



MCoT News

Welcome to the March 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.

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MCoT News and Updates

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania will be held on the 16th March 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Acacia Room at the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Molle Street, Hobart. Guests welcome!

Guest Speaker

March Days

- 3 National Day (*Bulgaria*)
- 6 Independence Day (*Ghana*)
- 8 International Women's Day**
- 11 End of Soviet occupation in Lithuania 1990
- 12 National Day (*Mauritius*)
- 15 National Day (*Hungary*)
- 20 Independence Day (*Tunisia*)
- 21 **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
Harmony Day
Newroz (*Persian, Kurd and Baha'i New Year*)
Independence Day (*Namibia*)
- International Migrants Day**
- 22 **World Day for Water** (*UNESCO*)
- 23 National Day (*Pakistan*)
- 25 National Day (*Greece*)
Independence Day (*Belarus*)
- 26 Independence Day (*Bangladesh*)

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NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

Philippines-Australia Community of Tasmania

Calendar of meetings and events for the Philippines-Australia Community of Tas (PACT) for 2011:

DATES	DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
1 st May 2011	Sunday	2.00pm	PACT Board Meeting	RSL Glenorchy
14 th May 2011	Saturday	6.00pm	Mother's Day Celebration	RSL Claremont
5 th June 2011	Sunday	2.00pm	PACT Board Meeting	RSL Glenorchy
11 th June 2011	Saturday	6.00pm for 6.30pm	113 th Independence Day Celebration	Woolstore Hotel Macquarie St.

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Sikh Society of Tasmania

The state of Tasmania is home to about 500,000 people from all walks of life from around the world. There are about 2000 people of Indian origin, of which there are about 200 Sikhs and counting in Tasmania. I, in the Public Interest of people of the Sikh faith in the State of Tasmania, make this Petition to all Australians in seeking financial support for establishing the first SIKH TEMPLE in Tasmania. At present this is the only State/Territory of Australia that does not have a Sikh Temple. This is our ultimate dream. We have much pleasure in announcing that GURUDWARA SAHIB TASMANIA:

- Its name is registered in Tasmania as a religious organisation
- It has its own Constitution in place
- It has an Australian Business Number
- It is a non-profit making organization

The Sikh Community of Tasmania respectfully seeks your sponsorship to support us financially in establishing its first Sikh Temple in Tasmania by depositing building fund donations into its business bank account as below:

BANK: Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Collin Street, Hobart, Tasmania

Account Name: Gurudwara Sahib Tasmania

Branch number/BSB Number: 067 002

Account Number: 10284600 Swift Code: CTBAAU2S Routing Code: #021000018

The Tasmanian Sikh Community is greatly appreciative of your generosity and thanks you for your support for this noble cause.

Surinder Kaur Mahindroo (Mrs.) Chairperson, M.A., LL.B (Aust. & India), M.M.I.A (Migration Agent No. 9801709)

Estonian language classes are held on Tuesdays each week. Please ring **62738714** if interested. The current class has 12 students ranging in age from 10 – 60+ years (mostly beginners).

A. Michelson's sequel to "Three Suitcases and a Three-year-old", "The View From Here" is now available from amazon.com. This is the story of the life of post-WW11 Estonian migrants to Australia but may be of interest to anyone who has experienced a similar life, or whose forebears have.

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GENERAL NOTICES

Joint Standing Committee on Migration – Inquiry into Multiculturalism in Australia

The Committee would like to hear from individuals and organizations with an interest in multiculturalism and the delivery of services to migrant communities.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 8 April 2011**. Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.apf.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560

Media Release - New Strategy In Support Of Multiculturalism In Australia

16 February 2011

CHRIS BOWEN MP

MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

SENATOR KATE LUNDY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER

A new national multicultural policy, The People of Australia, builds on the Federal Government's strong support for multiculturalism in Australia, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, said today.

