



MCoT News

Welcome to the September 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

On behalf of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania and the Tasmanian people, I proudly welcome you to our 2007 FECCA Congress.

These were the opening words used by me to welcome FECCA Congress in 2007 as the Interim Chairperson three years ago at the Wrest point
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the readers and MCoT volunteers who contributed to what is to be my last newsletter report as the chairperson. Yes I step down as Chairperson of the

Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCoT). The Constitution requires that I do this after three terms in office but as the Immediate Past Chairperson I look forward to continuing on the Executive and Management Committee.

I feel that Communities and MCoT alike must learn from the mistakes of the past to build on our knowledge and to move forward in a positive way into the future. It means that we have to challenge ourselves creatively to find ways to retain an Australian identity, whilst not losing our diversity. It means that we have to rise to the challenge of empowering and including all sections of the Australian community to enable them to enjoy, participate and contribute towards a united future. By doing this we can together create an inclusive society of which we can be proud. We can foster a better and stronger Tasmania/Australia, which can stand up to the many challenges ahead.

It would be true to say that any society that claims to strive for social harmony and is concerned for the well-being of its populace must implement, as a matter of utmost importance, ways through which resources, services and other necessities are made accessible to all. It would also be true to say that any society that prides itself on the diversity of its members, must also pride itself on each of the elements that make it diverse.

So what does the future hold, one might ask? Is it a future where diversity is welcome and therefore thrives? Where equality and equity are a reality? Where fear, prejudices and racism are things of the past? A tough ask perhaps, but that doesn't mean we should give up. We must work towards making this vision a reality – they shine a light on the issues that must be addressed and help identify what we really want our future as Tasmanian/Australians to be.

Once again I urge you all, member communities, leaders and representatives to join MCoT and play a leading role in advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the young, the old, the established and the new and emerging CALD communities.

Thank you and best wishes to the in-coming Chairperson and committee.

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Next Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on Wednesday 16th September at 7.00 p.m. in the Acacia Room at the Migrant Resource Centre, 49 Molle St.

Please Note : Delegates of organisations that have not paid their membership fees will be unable to vote or nominate for positions on the MCoT committee at the Annual General Meeting. Please check whether your organisation has paid or not before the meeting.

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September Days

- 1 Constitution Day (*Slovakia*)
National Day (*Libya*) / National Day (*Uzbekistan*)
- 2 National Day (*Vietnam*)
- 3 National Day (*Qatar*)
National Foundation Day (*San Marino*)
- 6 National Day (*Swaziland*)
- 7 Independence Day (*Brazil*)
- 8 Independence Day (*Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia*)
National Day (*Andorra*)
- 9 National Day (*Tajikistan*)
National Day (*Democratic People's Republic of Korea*)
- 15 Independence Days (*Costa Rica ,Guatemala ,El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua*)
- 16 Independence Days (*Mexico and Papua New Guinea*)
- 17 Australian Citizenship Day

- 18 Independence Day (*Chile*)
- 19 Independence Day (*St. Kitts and Nevis*)
- 21 National Days (*Armenia and Belize*)
Independence Day (*Malta*)
- 22 Mali Proclamation of Independence Day
- 23 National Day (*Saudi Arabia*)
- 24 National Day (*Guinea Bissau*)
- 30 National Day (*Botswana*)

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NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

Friendship Group Support Migrants

The Circular Head International Friendship Group secured a grant to help migrants with their English. The Free program titled "Show and Tell" was funded by a Small Development Grant through Women Tasmania. It aimed to build confidence and understanding of the basic English language. Friendship Group Coordinator Merma Kelly said the project hoped to give migrants who have been living in Australia for a period of years gain confidence to speak in group gatherings. The course was held at the Tasmanian Polytechnic Smithton campus where instructor Niko Campbell-Ellis was helping break down the language barrier for people who have limited access to social and economic resources.

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GENERAL NOTICES

Seniors Week Barbeque

MCoT's annual Seniors Week BBQ will be held on October 3 2009 at Tolosa Park commencing at 12 noon. For those who are able to come a little earlier at 11.30 a.m. there will be a walk around the reservoir

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Anti-Discrimination/Violence Survey

An Anti-Discrimination /Violence Survey is being undertaken by Centacare to try to find out about discrimination and violence in Tasmania – who is affected, where it happens, how it happens and how often it occurs. Anyone who feels that they have experienced discrimination or violence in Tasmania should look at this survey. The survey includes discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, sexuality, disability and age. Privacy is assured. Forms are available from the MCoT office. Please seriously consider filling them out. Nothing can be done if the authorities are able to say that they don't have the information. Here is a chance to give them some.

