



MCoT News

Welcome to the August 2011 edition of The Multicultural Council of Tasmania newsletter

Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to mcot@tassie.net.au
Please email or phone us on 6231 5067 if you would like to contribute items for the newsletter. The deadline for each month's issue is the first Monday of the relevant month.

MCOT NEWS AND UPDATES

- [Next Council Meeting](#)
- [Photocopying](#)
- [August Days](#)
- [United Nations](#)

GENERAL NOTICES

- [Boat people book](#)
- [FECCA 2011 Conference - Advancing Multiculturalism](#)
- [Famine in Africa](#)
- [Phoenix Centre Annual Forum](#)
- [Multicultural Australia welcomes new Race Discrimination Commissioner](#)
- [MoneySmart](#)
- [Seniors Morning Movies](#)
- [Swap It Don't Stop It Campaign](#)
- [DVD on How to Access and Use Interpreters Released](#)
- [TIS National Seeks New Interpreters](#)
- [SHP - Low Interest Loan Scheme](#)
- [Triple Zero Game for Children](#)
- [Australian Citizens Encouraged to Travel on an Australian Passport](#)
- [Citizenship test – DVD Help](#)
- [New Points Test](#)
- [Our Community](#)
- [Human Rights Week 2011](#)
- [St. Matthews Church Glenorchy](#)
- [Getting in touch](#)
- [Tasmania Together Youth Challenge](#)
- [The Order of Australia](#)
- [Call for input: Volunteers, discrimination & age](#)
- [Multicultural Supported Playscheme](#)

MCoT News and Updates

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on the 17th August 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Acacia Room at the MRC, 49 Molle Street, Hobart. Guests welcome!

Photocopying

Do you need any done? Communities that need to have any photocopying done are welcome to come to the office and have it done free of charge provided you come during office hours which are Mondays to Thursdays inclusive, from 10 a.m. till 2.30 p.m.

August Days

- 1 Foundation of the Swiss Confederation (*Switzerland*)
National day (*Benin*)
- 3 Independence Day (*Macedonia*)
- 4 National Day (*Cook Islands*)
- 6 National Day (*Jamaica*)
Independence Day (*Bolivia*)
- 7 National Day (*Côte d'Ivoire*)
- 9 National Day (*Singapore*)
International Day of the World's Indigenous People
- 10 National Day (*Ecuador*)
- 11 National Day (*Chad*)
- 12 **International Youth Day**
(N.B. August 2010-2011 Our Year Our Voice
International Year of Youth)
- 14 Independence Day (*Pakistan*)-
- 15 National Day (*Liechtenstein*)
National Day (*India*)
National Day (*Korea*)
- 17 Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence (*Indonesia*)
National Day (*Gabon*)
- 19 Independence Day (*Afghanistan*)
- 24 National Day (*Ukraine*)
- 25 Independence Day (*Uruguay*)
- 27 National Day (*Moldova*)
- 31 National Day (*Trinidad and Tobago*)
National Day (*Kyrgyzstan*)
National Day (*Malaysia*)

[Top](#)

United Nations

The United Nations has declared that 2011 is the:

- International Year of Chemistry
- International Year of Forests
- International Year for the people of African descent
- International Year of Youth

GENERAL NOTICES

Boat people book

A book is currently being written by Carly Saeedi a refugee lawyer living in Canberra and which is compiled of the stories of different people who travelled to Australia by boat seeking protection. The stories will tell of their lives prior to making the decision to travel by boat and focus on the life they left behind. It aims to portray asylum seekers that flee by boat as real people with families and jobs and lives they left behind in order to seek refuge in Australia and as a result hopefully dispel the myths that such people are jumping a queue or are illegal. The project is still in its earliest stages and the author is currently interviewing suitable people as well as searching for more that meet the above description (the date of arrival is irrelevant).

Anyone who wishes to contribute and share their story (you can remain anonymous if you wish) can contact Carly at Kamy Saeedi Lawyers, Suite 4 Melbourne Building, 55 Northbourne Avenue, GPO Box 487, Canberra ACT 2601. Mob: 0413 101 109 Tel: 02 6230 6600 Fax: 02 6230 0955.