Mr Bowen today released The People of Australia and said it built on a whole-of-government approach to maintaining a socially cohesive and harmonious society.

"This new multicultural policy will further strengthen our multicultural policies and programs," Mr Bowen said.

"It is a expression of support for Australia's multiculturalism and an endorsement of the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council (AMAC) statement presented to Government for consideration last year."

Mr Bowen said as part of the strategy, the Government would introduce a new independent advisory body with broader terms of reference to succeed the current Advisory Council.

"The new body will act as a champion for multiculturalism in the community; will advise the Government on multicultural affairs; and will help to ensure Australian Government services respond to the needs of migrant and refugee communities," he said.

"We will also establish a National Anti-Racism Partnership to design and deliver an anti-racism strategy as we continue to work to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination."

Mr Bowen also welcomed the Prime Minister's decision to rename the position held by Senator Kate Lundy to better reflect the focus of her duties.

"Recognising the breadth of her responsibilities and the need for an increased focus on the implementation of multicultural policy, Senator Lundy's portfolio will now be titled the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs," Mr Bowen said.

"Senator Lundy has been actively engaging with the sector and broader community on these matters since taking on her role as Parliamentary Secretary."

Mr Bowen said The People of Australia policy embraced four principles, including celebrating and valuing diversity; maintaining social cohesion; communicating the benefits of Australia's diversity; and responding to intolerance and discrimination.

"The Government believes in the right of all Australians, regardless of where they come from, to enjoy and contribute fully to Australian society.

This new policy clearly demonstrates that commitment," he said.

Senator Lundy said the Government was committed to supporting policy and programs that strengthen social cohesion and promote inclusion.

"The Government is committed to Australia's brand of multiculturalism and we are proud of our record of successfully leveraging the benefits of our diversity," Senator Lundy said.

"Multiculturalism in Australia is about building a shared sense of nationhood forged through mutual respect, common values and a commitment to fairness."

The policy also responds to the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia's Different but Equal National Multicultural Agenda of November 2010.

Media Contacts: Bill Kiriakopoulos 0400 510 802 / Laura Stevens 0432 833 769 (Minister Bowen)

Jessica Hill 0407 926 007 (Senator Lundy)

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Multicultural Australia welcomes new policy from government (FECCA)

Multicultural communities and progressive thinkers in Australia should welcome Minister Chris Bowen's announcement of a new Australian Multicultural Policy in Sydney last night.

"This is a red letter day, a day when the Australian Government has shown leadership and rejected European indictments on multicultural societies," said Pino Migliorino, Chair of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) which is the peak national body for multicultural communities in Australia.

FECCA has strongly advocated for a national multicultural policy and submitted its own "Different But Equal- FECCA's National Multicultural Agenda" to the government in October 2010. The new government policy reflects many of the recommendations of FECCA's agenda particularly in addressing the realms of belonging, participation and contribution of multicultural Australians. FECCA had also emphasised the importance of cultural maintenance, focus on the rights and not just the responsibilities of multicultural Australians and on the importance of data and research, all of which are included in the government's Australian Multicultural Policy.

FECCA launched a national campaign in Sydney in November 2010, "Reclaim Multiculturalism" which drew over 120 organisations and leaders across Australia supporting its national agenda.

Mr. Migliorino said, "We congratulate the government on telling the world that Australian multiculturalism is unique, successful and vital in creating a peaceful and harmonious society. We commend the Minister for his eloquent exposition of the genius of multiculturalism and acknowledge the passion of thousands of Australians who supported our advocacy. The world will watch while we celebrate Australian multiculturalism; this is only the beginning."

Mr Migliorino added that the leadership shown by the Minister and the government will influence the important next steps which are to develop the structures and programs for multiculturalism to flourish in Australia. **For comments please call Pino Migliorino 0411137700 or 026282575**

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N E D A

PRESS RELEASE

People from non English speaking background with disability – a decade and a half of a national voice

The National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) is the national peak organisation representing the rights and interests of people from non-English speaking background (NESB) with disability, their families and carers throughout Australia.