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Myer Christmas Pageant

The organiser of this year's Christmas Pageant would like some multicultural choirs or groups to sing along the route of the Pageant. No walking required. The Pageant will be held on November 21st between 9.30 a.m. and 11.30a.m. If you are interested, please contact the Hobart City Council.

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Australian Government

Child Support Agency

The Parents Guide to Child Support now in other languages

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is committed to supporting separated families from all cultural backgrounds.

The Parents Guide to Child Support, the CSA's flagship publication, is now available online in Vietnamese, Arabic, Turkish, Chinese and Spanish. This useful resource assists separated parents to better understand their rights and responsibilities and the services available to them following separation. It includes information on calculating child support payments, support services and much more.

The Child Support Agency offers a range of other support products in languages other than English, such as the popular *Me and my...* booklet series, which covers: parenting from a distance, practical money ideas, forming a workable relationship with your ex, and taking care of yourself after separation. The CSA website can also be translated.

For more information or to download a translated version of *The Parents Guide to Child Support*, or any of our other publications, visit www.csa.gov.au

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TASCROSS 7th Annual Dorothy Pearce Address

'Rediscovering the value of equity for economic prosperity' ... Dr. Marilyn Waring .Dr. Waring is a feminist economist with a PhD in Political Economy, a development consultant who has worked in many countries, a goat farmer, an activist for "female human rights", and currently Professor of Public Policy at the Institute of Public Policy at AUT University, Auckland, NZ. 10 September 2009 , 5.00p.m. for 5.30 p.m. Stanley Burbury Theatre , University of Tasmania, Churchill Avenue , Sandy Bay. Tickets Members and Students - \$15, Non-members - \$25 (tickets include finger food and two drinks). RSVP 28 August 6231 0755 or e-mail admin@tascross.org.au

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FECCA CONFERENCE OCTOBER 29 & 30 2009 SHEPPARTON VICTORIA

Celebrate diversity and support FECCA at the 2009 FECCA Conference "*Strengthening Multiculturalism and Building Social Inclusion*".

To be held in Shepparton, enjoy the fresh produce as well as the stimulating and informative panel session and plenary topics including: Human Rights for Ethnic and Religious Minorities, Multicultural Youth: Identity and Access, Regional Settlement, Interfaith, Social Inclusion for New and Emerging Communities, and Economic Participation and Skills.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Laurie Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services
- Sen Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector
- Dr Sharman Stone, MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
- Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Psychiatrist and Writer
- Clare Martin, CEO, ACOSS
- Shaun Brown, Managing Director, SBS

Date: October 29-30

Venue: Eastbank Centre, Shepparton, Victoria

Book now to take advantage of early bird rates.

Early bird conference registration costs range from \$200 to \$400 depending on the package.

For further information and to register on line visit www.fecca.org.au or call 02 6282 5755.

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Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre

Australian Government

FREECALL 1800 052 222

Does someone in your family need help every day?

Do you need to rest or take a holiday?

You are invited to a morning tea, to find out how we can help carers.

Tuesday 27/10, or Thursday 29/10 Community Based Support South

24 Sunderland St, Moonah

Please phone Meegan to book your place, or phone anytime to talk to someone about how we can help you.

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Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Is the leading cause of blindness in Australia for people aged 50+.

For a **FREE** AMD screening with an optometrist in the Vision Van phone **1800 176 255**.

The Vision Van will be visiting the following locations on the following dates.

Location	Date
Devonport	21 and 22 September
Beauty Point	23 and 24 September
Launceston	25 and 28 September
Glenorchy	30 September ,1 October
Rosny Park,Hobart	2 and 5 October
Wrest Point Casino, Hobart	4 October
Kingston	6 and 7 October

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MEN'S HEALTH The M5 Project

Sunday September 20 from 11 a.m.

Get expert health advice at the Tasmanian Transport Museum, Anfield St. Glenorchy.

A fun day for the whole family. Admission for men is **FREE**.

(Supported by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Diabetes Tasmania, Cancer Council of Tasmania, Lifeline Hobart and the Tasmanian Government).

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Get involved in Our Island Our Voices: a new campaign for a fairer Tasmania www.ourisland.tascoss.org.au

The **Our Island Our Voices** campaign for a fairer Tasmania has begun and we need your help in getting Tasmanians to sign on!

Our Island Our Voices is about ensuring that all major political parties make clear commitments to health, education, and services in the lead up to the March 2010 State election. It is about advocating for a clear commitment from political parties to community service organisations.

You can help make the campaign a success by:

- logging on to the campaign website, joining-up and emailing the call to parties to Tasmania's major political parties and their candidates for the March 2010 State election.
- circulating this email to your colleagues, friends and family and encouraging them to support the push for a fairer Tasmania.
- organising your own pre-election events to promote the issues in the call to parties.
- putting a link to the campaign website on your own web homepage
- adding 'I support the Our Island Our Voices campaign for a fairer Tasmania (www.ourisland.tascoss.org.au)' to your email signature.