[Top](#)

[Top](#)

FECCA 2011 Conference - Advancing Multiculturalism, 17 and 18 November

The FECCA Biennial Conference is Australia's pre-eminent multicultural conference. This year, the Conference is being jointly hosted by the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and the Multicultural Communities Council of SA Inc. It will explore the theme of Advancing Multiculturalism and promises to be a vibrant and exciting program. Pre-Conference workshops will be held on Wednesday 16 November 2011

The Conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, which is located on the banks of the River Torrens and within easy walking distance of accommodation, restaurants, entertainment and major retail precincts.

The call for papers is now open and submissions close 31 July. [click here](#) for full details.

Online Conference registration is now open. To register and take advantage of discount rates [click here](#).

Early bird registration closes 1 September 2011.

To preview the exciting line up of invited speakers [click here](#). Visit regularly as more names will be added over the coming weeks.

[Top](#)

Famine in Africa

World leaders and the United Nations call for countries to send aid to famine-struck nations in the Horn of Africa. Donations may be made to Red Cross at Freecall: 1800 811 700 using a credit card or to GPO Box 2957, Melbourne, Victoria by cheque or money order (indicating the appeal you wish to donate to).

[Top](#)

Phoenix Centre Annual Forum

The Phoenix Centre will hold its annual forum on Friday the 26th of August at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre between 10.00am – 4.00pm and are excited to announce that Najeeba Wazefoadost will speak at the Forum along with Dr Jill Benson (Director of Cultural Diversity, Health & Human Diversity Unit, University of Adelaide; Senior Medical Officer of Migrant Health Services - South Australia) and Professor Nicholas Proctor (Inaugural Chair; Mental Health Nursing at the University of South Australia & Adjunct Professor at the University of Tasmania).

Najeeba has been a panelist on ABC's Q&A several times during 2011 and is recognised for her work in not-for-profit organisations including the Bamiyan Association and Amnesty International, raising awareness of the plight of refugees and providing tutoring and support for Afghani people in Greater Western Sydney.

Najeeba and her family fled the Taliban's genocidal massacres of the Hazara ethnic minority when she was 12. She arrived in Australia by boat as a refugee with her parents, four siblings and two uncles in September 2000. She and her family spent several months in Curtin Detention Centre before being sent to Tasmania to live. They held Temporary Protection Visas for three years before being granted permission to stay.

Najeeba was determined to gain an education and she completed a Bachelor of Medical Science at the University of Western Sydney and graduated in 2010.

Najeeba is recognised for courage in repeatedly sharing her experiences in Afghanistan, and promoting the rights of asylum seekers and refugees in Australia.

The winner of the "Young Woman of the West", University of Western Sydney, 2011, Najeeba is currently a Home and Community Care/Youth Project Worker at Auburn Diversity Services Inc.

For further information about the forum please contact Kylie Millar at the Phoenix Centre on 6234 9138.

Multicultural Australia welcomes new Race Discrimination Commissioner

Multicultural Australia celebrates the appointment of Dr Helen Szoke as Australia's new full time Race Discrimination Commissioner. Community leaders and advocacy bodies had been seeking this from the government over a period of time. The "People of Australia" national multicultural policy had promised an independent full time Race Discrimination Commissioner as one of its key initiatives.

Pino Migliorino, the Chair of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA), said, "I congratulate Dr Szoke on being appointed Australia's new Race Discrimination Commissioner. In the context of the government's Anti Racism Strategy, her role will be pivotal in delivering stronger measures to stop racism in Australia."

FECCA is the national peak body for all migrant organisations and ran the “Reclaim Multiculturalism” campaign last year to advocate for a national multicultural policy. FECCA will work on the government’s Anti Racism Strategy together with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and the Australian Human Rights Commission. FECCA will hold public forums and undertake research for this strategy.

“I commend the inspirational work of the outgoing Race Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes. The recognition of Race Discrimination as a full time position for the first time since 1997 acknowledges the importance of this issue in our society. We look forward to working with Dr Szoke to strengthen the government’s anti racism agenda.”

FECCA’s national Access and Equity consultations consistently reveal narratives of racism and discrimination, particularly amongst new arrivals to Australia. Participants have spoken about how racism has affected their capacity to find jobs and housing.

“Racism affects people’s ability to contribute to Australia. It affects their mental health and their capacity to find employment. We have to recognise and remove racism from Australian society if we want to find harmony,” said Pino Migliorino.

[Top](#)

[Top](#)

[Top](#)

Welcome to MoneySmart

Today the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) launched a new website called MoneySmart to help people make smart choices about their personal finances.

