

MCoT News December 2008

Welcome to the December 2008 edition of The Multicultural Council of Tasmania newsletter

Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania

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MCOT NEWS AND UPDATES

From the Chair

Welcome to MCoT's first e-newsletter which hopefully will satisfy the need and overcome the occasional problem of limited space. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elida Meadows for the setting up the newsletter and the time with the office staff implementing the new format.

Congratulations to Lisa Singh MHA on her appointment last month as Minister for Correctional Services, Workplace Relations and Consumer Affairs and I would like to extend, on behalf of MCoT, best wishes to Lisa in her new role from MCoT.

On the 28th November Mahendra Pathik and I attended a conference in Sydney hosted by the NEMBC (National Ethnic & Multicultural Broadcasters' Council) and AICA (Australian Indigenous Communications Association). The theme of this year's conference was *Shaping Languages*.

I am pleased to announce that I have been appointed to FECCA's Steering Committee which has been set up to investigate the viability of re-locating certain operational areas of FECCA.

I would like to wish all those of Christian Faith and very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. I look forward to 2009 and the challenges that await MCoT.

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Office Closing over Christmas and the New Year

The Migrant Resource Centre and the Multicultural Council of Tasmania office will be closed from 19th December and re-open on Monday 5th January 2009.

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Monthly Meeting Dates 2009

Management Committee	Council Meetings
1st Thursday of every month at 6.00 pm	3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.00 pm
5th February	18th February
5th March	18th March
2nd April	15th April
7th May	20th May
4th June	17th June
2nd July	15th July
6th August	19th August
3rd September	16th September
1st October	21st October
5th November	18th November
3rd December	16th December

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End of Year Celebration

You are invited to the “End of Year Celebration ”to be held in the Acacia Room , Migrant Resource Centre at 49 Molle Street (carpark entrance) on

Wednesday 17th December 08 at 7.00 pm.

Light supper will be served.

For catering purposes please RSVP to the MCoT during office hours

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December Days

- 1 National Day (*Romania*)
National Day (*Central African Republic*)
- 2 National Day (*United Arab Emirates*)
National Foundation Day (*Lao People’s Democratic Republic*)
- 3 International Day for People with a Disability**
- 6 Independence Day (*Finland*)
- 10 United Nations Human Rights Day**
- 11 National Day (*Burkina Faso*)
- 12 National Day (*Kenya*)
- 13 Republic Day (*Malta*)
- 16 International Day for Tolerance**
National Day (*Kazakhstan*)

National Day (*Bahrain*)

17 National Day (*Bhutan*)

18 National Day (*Niger*)

International Migrants Day

25Christmas Day

31 New Year's Eve

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NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

Axum on Mars!

Axum Ethiopian Restaurant is delighted to announce that it is re-opening at 112 Liverpool Street next Friday - 31st October 2008 (with Mouse on Mars Internet Café- in the CBD!! - next to Myers fire site)

Lunches, Dinners, Take Away!

Café & Bar

Tues – Sunday

Delicious Food – as praised by ABC Radio food critics

Opening: Friday 31st October

We also provide delicious, traditional Ethiopian food and refreshments for meetings, community gatherings, conferences or special events, either in our spacious meeting room or at your venue.

For bookings & catering enquiries please call **6231 5725**

Mob.: 0400 836 074

Come & Share our Food & Culture!

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GENERAL NOTICES

Freedom of Religion and belief in 21st century Australia

The Australian Human Rights Commission, Australia's national, independent statutory authority which administers Commonwealth human rights laws, has commissioned the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF) in association with RMIT University and Monash University to prepare a report on *Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century*. The report will inform governments, faith communities, NGO's and relevant organisations, and contribute to the on-going debate around culture, identity and national unity.

An integral part of the report is the public submission process, where all members of the public are invited to submit a response. The commission is particularly interested in your responses to any or all of the questions in the Discussion Paper, as well as any other issues of concern. All the project details are available at the website www.humanrights.gov.au/frb For a hardcopy of the Discussion Paper please contact MCoT's office on [6231 5067](tel:62315067).

How to make a submission

Electronic submissions are encouraged. If you would like to make a submission on any of the issues in this paper in hardcopy, please send comments to:

Freedom and Belief in the 21st Century Submission

Race Discrimination Unit Education and Partnerships Section

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

GPO Box 5218

Sydney NSW 2001

Or go online: www.humanrights.gov.au/frb or by email at: frb@humanrights.gov.au or by fax: [02 9284 9849](tel:0292849849)

For any queries please telephone: [02 9284 9600](tel:0292849600) or [1800 620 241 \(TTY\)](tel:1800620241)

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 31st January 2009

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International day of people with disability

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils' of Australia (FECCA) and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) have celebrated International Day of people with Disability and called on governments and the community to increase their efforts to recognise the rights of people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

“One in four people with disability in Australia is from a non English Speaking background,” said NEDA Chairperson, Ms Michele Castagna, “This means there are approximately one million people from diverse cultural backgrounds with disability in Australia today.”

“People with disability from diverse cultural backgrounds are part of the lifeblood of our communities, and continue to make an important contribution to social, political and economic life in Australia ,” said FECCA Disabilities Chair, Ms Kelly Kljajic.

“However, people with disability from culturally diverse backgrounds face a number of unique barriers to accessing jobs, services, support and education,” said Ms Kljajic.

“We call on Governments to work to remove the barriers faced by people from non English Speaking Backgrounds with disability,” said Ms Michele Castagna.

"We also call on the community, including ethnic communities, to challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by people with disability everyday," said Ms Kljajic.

"The ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities has created a real opportunity for improving the rights and inclusion of all people with disability, regardless of their language, culture or faith," said Ms Kljajic

"There is significant scope for reform in a number of areas, including migration rights, removal of language barriers, employment participation and income support for migrants," said Ms Castagna.

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