NEDA is celebrating its 15th anniversary of consumer representation. The celebration will be held on **23 February 2011, 2pm – 5pm at Melbourne Town Hall, Yarra Room.**

‘For 15 years NEDA has been advocating and campaigning for human rights and social justice for people from non English speaking background with disability’ states Juan de la Torre.

‘Our vision is an inclusive Australia where cultural diversity and disability rights are valued as essential aspects of an equitable society,’ he continues.

Sibylle Kaczorek suggests that ‘NEDA has done good work over the years and we are proud of this. The barriers we face in the representation of the rights of our constituency are often structural and matters of legislation. Positive changes in these areas are harder to come by.’

‘We have seen encouraging initiatives by the Government over the past years; these need to be developed further to result in enabling and inclusive changes and outcomes’ says Kaczorek.

She states, ‘NEDA was successful in attracting an educational grant from the Attorney General’s Department for human rights education for people with disability and staff will be developing the education workshops in collaboration with NEDA’s constituency and academia.’

‘A highlight of the 15th anniversary celebration is the introduction of NEDA’s Patron for 2011’, de la Torre adds. ‘Professor Ron McCallum, Senior Australian of the Year 2011 and the Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will be launching NEDA’s postcard campaign to the Prime Minister the Hon Julia Gillard’.

Prof McCallum notes, ‘I support NEDA’s campaign to end the antiquated rule that migrants must wait ten years before they can receive the Disability Support Pension. I do not believe that this policy is in line with the spirit of human rights as expressed through the CRPD.’

NEDA works closely with other national peak bodies who will be speaking at the celebration. Another highlight of the event will be the launch of the disability policy by the Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia.

Juan de la Torre is the President, Sibylle Kaczorek is the Executive Officer of NEDA. The National Ethnic Disability Alliance is the national peak organisation representing the rights and interests of people from non-English speaking background (NESB) with disability, their families and carers throughout Australia.

NEDA is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to provide policy advice to the Australian Government and other agencies on national issues affecting people from NESB with disability, their families and carers.

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ASC MEDIA RELEASE, Monday, 21 February 2011

Minister for Sport Mark Arbib and Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Citizenship Kate Lundy today announced the Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program to create opportunities for young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds to engage with sport.

Senator Arbib said eligible organisations would be able to receive grants of up to \$50,000 to support the costs associated with sport and physical activity.

“Sport is intricately linked to the Australian way of life. Sport teaches our children self-discipline, team work and how to reach your goals,” Senator Arbib said.

“Sport fosters a tolerance and understanding of different cultures, on the sporting field all that matters is the game. It has the power to cross cultural, religious and political divides.

“The grants could help off-set costs like membership fees, travel to sporting events, uniforms and coaching and officials’ costs.

“The Gillard Government is committed to ensuring that more young people have access to safe, fun and inclusive sporting opportunities. We want our sporting teams to reflect the diversity of our nation.”

The Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program forms a key part of Australia’s multicultural policy.

Senator Lundy said the Australian Government was committed to creating a more inclusive, multicultural society.

“Australia is a nation of many passions - the new multicultural policy highlights our diverse culture, our commitment to embracing our new migrants,” Senator Lundy said.

“In addition to the Multicultural Youth Sport Partnership Program, the Gillard Government has announced a new Multicultural Council, a National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy and Multicultural Arts and Festivals Funding.

“The Gillard Government is committed to creating an inclusive and united Australia that champion’s multicultural policy with a focus on access and equality.”

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ASIC's Credit Outreach Team - A New Credit Era

From July 1 2010, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) became the national regulator of consumer credit. This new law, the National Consumer Credit Protection Act, aims to increase consumer protection for all Australians.