MoneySmart is for all Australians – young or old, rich or poor, investing or paying off debt. The website offers free, independent guidance so people can make the best choices for their money.

ASIC has been active in financial literacy for many years. ASIC's previous consumer websites were FIDO and Understanding Money. Each was a great source of financial information for many years, with simple steps and basic calculators to help people sort out their money.

MoneySmart replaces these two websites, combining the best features of both and adding much more.

Please link to MoneySmart and spread the word about it among your networks. Let us know if you'd like any material for upcoming newsletters or articles.

You might also like to update any references or links on your own site to FIDO or Understanding Money, so they now refer to MoneySmart. We can send you links to or details of specific pages or calculators.

We welcome your feedback about MoneySmart. Tell us what you think by email to feedback@moneysmart.gov.au or use the feedback button at the end of each webpage. Make MoneySmart one of your 'favourites' and visit us often to get your finances in better shape.

<http://www.moneysmart.gov.au/>

[Top](#)

Seniors morning movies

Village Cinemas Hobart, Eastlands, Glenorchy and Launceston are proud to present to all our seniors .This program will be available from Monday to Friday at 11am. Tickets are just \$7 and there is also the opportunity to purchase a cookie and an endless cup of coffee or tea for just \$3.

We look forward to seeing you and would appreciate if you could forward this on to all of your friends and family members.

Swap It Don't Stop It

The Commonwealth Government has launched its 'Swap it don't stop it' campaign – a call to make easy, small, healthier lifestyle choices to reduce the risk of illness and disease

The Australian Government's 'Swap It, Don't Stop It' campaign encourages the community to make small, healthy lifestyle changes to reduce their risk of some chronic diseases.

'Swap It, Don't Stop It' features Eric, a likeable but overweight blue balloon character. Eric encourages the community to make some simple lifestyle changes to become healthier – for example: to swap big for small (portion control); swap fried for fresh (nutritional quality); swap sitting for moving (physical activity); and swap watching for playing (physical activity).

Featuring press, radio and online advertising, Eric demonstrates practical things Australians can change in their daily lives to help achieve better health outcomes for themselves and their families. There is also a range of translated resources such as a 12 week planner and brochure available on the campaign website: www.swapit.gov.au

[Top](#)

“The health status of migrants varies according to a range of factors,” says Executive Manager of the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health, Ms Michal Morris. “The Swap It, Don’t Stop It campaign is important for migrants adjusting to different lifestyles and food. They can often fall under the radar for healthier eating and physical activity information because of language barriers and health priorities specific to their communities; this means they can become susceptible to some chronic diseases.”

“We, as health professionals, community educators, and other community sources of information, play an important role in promoting health literacy and understanding in the ethnic community. This campaign provides valuable resources” said Ms Morris, “helping people make small decisions when they are in the supermarket, in the kitchen or when playing with the kids, which can all make a real difference. “

Further information on the campaign, including fact sheets, can be found at www.australia.gov.au/swapit , and in the Department of Health and Ageing’s [media release](#).

[Top](#)

DVD on How to Access and Use Interpreters Released

TIS National has produced a DVD giving advice on how to access and use an interpreter. It has three chapters: a guide to TIS National services, working with interpreters, and services for medical practitioners. The contents of the DVD can be viewed on YouTube on ImmiTV:

A guide to TIS National services ; Hints and tips for working with interpreters ; TIS National services for medical practitioners The DVD can also be obtained from the TIS National Client Liaison and Promotions team contact: Telephone: 1300 655 820 Email: tispromo@immi.gov.au

TIS National Seeks New Interpreters

TIS National is currently recruiting suitably qualified or experienced citizens or permanent residents to meet the growing demand for interpreting services.

Languages of particular interest include: Rohingya, Karen, Hakka Chin, Bengali, Thai, Somali, Dinka, Tamil, Kurdish (all dialects), Dari/Hazaragi. TIS National is also interested in recruiting interpreters for other languages and dialects, particularly those spoken by our refugee and humanitarian entrants from Africa and Burma. TIS National encourages those recruited to seek NAATI accreditation where it is available and recognition where it is not currently available. To find out more about NAATI please visit: www.naati.com.au

For further information on career opportunities for interpreters, please visit; www.immi.gov.au/about/careers/interpretercareers.htm or contact: (phone) 1300 132 621 (E-mail) interpreters@immi.gov.au

TIS National Welcomes Feedback TIS National has a structured feedback system allowing feedback to be recorded, investigated and acted on. TIS welcomes comments on all aspects of their service including: • interpreter conduct and performance; • interpreter availability; • operator conduct and performance; • TIS National booking procedures; • services including Automated Telephone Interpreting Service. Feedback can be provided directly to TIS through the TIS National Client Liaison and Promotions Team by phone 1300 655 820 or email: tispromo@immi.gov.au

How to Access an Interpreter

- Call TIS National on 131 450 and provide the operator with your TIS National client code.
- The operator will prompt you for any other information required such as your name, contact

Telephone number, the language required and some basic information about your non-English speaking client.

