



MCoT News

Multicultural Council of Tasmania Newsletter

Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania

MCoT's Vision

To Be Central in a Culturally and Linguistically and Religiously Diverse, Tolerant, Inclusive and Multicultural Society.

Aims and Objectives

1. To promote joint action and co-operation among ethnic communities on issues of common concern.
2. Ensure people from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds have equal rights, including effective participation in decision-making and sharing of resources.
3. Encourage the development of ethnic organizations and cultural diversity in relation to the social and cultural life of their communities.
4. Foster and promote multicultural education and multiculturalism.
5. Work together for the common good of all Australians and in particular Tasmanians from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds.

Membership

Membership for MCoT is open to all individuals and community organisations that share similar goals and objectives with MCoT, as detailed above.

Annual Membership Fee:
Individuals: \$10.00
Community Organisations: \$30.00

Community organisations need to nominate three (3) members as delegates for their organisation.

Please contact the office on 6231 5067 for the membership or renewal form.

49 Molle Street, Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 798, Hobart TAS 7001
Tel: (03) 6231 5067 Fax: (03) 6231 5069
Email: mcot@tassie.net.au
Website: www.mcot.org.au

October
2008

FROM THE CHAIR:

The annual elections of Management Committee members were held last month during MCoT's AGM. I would like to congratulate the new committee members and look forward to working with them during the next year. In furthering the aims and objectives of MCoT. We hope to see a more pro-active and energetic MCoT.

I am pleased to report that MCoT's Multicultural Evening was a success. The VIP guests included the Lord Mayor - Rob Valentine, Parliamentary Secretary Lisa Singh MHA, Mayor of Glenorchy - Adriana Taylor and Mr Taylor and Mayor of Kingborough - Graham Bury. Many compliments on the evening were received from dignitaries, guests and performers. Many thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed to ensuring that it was an enjoyable and memorable event, a multicultural event which many attending expressed the desire to see become an annual event.

I would also like to thank MCoT's Greek delegate Benetos Gavallas and the Hobart Greek community for all their generosity and work, particularly in the preparation of the very tasty Taverna style meal.

The performances were colourful and very enjoyable. The entertainment began with the ladies from Congo dancing followed by Sujata Dasgupta and girls from the Indian dance group, then the stirring Hobart Highland Pipe Band and the children of the Highland Dancing Troupe, the German Choir, Oberek - the Polish dance group, the Philipino Stick Dancers, the

Greek children performed traditional Greek dances and Melissa Iocco sang 'Ave Maria'. The Steptoe Bush Band ensured that everyone, including the dignitaries, enjoyed themselves on the dance floor.

On Saturday 4th October MCoT hosted its annual senior's barbeque at Tolosa Park, Glenorchy. It was a traditional 4-seasons-in-one Tasmanian day, from bright sunshine to pouring rain. The Mayor of Glenorchy Adriana Taylor and her husband joined in the barbeque along with MCoT members and guests. Next year is MCoT's 30th Anniversary. The Management Committee will soon begin discussing and planning for this event and it may well be decided that the occasion should coincide with the Multicultural Evening. Please let us know your views about this. You can ring, email or post your ideas or comments through to the MCoT office.

DAVOR PEROVIC

Next MCoT Council Meeting:

7.00 pm

15th October 2008

Guest Speaker

Angela Smith

Southern Tasmanian Respite
and Carelink Centre

The Acacia Room
Migrant Resource
Centre,
49 Molle Street

All Welcome

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The MCoT Office Welcomes Visitors

Office Hours are :

Monday-Thursday

9.30 am - 2.30 pm

Friday

Unattended

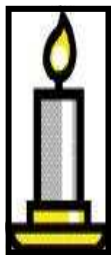


Please telephone 62 31 5067

first, to ensure the office is attended when you plan to drop in.

*Fear less,
hope more;
eat less,
chew more;
whine less,
breathe more;
talk less,
say more;
hate less,
love more;
and all good
things are yours.*

Swedish Proverb



NB. The newsletter is distributed the week prior to the scheduled council meeting

DIABILITY and CULTURE WORKSHOP

There are approximately 1 million Australian from non English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB) with disability. People from (NESB) with disability face a number of barriers to accessing services, gaining employment and education and participating in society.

- How do we make sense of disability within a cultural context?
- How do we make sense of culture within a particular disability context?

This workshop will provide a basic introduction to culture, disability and their intersection. The workshop will provide information on the issues faced by people from NESB with disability and how service providers, advocates and the community as a whole can help remove the barriers.

- Date: **Tuesday 28th October 08**
- Time: **2.00pm - 5.00pm**



N E D A

- Location: **Meeting Room 2, 1st Floor, McDougall Building, Ellerslie Rd, Battery Point**

This is an accessible venue. Please contact in advance to let us know any additional accessibility needs.

Please RSVP by 20th October for catering purposes.

