



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 organizations that share similar goals and objectives with MCoT, as detailed above.

Annual Membership:

Individuals \$10.00
Community Organizations \$30.00

Community organizations need to nominate three (3) members as delegates for their organization.

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

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MCoT News

Multicultural Council of Tasmania Newsletter

Promoting Multiculturalism and Harmony in Tasmania

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July 2008

From the Chair

I would like to thank the community representatives which attended the community consultation at UTAS Hobart campus on Saturday 5th July. MCoT, through its members was able to participate and contribute to the up-coming UTAS Conference in Launceston, "Social Inclusion & Exclusion of Culturally Diverse Communities: Strategies & Experiences".

It was pleasing to see members of new and emerging communities sharing their past and present experiences with members of older more established communities, in a very relaxed atmosphere. The up-coming conference on the 1st and 2nd August 08 is free of charge for nominated community representatives, including a daily bus service to and from Launceston. I urge community representatives to register through the MCoT office or Matthew Hingston on **6226 1880** and take advantage of this rare opportunity.

Most conferences are dominated by politicians, academics and service providers but on this occasion we have the opportunity to have our issues heard; eg education, employment, housing, health care, aged care, racism, law enforcement and their impact on the health and well-being of families and their culture and community.

As I informed you in our last newsletter, MCoT is organising a multicultural dinner and musical evening on the 27th September 2008. Hopefully most of you will attend and make this a rich and colourful evening reflecting what multiculturalism offers our communities and the broader Australian community.

During the 200 odd years of migration to Australia a great number of migrants that arrived here have been a cohesive part of the Australian community and have been productive out of proportion to their actual

numbers. They have never sought to break away from Australian society or to enforce their ways on the rest of the country. Migrants simply wanted to be themselves, get on with their lives and just be accepted as Australians. We are all subject to the rule of Australian law. We cannot now reverse the policy that recognised the contribution of migrants and refugees to the nation, so let us welcome all new arrivals, treat them as equal citizens and encourage them to contribute to Australian society, of which they are a part.

Australia cannot turn back time to an era of white European dominance with constant references to "mainstream" and assertions of the superiority of one culture and one set of ideals over all others. Cultural diversity and multiculturalism are not ends unto themselves; they are tools which, in the right hands and with a vision to guide them, can build rich, peaceful and hugely rewarding societies.

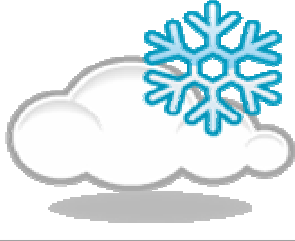
I look forward to working with the Management Committee and communities to ensure that this is a memorable multicultural evening with lots of entertainment, good food, great friends and lots of fun.

Davor Perovic
Chairperson

Next MCoT Council Meeting
7.00 pm
16th July 2008

Guest Speaker
Mary Dickins (DIAC)

The Acacia Room
Migrant Resource
Centre,
49 Molle Street
All Welcome



The MCoT Office Welcomes Visitors

Office Hours are :

Monday-Thursday

9.30 am - 2.30 pm

Friday

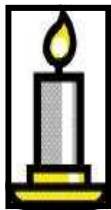
Unattended



Please telephone
62 315067
first, to ensure the
office is attended
when you plan to
drop in.

*Nothing is
more
dangerous
than an
idea when
it is the
only one
you have*

Emile Chartier



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

The inaugural Tasmanian International Storytelling Festival will commence on Sun 31/8/08 with an opening ceremony at the Mt Nelson Signal Station and will run daily at various venues throughout Southern Tasmania, during the first week of September.



It will culminate in a celebratory concert at the historic Rosny Barn on Saturday 6/9/08. The TISF has been organised in recognition of a resurgence of interest in storytelling globally. Stories are the traditional way in which humans have shared their history, traditions and general lessons for living including attitudes, values, morals and acceptable behaviours. Storytelling encompasses virtually every facet of human endeavour. Although it is an ancient tradition, storytelling is just as powerful in the age of global electronic communication because it establishes a direct and personal link between the storyteller and the listener. Storytellers have a unique opportunity within our society to occupy a space largely ignored by the popularist electronic media and actually inspire positive changes for the betterment of the world and their fellow humans.

INDIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

The Indian Cultural Society will present their annual dinner on 19th July from 6.00pm at the Hellenic Hall in North Hobart. Tickets cost: **\$55.00**, members: **\$50.00**, students: **\$35.00**, children under 10: **\$15.00**.

Abel Tasman Art Prize

The winner of the Abel Tasman Art Prize is Lotte Kema, from Holland. She is visiting Tasmania for three weeks as part of her prize.

Membership Renewal

Organisation: \$ 30.00

Individuals: \$ 10.00

2007-2008 was a great year with new memberships from new communities, let's make 2008-2009 even better!

