



MCoT News

Welcome to the March 2009 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

From the Chair

Since this is our first Council meeting for this year I am eagerly looking forward to reporting to you, the members. I have just returned from W.A. where the first ever National Conference for Refugee and Immigrant Women took place, called Setting the Social Inclusion Agenda. The conference was well represented and very well organized. Full credit should be given to the host organizers, the Ethnic Communities Council of WA.

It is regrettable that we have lost so much momentum due to the fire at the MRC. It kept us out of the office longer than we could have foreseen. Thankfully it all ended well and there were no injuries. Needless to say our task is going to be more demanding for all concerned especially the executive, management and office staff. We have exciting plans and a positive outlook ahead for MCoT in 2009.

As a FECCA delegate representing MCoT I am pleased to report to you that the many plenary sessions produced positive and constructive input and new ideas, which were noted by FECCA delegates and were tabled for the follow-up discussions held the day after the Conference ended. State delegates/representatives with FECCA will be presenting final documented outcomes to Federal and State governments for consideration.

The next FECCA Conference for 2009 is in Shepparton, Victoria on October 29th and 30th. If you are considering attending, now is the time to start planning.

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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'li 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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Next Council Meeting & Guest Speaker

Due to the fire on 18th February at the Migrant Resource Centre the scheduled council meeting had to be cancelled. The next council meeting is scheduled for the 18th March 2009 at 7.00pm in the Acacia Room at the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Molle Street, Hobart. Please bring your copy of the Minutes from the council meeting of 19/11/08.

Guest Speaker will be Imogen Birley, Community Liaison Officer for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Imogen will be talking about activities being planned in Hobart and Launceston to support Harmony Day on March 21st 2009, and seek Council support and participation in some of the key events. She will also be able to provide updates on the outcome of the 'Living in Harmony' Program review and information on small and large grants.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

German Australian Association

You are invited to come on a journey of Germany, the Bavarian, Austrian and Swiss Alps with Alpenhorn, cowbells and yodel songs. A combined concert of the German *Liedertafel choir* from Adelaide, the Austrian *Alpenfrieden choir* from Adelaide and the *Hobart German choir* is scheduled for 7.00pm on Friday 13th March 09 at the Wesley Church, 58 Melville Street, Hobart. Tickets: \$15.00/\$10.00 seniors. To book phone the German Club (Glenorchy) on 62729445 Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat between 4.00-6.00pm. Doors sales are also available.

Greek Orthodox Church & Benevolent Society

The annual **Estia Greek Festival** is on once again. Beginning with a **Soccer Match** to be held on Monday 9th March – **Street Festival** on 15th March beginning at 10a.m. - **Public Lecture**, *The Jewels that speak to us*, to be given by Dr Jan Crowley at the Centenary Lecture Theatre at the

University of Tasmania on the 17th March at 8 p.m. Cost is free, including supper – **Taverna Night** on 21st of March at Hellenic House featuring a Greek Banquet and entertainment by the Paradise Band from Sydney and John Tikis. Cost \$50, start at 7.30 p.m. – and finally, for the 18 - 30's, **Krazy Kon's DJ Party** on 4th of April at 271 Elizabeth St. (old Lisbon Bar) 8p.m. until late, cost \$15.

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GENERAL NOTICES

Harmony Day

There are a number of great events happening this year to celebrate Harmony Day on March 21. The theme for Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs' - a wonderful inclusive message for our community.

I hope you can get involved in celebrations this year - there are plenty to choose from! You can check out events that are registered for Tasmania by going to www.harmony.gov.au

To date there are over 40 events listed for Tasmania, a fantastic effort, covering workplaces, schools, universities and the polytechnic campuses, childcare centres and more. If you have a look on the website, you'll be able to see more detail about each event, and whether it's open to the public so you can attend.

If you are interested in holding an event in your workplace or local school, you can order promotional products from the website (www.harmony.gov.au) - but get in quick! - and register it to let others know how you are marking the day.

The key public event the Department is supporting this year in Tasmania is the Hobart Peace Festival, on Friday March 20, starting from 4pm, at Tolosa Park Glenorchy. This free event will be a fantastic day, with many activities for all ages to get involved in during the afternoon, and finishing with a concert featuring performances that highlight the depth and diversity of our community.

PROGRAM

4-6pm Try a Bollywood or swing dance lesson
arts and crafts for the kids
have a go at African drumming
check out the information stalls
watch some interesting demonstrations
try your hand at petanque /boules
get involved in a game with the PCYC
enjoy a free massage
add a message to the friendship wall
make a decoration for the concert

From 6.30pm at the Tolosa Park Music Bowl (approx finish 9pm)

Bring a picnic and enjoy a fabulous multicultural concert including Bollywood and other dancers, beautiful African and Chinese music and more

See performances that celebrate the wonderful diversity of our community – and join in the finale!