- The operator will ask if the non-English speaker is with you, or if they need to be telephoned.
- You will then be placed on hold while the operator finds an available interpreter.
- Once an interpreter has accepted the call, you will be provided with a job-number unique to the interpreting assignment.
- The operator will then leave the conference call, and you may begin communicating with your client.

More information on how to access an interpreter can be found on-line at:

http://www.immi.gov.au/living-inaustralia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/howuse-tis/

[Top](#)

SHP - Low Interest Loan Scheme

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) No Interest Travel Loan Scheme has been developed to assist eligible Special Humanitarian Program (SHP) visa holders with costs associated with their travel to Australia. While refugee and subclass visa holders have their passage to Australia fully funded by the Commonwealth, SHP (subclass 202) visa holders (or their proposers) are responsible for funding their own travel. A No Interest Travel Loan may help in these circumstances.

More information about the scheme and how it can help SHP visa holders or their proposers can be

found at: <http://www.iomaustralia.org/loans/> or email: travel.loan.canberra@iom.int

Triple Zero Game for Children

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has been involved in the development of an interactive online safety program to teach primary school children practical steps to deal with emergencies. The tool helps newly arrived migrants and refugees understand how to call emergency services. It has been translated into six languages Dinka, Hindi, Thai, Arabic, Traditional Chinese and Vietnamese. The tool can be accessed at:

<http://kids.triplezero.gov.au/>

Australian Citizens Encouraged to Travel on an Australian Passport

Some new Australian citizens travelling overseas have had problems when they attempt to board their plane to return to Australia because they have been travelling on their non-Australian passport with an expired Australian visa. Australian Citizens are strongly encouraged to obtain an Australian Passport and travel on that passport when leaving and entering Australia to avoid possible issues at foreign borders. More information is available on the department's website: <http://www.citizenship.gov.au/current/travel/>

[Top](#)

Citizenship test – DVD Help

A DVD presenting key points from the testable section of the citizenship test resource book, including 20 practice questions, is now available. The DVD is particularly helpful to those with a low level of literacy and, together with the translated version of the resource book, can help people prepare for the citizenship test. People can order a free copy of the DVD on-line and it will be posted to their address in Australia. If people require more than one copy of the DVD, they can contact the Citizenship Information Line: Telephone: 131 880 The Australian citizenship test resource book:

Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond, is also available 37 community languages. You can view the book and translations or order the DVD at:
http://www.citizenship.gov.au/learn/cit_test/test_resource_book/

New Points Test

The new points test for skilled migration has been announced and will be implemented on 1 July 2011. The new points test is part of a series of reforms to the skilled migration program announced in February 2010. These reforms aim to deliver a more responsive and targeted skilled migration program that helps to address specific short-term skills shortages in Australia and in the long-term helps enhance the size and skill level of the Australian work force. Details of the new points test are available on the department's website at:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilledmigration/whats-new.htm>

[Top](#)

Our Community

Our Community is a pioneering social enterprise that provides advice, tools and training for Australia's 600,000 community groups and schools, along with community-related services for individuals, business and government. They are a movement builder working to empower the community sector to fashion its own future, in partnership with the people, organisations and agencies that possess likeminded goals and values. Our major offerings include:

www.ourcommunity.com.au – help sheets, books, training and tools for Australian community groups.

[GiveNow.com.au](http://www.givewith.com.au) – helping individuals and businesses give more, give smarter, give better, Give Now! Free online donations for Community Groups.

