • 7 December

Join us for BMA Kidspace at Artspace Mackay

10am - 2pm > Drop-in to Artspace Mackay anytime for creative art activities for kids under 5, their parents & carers.
12pm-1pm > Live musical entertainment
Call Artspace Mackay for more info 4961 9722

Multicultural Playgroup '09

Do you have children under the age of 5?

Playgroups help children and families-

- Develop and learn through play.
- Have fun with educational activities.
- Further develop a child's physical abilities and social skills.
- Meet new people, share experiences and ideas.

Call to find out when playgroup meets at the library for Many Cultures Storytime.

EVERY FRIDAY (except public & school holidays)
TIME: 9.30am- 11.30am
PLACE: Shakespeare Child and Family Centre
43 Shakespeare Street (corner of Macrossan St.)
Contact: 4957 7222

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE GROUPS (CALD) PROGRAM LAUNCH

Carer's QLD Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Groups (CALD) Program will be officially launched on March 21 in lieu with Harmony Day celebrations at the Botanic Gardens from 10am-12pm. The launch will feature a multicultural picnic, a presentation of songs and dances from different CALD groups, and Harmony day giveaways.

The CALD program aims to assist eligible people from CALD backgrounds and their families to access culturally appropriate home and community (HACC) services. Eligible persons are those from a CALD background who are frail-aged or a younger person with a disability, chronic medical problem, mental illness, or a family member providing care and require basic support services to remain in their home.

For more information about the CALD program, please call Deb Parker on 49440544 or 0457740107.

Email: dparker@carersqld.asn.au



MANY CULTURES STORYTIME
CULTURAL SERVICES

2010 www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries

MANY CULTURES STORYTIME IS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

STORYTIME SESSIONS

Mackay City Library

February > 5	October > 1
March > 5	November > 5
April > 2	December > 3
May > 7	
June > 4	SESSION TIMES
July > 2	10.30am - 11.30am
August > 6	
September > 3	

For further information
Gordon White Library 4961 9300
Mackay City Library 4961 9387

For more information please phone Norell Binsiar Library Assistant - Cultural Services.