As part of ASIC's role in increasing consumer protection, a national Credit Outreach Team has been created. This team goes out into the community to explain the benefits of the new changes and to increase consumers' awareness of their rights and responsibilities around credit. The team is also working to develop translated materials around credit and debt. ASIC's resources are available on www.fido.gov.au

What is the Credit Outreach Team doing over the next 12 months to increase consumer awareness?

One of the key roles of the Credit Outreach Team is to work in partnership with Government and community agencies to develop education resources for culturally and linguistically diverse communities. This will in turn empower consumers to make informed choices in relation to credit. Another area of focus for the Credit Outreach Team is providing education and information to people who have a mortgage and are experiencing financial difficulties.

How to make a complaint

If your complaint concerns a product or service you have purchased, you should first raise your complaint with the business or person who provided you with the goods or services you are complaining about.

If you cannot resolve the problem with them, or if your complaint is about misconduct or illegal activity by a company or person, then ASIC may be one of a number of government and non-government organisations able to help you.

If your complaint is about a credit provider or credit assistance provider you will have to talk to them first to explain the problem. If you are unhappy with their response you can then make a formal complaint with an independent External Dispute Resolution (EDR) Scheme. The two ASIC-approved EDR Schemes are the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Credit Ombudsman Service Limited.

Sometimes, making a complaint can be difficult to do. To make this easier, you can contact the Credit Outreach team member in your state and they can assist you. You can also contact ASIC's Info line on 1300 300 630 to make a complaint.

Who to contact?

If you would like more information or to inquire about your agency receiving training in the new credit regime, contact your state Credit Outreach Team member on the number listed below. Victoria/Tasmania: Michelle Bonardi 03 9280-3447

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated around Australia on 21 March each year. It's a day where all Australians celebrate our cultural diversity. The day is also the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and gives people the opportunity to celebrate what makes each Australian unique and share what we have in common.

The continuing message for Harmony Day in 2011 is that **Everyone Belongs**, which means all Australians are a welcome part of our country, regardless of their background. It's a time to reflect on where Australia has come from, recognising the traditional owners of this land. It's also about community participation, inclusiveness and respect – celebrating the different cultures that make Australia a great place to live. DIAC supports a range of community events and activities held to celebrate Harmony Day by providing free promotional products.

Harmony Day began in 1999 and since then, a wide variety of groups including sports organisations, community groups, local government, schools and businesses have staged more than 25 000 Harmony Day events.

The following are the registered non-school events for Harmony day:

Glenorchy Football Federation Tas & Hobart United Football Club: The inaugural Harmony Day Football Cup is being held on the 20th of March at the Glenorchy Showgrounds. This event is being jointly run by Football Federation Tasmania and the Hobart United Football Club and will involve a mini 'world cup' tournament of friendly soccer matches between teams representing Tasmania's vibrant and diverse communities, culminating in a play-off for the Cup! One aim of the Harmony Day Football Cup is to help members of Tasmania's migrant and humanitarian entrant communities connect to the wider Tasmanian community through the lens of sport, in what will be a fun day for all involved. Registration costs are \$5 per player. Games will be 30 minutes long and each team will play at least four games on the day. Hobart United will be providing a free BBQ and football activities for the kids. To register for the event, please contact Aubert on 0431 478 980.

Hobart City Council: Entertainment and Official Civic Welcome on 21st March 2011.

Kingston/Blackmans Bay Scout Group: Harmony Day promotion and free sausage sizzle in the local shopping centre on 19th March 2011.

Launceston Centrelink: Launceston CSC will have a Harmony Day display in their public area and will promote the event to staff and customers with Harmony Day promotional products on 21st March 2011.

Glenorchy City Council: The Moonah Taste of the World Festival, a celebration of Glenorchy's cultural diversity through food, music, dance and craft will be held in Moonah on 27th March 2011.