Phone: **6231 5067** or email: **mcot@tassie.net.au**



The National Prescribing Service (NPS) and the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) are currently running a national *Get to know your medicines* campaign with Chinese and Italian speaking seniors. This campaign aims to share information through community education seminars, community service announcements and interviews on Chinese and Italian radio, a multi-lingual web-site and translated health information resources. As part of this campaign, free community health seminars for Chinese seniors are being offered in Tasmania. These free and informative sessions will give participants an opportunity to listen to Health Professional, ask questions and find out more about how to use their medicines safely and reduce risks. To find out more about Community Education Seminars being run in Chinese, please contact the MRC on 6221 0999 **For more information about the campaign or to order free translated resources**, please visit the NPS website www.nps.org.au or email multilingualqum@nps.org.au

October Days

1-7 Seniors Week

National Day (*China - Cyprus - Nigeria - Palau*)

Independence Day (*Tuvalu*)

2 Independence Day (*Guinea*)

Mahatma Ghandi's Birthday (*India*)

3 National Day (*Germany*)

National Foundation Day (*Republic of Korea*)

4 National Day (*Lesotho*)

8 Independence Day (*Croatia*)

9 Independence Day (*Uganda*)

10 National Days (*Fiji*)

7-13 Mental Health Week

12 National Day (*Spain - Equatorial Guinea*)

19 National Day (*Niue*)

21 National Days (*Somalia*)

24 Independence Day (*Zambia*)

United Nations Day

26 National Day (*Australia*)

27 National Day (*Turkmenistan - St Vincent & The Grenadines*)

28 National Day (*Czech Republic*)

29 Republic Day - (*Turkey*)

31 Halloween (*USA*)

COPTIC AUSTRALIANS CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs & Settlement services, Laurie Ferguson, extended his best wishes to Australia’s Coptic Christian community, who celebrated their new year on 11/9/08.. ‘The celebration of the feast of Nayrouz marks the beginning of a new year on the Coptic or Alexandrian calendar which is the oldest known calendar in the world, established by an Egyptian astronomer more than 6000 years ago,’ Mr Ferguson said. ‘The Coptic Christian Church is also the largest Christian church in the Middle East and one of the longest continuous Christian churches in the world. The first Coptic Orthodox Church in Australia was established in 1969 and the Coptic community now contributes to the spiritual well-being of the society through many churches, a monastery, a theological college and through the Macquarie University, which offers a course in Coptic Orthodox studies.’ ‘Coptic Australians are well settled and integrated into the Australian community. They are known for their academic and professional capacities and have reached prestigious academic and professional stature in Australia and all over the world.’ ‘One such individual is Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, who was the sixth United Nations Secretary-General, from 1992-97. Another is Dr Magdy Yacoub, who is based in London and is one the most renowned heart surgeons in the world.’ ‘I wish all Coptic Australians a happy now year,’ Mr Ferguson added.

Media Contact: **Khaldoun Hajaj** **11th Sept 2008**

BECOME A WORK MENTOR

The Work Mentor Scheme is offered as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) at TAFE and is funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

BECOME A WORK MENTOR

The Adult Migrant English Program are seeking volunteers to become Work Mentors to help adult migrants and refugees learn about working in Australia.

WHAT IS A WORK MENTOR?

Work Mentors are people who are employed and would be willing to spend some time with a recently arrived migrant to talk about their type of work, cultural similarities and differences, and how to get ready for working in Australia.

For more information contact: **Gayle Viney** on **6233 7119**
or email: gayle.viney@tafe.tas.edu.au



The Jean Haile Foundation is committed to providing information relating to midlife and healthy aging in women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) . Four fact sheets on women’s health topics are now available in multiple languages, including English, in PDF. These fact sheets may be reproduced for patient counseling and for educational purposes by health professionals and not-for-profit organisations. Any other use of these materials (hardcopy and electronic versions) must be agreed to and approved by the Jean Hailes Foundation for Women’s Health. More information about the foundation, it’s resources and details regarding up-coming health events can be found at: www.jeanhailes.org.au.

The suite of fact sheets in languages other than English now include:

- Understanding menopause and midlife
- Hormone therapy
- Urinary incontinence
- Bone health – preventing osteoporosis

The other language fact sheets can be found at:

www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/398/516/, and individually : Arabic - Filipino* - Macedonian - Spanish - Bosnia - Polish - Tigrigna - Chinese—Italian - Russian - Turkish - Croatian - Khmer - Serbian - Vietnamese.

You are welcome you to reproduce these fact sheets from the website for educational or counseling purposes, or you can call on **03 9562 6771** or freecall **1800 151 441** for hard copy versions

2008 -09 MCoT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

Davor Perovic

Senior Vice Chairperson:

Mahendra Pathik

Vice Chairperson:

David Kuel

Treasurer:

Erik Madsen

Secretary:

Elida Meadows

Committee:

Barbra Blomberg

Alex Dziendziel

Mary Excell

Fatmata Foufanah

Helen Kosmeyer

Merv Kozikas

Ivan Matas

Emilie Schneider

Rohan Wirasinha

New Transcultural Mental Health Network for Tasmania:

The Migrant Resource Centre based in Hobart will manage the new Tasmanian Transcultural Mental Health Network. Tasmania's Mental Health Services and Multicultural Mental Health Australia will initially fund the development of the network for one-year. The network will be modeled on the one currently in operation in the ACT. The Tasmanian Transcultural Mental Health Network will aim to achieve a range of outcomes such as working collaboratively to progress common concerns across the transcultural mental health sector; improving access to mental health services for CALD clients and providing specialist advice to health service providers to support culturally sensitive and appropriate mental health service delivery to CALD clients

The Transcultural Mental Health Network will aim to achieve a range of outcomes such as working collaboratively to progress common concerns across the transcultural mental health sector; improving access to mental health services for CALD clients and providing specialist advice to health service providers to support culturally sensitive and appropriate mental health service delivery to CALD clients. The Tasmanian Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice, the Hon. Lara Giddings, will launch the Transcultural Mental Health Network with MMHA, the Tasmania's Mental Health Services and African community leaders on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at the Migrant Resource Centre 49 Molle Street, Hobart.

For more information please contact: Jane Austin from Tasmania's Mental Health Services on:
03 6230 7812