- **Australian Institute of Grants Management** – grants management services and online grants management solutions for government and philanthropy
- **Australian Institute for Corporate Responsibility** – intelligent, contemporary corporate responsibility services for businesses [ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)

[Top](#)

Human Rights Week 2011

Human Rights Day is celebrated every year all over the world to mark the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (the Declaration). In Tasmania we celebrate with Human Rights Week (HRW). The HRW Organising Committee invites you mark these dates in your calendar; this year the HRW Launch will be on Friday, 2 December 2011, at the Hobart Town Hall; and the HRW March will be held in Hobart on Friday, 9 December 2011. The week in between will have various events to celebrate and to educate about the Declaration and human rights issues around the world. Please consider hosting an event! For more information, enquiries or support for your event please contact the Human Rights Organising Committee by emailing: HRWTasmania@gmail.com

[Top](#)

St. Matthews Church Glenorchy

Glenorchy City Council is seeking expressions of interest for short term, one off and long term opportunities for the use of St Matthews Church in Tolosa St, Glenorchy. This is a great

opportunity to see this iconic Glenorchy building actively in use by the community, we encourage cultural groups and artists to consider putting in a proposal. Below is a link to the Council website for further information and expression of interest forms.

http://www.gcc.tas.gov.au/content/Possible_or_Potential_Use_of_St_Matthews_Church.GCC

[Top](#)

Getting in touch

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 9:15 am to 4 pm

Venue: 25 Lefroy Street North Hobart **Post:** PO Box 248 North Hobart Tas 7002

Tel: 03 6231 3212 Outside the 62 area, **Freecall** 1800 353 212 **Fax:** 03 6236 9449

Email: info@hwhc.com.au **Website:** www.hwhc.com.au

WHAT'S ON @ HWHC. The following group sessions and activities are held at the centre on a regular basis and are free unless otherwise stated. Referrals are welcome to any of these programs; Ageing Well with Weights; AWWW Practice; Birth and Beyond - mothers group; Breast Cancer Support Group; Secondary Breast Cancer Support Group; Community Health Nurse; Feldenkrais; Fitball Beginners' Class; Herbalist; Massage - Shiatsu; Supportive massage for women living with chronic illness; Meditation Guided and safe relaxation meditation; itches and Stories; Tai Chi; Women's Friendship Group; Women's Walks; Writers' Support Group; Yoga.

Go in for a cuppa, browse in the library or use the photocopier.

[Top](#)

Tasmania Together Youth Challenge

The Tasmania Together Youth Challenge is a competition open to all school aged students across Tasmania.

Working individually or as part of a team (and either through your school or independently) we ask you to think about what you would like Tasmania to be like in the future. Then we want you to use your creative abilities to bring your ideas to life. The creative possibilities for this competition are endless. Check out our previous winners on tyouthchallenge.com.au and our resources page for some ideas.

The competition is a fun and educational experience and there are some great prizes up for grabs, including iPads, iPhones, iPod Touches, Wii Consoles and Wii Fits, Cash, Book Vouchers and Netbooks Computers.

Tasmania's future is in your hands.... so get involved in the Youth Challenge today... And show us where you will take it. For more information call [6232 7010](tel:62327010) or email us at contact@tasmaniatogether.com.au

The Order of Australia

Anyone can nominate an Australian citizen for an award in the Order of Australia. The nomination may come from an individual or a group.

There is an Order of Australia nomination form which can be downloaded from their website or obtained from the Honours Secretariat at Government House.

See:

- [nomination form](#)
- [more information](#)

The nomination should include an outline of how the nominee has made a significant contribution to the community. Contact details for the nominator (the person making the nomination), the nominee and four referees who can directly comment on the nominee's contribution and achievements also need to be provided. All nominations are confidential.

The person being nominated should not be advised of their nomination or approached for information at any stage.

The information on the nomination form is strictly for the Council for the Order of Australia to assess the nominee.

The Honours Secretariat processes nominations in order of receipt.

Consideration of a nomination can take between 18 months and two years.

Nominators will be contacted approximately one week prior to the official publication of the honours list for which the nomination was considered.

Successful nominees receive a written offer of an award in the Order of Australia.

[Top](#)

Multicultural Supported Playscheme (Save the Children Australia)

For parents and carers from migrant backgrounds with children aged between 0-5 years.

Meet new families; learn about school and family services.

Wednesday and Friday afternoons 12.30-2.30p.m., Glenorchy Family Day Care, 6 Gavitt St, Glenorchy For more information call Lisa 0438 075 898

[Top](#)

General MCoT Information

Street Address: 49 Mollie Street
Hobart

Phone: 03 6231 5067

Fax: 03 6231 5069

Email: mcot@tassie.net.au

Web: www.mcot.org.au