Hobart Royal Hobart Hospital Diversity Officers: Will run a stall with an 'orange' theme, including fresh oranges, balloons, badges etc and will distribute these to the patients, staff and visitors to the Royal Hobart Hospital on the 21st March 2011. This will also be coordinated with a special menu of multicultural foods in the main cafeteria. They also hope to be sponsored to give away slushy orange juices. Should be a fun, diverse day!!!

WISE Employment: An event/bbq for CALD clients and services that partner with Wise Employment will be held at Hut No. 10, Tolosa park, Glenorchy from 12 noon onwards on the 21st March 2011.

Ravenswood Neighbourhood House: In partnership with local services they will be celebrating and promoting cultural awareness and acceptance through a range of activities including cooking, dance and craft on 22nd March 2011.

Waverley Ravenswood Neighbourhood House: Hosting children's fun activities to encourage diversity in the local community on 21st March 2011.

New Town Centacare IHSS: Hosting an Afternoon Tea for newly arrived Humanitarian Entrants, IHSS staff and volunteers on the 21st March 2011.

Mowbray Northern Suburbs Community Centre Inc: Hosting Harmony Day Longest Lunch - join with others for a tasty bbq and salad lunch on the 21st march 2011. A chance to share lunch with old friends as well as making new ones. Free transport is available through the northern suburbs. For more details call on 63 26 5506. All Welcome.

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The Moonah Taste of the World

Sunday March 27th 2011

11.00am to 3.00pm

Central Moonah Car park (entry via Hopkins St, Albert Road and laneways off Main Road, Moonah)

The inaugural Moonah Taste of the World is a major, one day celebration through food, of the rich multicultural heritage of Glenorchy City and southern Tasmania. Staged in the vibrant suburb of Moonah, a busy hub of diverse eateries and food suppliers, this inaugural event will feature 20 stall holders, presenting a mouth watering selection of dishes and foodstuffs from around the globe at very reasonable prices.

Between sampling a range of taste sensations, patrons can enjoy free live music from some of Tasmania's best known World Music performers; a range of community dance troupes; and even a special ticketed performance by visiting Korean Children's Theatre company, Halmang, courtesy of 10 Days on the Island and Moonah Arts Centre!!

And make sure you catch *The Fabric of My Table*, a professionally designed free photographic display, capturing images of our many diverse communities, growing, preparing and cooking their favourite foodstuffs and recipes – this project is made possible by Festivals Australia, an Australian Government program which supports cultural activity at regional and community festivals.

There will be time to chat with stall holders, some of whom will be presenting their cuisine at a public event for the first time; and above all plenty of opportunity to enjoy the great tastes of global cooking from around the world, brought to you by the many diverse communities and individuals who now call Tasmania home.

The Moonah Taste of the World is brought to you by Glenorchy City Council in association with the Moonah Traders Association and our major event sponsors, The Tasmanian Government, Telstra, Nystar, Westpac and Festivals Australia. Event organisers particularly acknowledge and thank the many local businesses that have contributed to the event by sponsoring a stall or assisting on the day.

For regular event updates see the Glenorchy City Council website and/or become a friend of the event on Facebook/ Moonah Taste of the World.

For all other inquiries please contact the MTOW Co-ordinator Rebecca Essex on 6216 6361 or ressex@gcc.tas.gov.au

Gearing Up: Living Your Potential Expo

Gearing Up: Living Your Potential Expo highlight the education, training, employment and recreational [census](#) opportunities for people with a disability or health condition. They include a number of exhibitors, entertainment and hands-on interactive activities. Fun, informative and a must-do on your schedule for this year !!!

Launceston: 4th April at the Tailrace Centre

Burnie: 12th May at the Burnie Civic Centre

Hobart: 4th July at the Derwent Entertainment Centre

Check out the Gearing Up website www.ndcotas.com.au/gearingup to keep you updated about what is happening. Also you can follow the expo updates through Facebook

The 2011 Census will be held on 9 August 2011, marking 100 years of Census taking in Australia.