The campaign will only be successful if people sign on and get involved. It only takes 5 minutes to get started, so please join up and email all major political candidates asking them to tell you what they will do for a fairer Tasmania.

Please also circulate this email among your networks and urge as many people as possible to join the campaign for a fairer Tasmania.

If you have any questions about the **Our Island Our Voices** campaign please contact Luke Martin at TasCOSS on 62310755.

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Tasmania's political leaders agree to a free public debate

Premier David Bartlett, Liberal Leader Will Hodgman and Tasmanian Greens Leader Nick McKim will meet in a free, open and public debate in **Hobart on Tuesday, the 1st of December at the Federation Concert Hall. Bookings essential** - members of the public will need to register, and are invited to ring TasCOSS on 6231 0755 to book their free tickets or register their details online at www.ourisland.tascoss.org.au to be posted their free tickets.

The People's Debate is a joint initiative of leading Tasmanian organisations: TasCOSS, Unions Tasmania, the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania (TICT), the Property Council of Tasmania, Environment Tasmania and Australian Medical Association (AMA) Tasmania Branch.

The debate will be independently moderated and cover a broad range of issues for Tasmania's economy, community, democracy and environment.

CEO of TasCOSS Tom Muller said, "We believe Tasmanians value their democracy and will support this historic event."

"The three party leaders are to be commended for agreeing to participate in the debate and for ensuring that Tasmanians have the chance to see them debate at a free and public event."

For more information, please contact:

Daniel Hanna 0408 144 884

Tom Muller 0448 310 043

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Introduction to Volunteering

Not sure where to start ? Want to know more ?

Wednesday September 16th 2009 10 a.m. -11 a.m.,Glenorchy Volunteer Centre,631 Main Rd. Berriedale. Register on 62144571 – please leave a message if the office is unattended.

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Multilingual Audio Version of Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights

An audio version (in English and 17 other languages) of the Australian Charter is now available for people who are vision impaired: [Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights](#) (MP3 1017 KB). [A guide for patients, consumers, carers and families](#) (MP3 1968 KB)

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Good Food for New Arrivals website

A nutrition awareness program which aims to improve access to food and nutrition information available to newly arrived humanitarian and refugee families with young children. A range of program resources can be accessed at www.asetts.org.au/nutrition.

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Beginning a Life in Australia

The booklets are available to download online in **English** and in **37 other community languages**. They welcome **newly-arrived migrants and humanitarian entrants** to Australia and provide **settlement information** that will also be useful to sponsors and service providers. The booklets contain advice on what to do after arrival in Australia, information about emergency services and where to go for help regarding settlement, legal aid and counselling services. They also have information on Australian customs and laws, housing, transport, employment and education, on the health and social security systems and much more.

The material is targeted at all prospective and newly arrived migrants in Australia.

[http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/beginning-life/.](http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/beginning-life/)

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Generic medicines — Information for people from multicultural communities - National Prescribing Service Limited

The National Prescribing Service's (NPS) Generic medicines are an equal choice campaign provides independent evidenced-based information about medicines. This site will help you get **to know about generic medicines** and the choices you need to consider when deciding about medicines.

http://www.nps.org.au/consumers/campaigns/generic_medicines/cald_home .

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Launch of the Dinka-English Picture Dictionary

An initiative of the Dinka Literacy Association, a not-for-profit community organisation run by members of the Southern Sudanese community in the Auburn area. The Dinka Literacy Association supports the maintenance of Dinka culture and language and seeks to literacy to the Sudanese teach Dinka **community**. The aim is to build the capacity of the Sudanese Dinka speaking community so as to read and write in their own language. This will assist them to increase their ability to learn English and participate in the wider community. To obtain copies of the Dictionary, contact Ayan Makor from the Dinka Literary Association on 02 9649 5559.

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NEW OVERSEAS STUDENTS RULES TO PROTECT

FECCA is happy to report that the Federal Government is introducing tougher their overseas students rules to protect overseas students from “shonky” operators. This move follows claims that some training schools are ripping off

Introducing the new rules, Education Minister Julia Gillard said “the message to providers is, if you’re not providing your students with a quality education in a safe environment, clean up your act or risk being shut down

The main changes will require all institutions now registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students to re-register under tougher criteria by the end of next year, and make the use of education agents “more transparent and accountable”.

FECCA is pleased the Government is moving to clean up any dodgy ripping off our educational colleges vocational international students. We hope this process is done well before the end of next year through strict monitoring and enforcement of shonky colleges still operating”, said Voula Messimeri, FECCA Chair.

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General MCoT Information

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