(IMPORTANT: Free water available on site - BYO all other food and drink)

Brought to you by Dept. Immigration & Citizenship with Glenorchy & Hobart City Councils

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FECCA Conference – Strengthening Multiculturalism and Building Social Inclusion

The 2009 FECCA Conference, Strengthening Multiculturalism and Building Social Inclusion, will be held at the Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, Victoria, on Thursday 29 and Friday 30, October, 2009. Conference registration details, the conference program and website will be announced in the near future.

FECCA would now like to announce a call for papers for the conference breakout sessions, which will be further detailed on the forthcoming conference website.

The conference will be exploring themes, sharing ideas and developing policies through:

- plenary addresses
- panel discussions
- breakout session papers, presentations and workshop

CONFERENCE STREAMS AND CALL FOR PAPERS

FECCA is currently inviting high quality proposals to present papers or conduct workshops at breakout sessions in the streams listed below.

Individual presentations will involve 15 minute presentations followed by 15 minutes for any questions and general discussion. Workshops may be organised differently during the half hour allocation and one hour workshops will be considered for extraordinary proposals. These presentations or workshops may outline relevant research, initiatives or experiences, and may have an academic, community, government, business or policy focus.

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Multicultural Mental Health Australia

On Thursday 19 February Multicultural Mental Health Australia (MMHA) will accept \$2.7 million in funding from the Department of Health and Ageing to continue enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of Australia's culturally diverse communities.

MMHA Chair, A/Prof Abd Malak AM, will join the Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, the Hon. Laurie Ferguson MP, to accept the funding at a special event at the SBS studios in Sydney.

"This funding announcement shows the Federal Government's commitment to meeting the unique mental health needs of these communities," A/Prof Abd Malak said. "It allows MMHA to continue its hard work and innovations in multicultural mental health. MMHA will continue building on its partnerships and developing more mental health resources for these communities."

During the funding announcement, MMHA will also launch a stigma reduction training kit and audio series of mental health fact sheets.

Through a partnership with SBS Radio, MMHA produced a series of CDs in over 20 languages on various mental health topics. The Director of SBS Radio, Paula Masselos, said SBS Radio was very proud and excited to produce such an invaluable resource for so many different communities.

"MMHA and SBS Radio identified the need for this series to better reach and extend these important mental health messages to the entire community, especially those with low literacy levels," Ms Masselos explained.

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My Image My dress My choice

A "women only" event showcasing a fashion parade, superb cuisine and the opportunity to meet amazing women who are passionate about making a difference in today's world.

Come and experience the lives of Australian Muslim women first hand. Be a part of the change in creating a more harmonious and respectful Australian society.

Date: Thursday 2nd April 2009

Time: 6.00pm

Address: Baha'i Centre of Learning
1 Tasman Highway
Hobart

Bookings: Centertainment 6234 5998

Cost: \$35.00
\$20.00 Concession

Date: Saturday 4th April 2009

Time: 6.00pm

Address: Tail Race Centre
1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside
Launceston

Bookings: Princess Theatre Booking
Office 6323 3666

Cost: \$35.00
Cost: \$20.00 Concession

Anglicare brought these dynamic Victorian women to Hobart in 2008 to do their fashion parade. The event was such a success they were able to get funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (through the National Action Plan) to bring them back to Hobart and Launceston in 2009. The funding enabled Anglicare to organise a workshop for Tasmanian Muslim women and some workshops at schools (only southern schools though due to travel logistics) while the Victorian visitors are here.

This is Living

A new theatre show is premiering in Tasmania for the prestigious Ten Days On The Island Festival starring respected Greek Australian actor Mr Lex Marinos.

The show, called *This Is Living*, is a Greek family affair here in Tasmania - as it also stars Mrs Anne Marinos (Lex's wife) and is produced by Lex and Anne's daughter - Miss Sophia Marinos. Developed with four Tasmanian communities, *This Is Living* is a comedy which explores the issues we all face in our lives, relationships and communities, as we approach the twilight years of our lives.

The show will be in Hobart at the Derwent Entertainment Centre 30 & 31 March, 1 April, 7.30pm. Other performances will take place in the following locations across Tasmania:

Wynyard Wharf Theatre 20th & 21st March at 7.30pm

Latrobe Memorial Hall 26th & 27th March at 7.30pm

The Palais, Franklin 4th & 5th April at 7.30pm & 2pm

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