CONFERENCE: Early Bird Registration is now open for the 2011 VT Changing our World Conference

The 2011 VT Changing our World Conference will be held over 2 days during National Volunteer Week, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th May at The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel. The conference will feature a mixture of paper presentations and workshops relating to the theme Inspire, Lead and Innovate. Amongst the speakers we are pleased to welcome International Guest, David Rendall.

The program promises to challenge, engage and inspire you to explore issues and attitudes towards volunteering. There will be opportunities to network and share information as we explore what managing volunteering is all about and how we can continue to protect and grow the contribution of volunteers into the future.

The conference will appeal to volunteer coordinators and decision makers and leaders in our community. It will involve a range of sessions, including workshops, debates and forums which explore issues and attitudes and which will actively involve conference participants. For more information, <http://volunteeringtas.org.au/for-organisations/conference-2011/>

Tasmanian Youth Conference

A Festival for young agents of change and a development opportunity for those that support them May 18 and 19, Tram sheds Conference Centre, Inveresk (Launceston).

The Conference aims to help develop the skills, experiences and knowledge of young Tasmanians ages 12-24 to participate in their communities. For more information, admin@ynot.org.au or 62235511.

MY VOICES 2011

Tasmanian Multicultural Statewide youth forum presented by **The Multicultural Youth (MY) Voices Group and The Glenorchy Youth Task Force**

WHEN: Friday 25th March 2011 10am - 4:30pm

WHERE: Glenorchy Civic Centre , Cooper Street, Glenorchy

WHY: * Celebrating & sharing cultures

* Identifying & prioritizing issues

* To create a positive image of multicultural young people in our communities

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS: 10am - 4:30pm

Young people participating in this free forum need to fill in a registration form which is available from your teacher or Georgi Marshall (see contact details below)

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 11th MARCH

GUESTS: 3pm - 4pm You are invited to come and listen to multicultural youth voices prioritising issues and presenting their ideas in this session of the forum REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

Department of Health & Human Services

Living Works Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

When: Thursday 24th & Friday 25th March 2011 9:00 am – 4.30pm on both days

(Lunch, morning & afternoon tea will be provided)

Where: Lifeline, 5 Battery Square, Battery Point Cost: FREE - provided by the Phoenix Centre

This workshop provides practical help for care givers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Participants will learn how to:

Recognise opportunities for help

Reach out and offer support

Estimate the level of suicide risk

Apply a model for suicide intervention

Link people with community resources

Registrations to be received ASAP or by Friday March 11th 2011

Direct queries to: Yabbo Thompson Ph: 62349138 Mbl: 0419325190 or ythompson@mrchobart.org.au

This training will be provided by:

“The Phoenix Centre gratefully acknowledges the funding provided under the Australian Government National Suicide Prevention Program”

Community Development Division - DPaC

Are you 60 years of age or over? Do you want more for your money? You may be eligible for the **FREE** State Government Seniors Card.

What is the Seniors Card: The Seniors Card is a free card program that gives you

- Access to government and business discounts.
- Public transport concessions Australia-wide.

To be eligible for the Tasmanian Seniors Card:

- You must be a resident of the state.
- 60 years of age or over, and

- Not working more than 20 hours per week in paid employment.

To apply:

- If you meet all three of the eligibility criterion you can apply for a Tasmanian Seniors Card at any Service Tasmania shop.
- Complete the form and present it with three pieces of identification from the list below, one with your date of birth, to any Service Tasmania shop.
- ✓ Australian Birth certificate (extract acceptable) or Australian Citizenship papers
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Driver's licence or Firearms licence
- ✓ Medicare Card
- ✓ Credit card/debit card with your signature
- ✓ Department of Veteran's Affairs Card or Centrelink Aged Pension Card
- ✓ Change of Name or Marriage Certificate (from Births, Deaths & Marriages) to prove any name change
- ✓ Bank Statement (must be statement from within last 6 months)
- ✓ Utility account with proof of payment (must be an account from within the last six months)
- Your application will be processed and you will be given your approved form and a receipt with your Seniors Card number on it for your immediate use.

How long is the wait for the card?

Please allow at least 28 days for delivery of your permanent Seniors Card.

Where can the card be used?

- When you receive your permanent card in the post you will also receive the Directory of savings which lists all the businesses that offer a Seniors Card discount.
- Visit the website for all the latest offers at: www.seniors.tas.gov.au
- You can also use your card on other States and Territories where Business Partners have agreed to offer their discounts to interstate Seniors Card holders. Contact the Seniors Card Program in the State or Territory you are visiting and ask for its directory.

What if I lose my card or would like another Directory?

- Visit any service Tasmania shop , or
- Phone 1300 135 513

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Community Capacity Building Grants Now Open

Round two of Community Capacity Building Grants Program is now open. The closing date for this round is **4 April 2011**.

If planning to organise an activity for Seniors Week (1 – 7 October), this is the grant round to consider. The Grants Program is available to local government, not-for-profit community organisations and community groups, and I would encourage your organisation to apply. Please find enclosed an Application Form and Guidelines. A helpful power point presentation "Fundamentals of Grant Writing Workshop" may be found on the website www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd/grants and this webpage also provides more background about the Community Capacity Building Grants Program. If you have any queries about the Grants Program, wish to discuss developing a submission, or obtain some guidance in completing an application, or arrange for a copy of the abovementioned grant writing presentation to be posted to you, please contact Seniors Bureau Project Officer, Tanzi Lewis, by email Tanzi.Lewis@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phoning 6232 7074.

The Australian Honours List

Announced on Australia Day 2011 included 10 people whose work in the community has included the support of refugees: Professor **Louise Newman** AM, Director of the Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology, who is also involved in advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers, including as Convener of the Alliance of Health Professionals for Asylum Seekers; Ms **Margaret Piper** AM, a consultant with over two decades of experience working in the refugee sector, including as RCOA's Executive Director from 1991 to 2005; Ms **Kathy Ragless** AM, Director of Companion House, a specialist provider of torture and trauma rehabilitation services for refugees and asylum seekers in the ACT;

Mr **Peter Hallam** OAM and Mrs **Sue Hallam** OAM, founders of the Sanctuary Australia Foundation, which sponsors and assists refugees who are in desperate situations overseas to resettle in Australia; Mr **Kon Karapanagiotidis** OAM, CEO and founder of the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Australia's largest organisation providing support and advice to asylum seekers; Ms **Nola Randall-Mohk** OAM, Chairperson of the Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre who has provided support and assistance to refugee and migrant communities for over 25 years, particularly through her work with the Khmer Community of NSW and the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women and the Australian Cambodian Association; and Mr **Ramdas Sankaran** OAM, President of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA and Executive Director of the Multicultural Services Centre of WA, which provides support to refugees and migrants in Western Australia.

The winners of the Australian Human Rights Commission's annual Human Rights Medals and Awards were announced on 10 December 2010. The Television Award was presented to the makers of *Football United: Passport to Hope*, a documentary which tells the story of Anne Bunde-Birouste's passionate work to form a team of young Australian refugee kids from countries such as Zimbabwe, Iraq, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Jordan and Sudan to represent Australia at the World Cup in South Africa. Brisbane's Immigrant Women's Support Service, which provides free, confidential support and assistance to women and their children from non-English speaking backgrounds who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence, was highly commended in the Community category.

Australian Refugee Film Festival 2011 Call for Submissions

Submissions are free and open to both Australian and International films up to 10-15 minutes in duration. Films addressing the following issues are welcome: environmental displacement due to climate change; the refugee journey and the obstacles associated with it; personal triumph stories of refugees and asylum seekers; and documented work of local and international organisations with refugees and asylum seekers. The deadline is 31 March 2011. Visit www.australianrefugeefilmfestival.org for more information.

Cricket Australia Multicultural Talent and Leadership Program

Cricket Australia is on a quest to find Australia's most talented multicultural cricketers. The Multicultural Talent and Leadership Program will provide an elite player performance environment to participants from various ethnic backgrounds to gain further cricket experience both on and off the field. All participants must be aged between 17 and 22 on July 1, 2012. For more information go to, www.cricket.com.au/MTLP

Foolkit, the free legal toolkit

Foolkit is the largest free legal information website in Australia based on the number and variety of resources. It aims to provide access to a range of legal resources to lawyers and the public. Foolkit can be accessed at www.foolkit.com.au

Immigration Nation documentary and interactive website goes live

The screening of *Immigration Nation: the Secret History of Us* began on January 9th. An interactive website, www.sbs.com.au/immigrationnation/interactive. With around 80 videos and 50 support stories, it is a content rich, entertaining and informative website.

Report of inquiry into new human rights legislation

The report of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010* and *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) (Consequential Provisions) Bill 2010* was tabled out of session on 28 January. The two Bills aim to increase consideration of human rights in the parliamentary process by establishing a Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights and introducing a requirement for statements of compatibility to be submitted with all Bills. The report recommends the broadening of the Joint Committee's powers to enable it to independently initiate human rights inquiries and inquire into human rights matters referred to it by either House of the Parliament. The report also recommends the addition of a provision requiring that, in cases where legislation is found to be incompatible with human rights, the extent of and reasons for incompatibilities must be clearly explained. Despite widespread concern about the Bills' limited definition of "human rights", the report does not recommend an expansion of the definition to encompass other international treaties which have a focus on human rights issues, such as the 1951 Refugee Convention. An additional comment submitted by the

Australian Greens noted with particular concern the exclusion of any reference to the Refugee Convention from the Bill. The Bill can be read at www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/human_rights_bills_43/report/index.htm
RCOA's submission to the inquiry can be read at:
www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/submissions/1010_Human_rights_sub.pdf

Latinhub

In March (date tbc) a Spanish website, Latinhub will be active at (www.latinhub.com.au) .This is a new news portal (with local and international information) entirely in Spanish. It is hoped to be much more than a news site as it will include a space for information about the activities promoted by organisations related to the Spanish speaking community and they will be very happy to add these activities to their public calendar which will be Australia-wide.

Abacus Translators

are pleased to announce that they will be opening a new office of their translation agency in Hobart during 2011. Their language services include document translations into more than 100 languages, including languages which are spoken by residents of Hobart.
As a local translation agency, they hope to provide translation services that are both professional and cost effective, especially when compared to other translation agencies based in other capital cities.
They plan to establish themselves as an important link that helps new Australian citizens assimilate while maintaining a connection with their culture via their native languages.
For further information contact Abacus Translators by e-mail on info@abacustranslators.com ,or by phone on 1300 47 55 49, or check their web site at <http://www.abacustranslators.com>.

Getting Back on Track

Do you find yourself:

- taking risks with your money?
- feeling like you're letting people down?
- having trouble following through on plans?
- feeling like you're leading a secret life?

What track do you want to be on? This course is about looking at gambling related challenges, how we want to respond and how to get there. It is open to anyone affected by gambling either now or in the past or anyone that wants to better understand their gambling choices. Gambling can be social or lonely It can help us 'zone out' or cause us more worry Come and find out more about it

Dates: Program starts on Monday 28 March and continues for 4 weeks until Monday 18 April 2011.

Times: 10:00 am till 12:00

Venue: Adult Education Centre, 51 York Street, Launceston

Cost: Free

Book your place: Please phone Patrice or John on 6336 7000 to make enquiries or to book your place
A community education initiative of the Gamblers Help Program funded by the Community Support Levy

General MCoT Information

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