July Days

- 1 National Day (*Burundi*)
- Canada Day
- Republic Day (*Somalia*)
- 3 National Day (*Belarus*)
- 4 Independence Day (*United States of America*)
- Liberation Day (*Rwanda*)
- 5 National Day (*Venezuela*)
- National Day (*Cape Verde*)
- Tynwald Day (*Isle of Man*)
- 6 **NAIDOC Week (6-13 July)**
- 7 National Day (*Nepal*)
- National Day (*Solomon Islands*)
- 9 Independence Day (*Argentina*)
- 10 Independence Day (*Bahamas*)
- 11 National Day (*Mongolia*)
- 12 National Day (*Kiributi*)
- 14 Bastille Day (*France*)
- 20 National Day (*Colombia*)
- 21 National Day (*Belgium*)
- 23 National Day (*Egypt*)
- 26 National Day (*Liberia*)
- National Day (*Maldives*)
- 28 Independence Day (*Peru*)
- 30 Independence Day (*Vanuatu*)

NEDA Member & Key Stakeholder and Council Meetings

The NEDA Member and Key Stakeholder meeting was held at the Mercure Hotel, Sydney on Friday June 20th followed by a Council meeting on the following day.

Along with NEDA Council Chairperson Michele Castagna (Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia), and NEDA Executive Officer Dinesh Wadiwell, member and Council representatives from each state were in attendance. Marcella Perovic represented MCoT at the Members and Stakeholders meeting and Elida Meadows was our representative at the Council meeting.

The aim of the Member meeting was to discuss the national challenges and opportunities that NEDA faces, going on into the future and strategies on how to address the various issues that were identified. The Council meeting considered governance issues within the current environment, identifying strategies to promote and extend the work of NEDA.

At the conclusion of both meetings Michele Castagna thanked all those attending for the commitment and dedication to NEDA demonstrated by the input received, feedback and comments. With regards the Members and Stakeholders meeting she also went on to state "I believe that the meeting was most productive and has provided direction and guidance to Dinesh and to NEDA on a whole. The day was exemplified by a consciousness to move forward and to bring NEDA into the future with it's own voice".

Likewise, the Council meeting was described by both Michelle and Dinesh as very productive and inspiring.

NEDA has recently made several submissions including one to the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy. In relation to this submission, the following facts are of particular interest:

People from NESB with disability are:

- Approximately half as likely to be in the labour force as English Speaking Background people with disability.
- Are three times less likely to utilise a government funded disability employment support service than a person from English Speaking Background.
- Of those people from NESB with disability in the labour force, experience a lower rate of employment than those from English Speaking Backgrounds, and an unemployment rate at more than three times that of the general population.

The summary of this is that only 1 in 10 people from NESB with disability are in the labour market; and of these, 1 in 5 can't find a job, and nobody can access an employment service!

If you have any comment on this or any other issue related to disability within your community, please talk to us so that we can better advocate for NESB disabled in Tasmania at this national forum.

Do your employees have a valid visa to work in Australia?

It is now a criminal offence to allow a person to work, or refer a person for work, where that person does not have a valid visa or is working in breach of their visa conditions.

Business owners are being encouraged to check a person's work entitlements to ensure they have a visa that allows them to work in Australia.

Illegal work denies Australians the opportunity to gain employment and can result in the exploitation of non-Australian citizens.

"Checking work entitlements makes good business sense. The last thing a business owner wants is to lose a worker because they do not have a valid visa to work in Australia" Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, said.

If you are convicted of these offences you could face fines of up to \$13 200 and/or two years' imprisonment per illegal worker hired. Companies face fines of up to \$66 000 per illegal worker. You may also come under the scrutiny of other government agencies, such as the Australian Taxation Office and Centrelink that work with DIAC to reduce the incidence of illegal work.

It is easy to check the work entitlements of a prospective employee who is not an Australian citizen.

If you have internet access, you can check their work entitlements through DIAC's Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) website service. VEVO is a free service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, enabling you to determine whether someone has an entitlement to work within a matter of seconds. To register to use VEVO go to www.immi.gov.au/vevo.

If you don't have internet access, you can use DIAC's toll-free Visa Entitlement Verification Faxback Service to check work entitlements. Phone 1800 040 070 to find out more about using the service or log on to www.immi.gov.au/vevo and download the Faxback form *Authority to Obtain Details of Visa Status*.

For more information about the faxback service, VEVO, or the legislation, call the Employers' Immigration Hotline on 1800 040 070, during 8.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Information is also at www.immi.gov.au/employer-obligations.

Multicultural Council of Tasmania (Inc)
49 Molle Street
HOBART TAS 7000

**Tasmania Migrant and Humanitarian
Entrant Community Group Input**

2006-08 Access & Equity Annual Report

Each year the Australian Government produces an *Access and Equity* report to assess the accessibility of Australian Government agencies for all members of the Australian community. Through the report, the Government aims to achieve fairer and more accessible government services and programs. The 2006 *Access and Equity* report can be found at: http://www.immi.gov.au/about/reports/accessible_government/index.htm

Migrants and humanitarian entrants represent an important sector of the Australian community. Accordingly, the Government aims to provide services that are responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of Australia's diverse society.

For example, Australian Government agencies should consult with migrant community groups and where possible, provide information that is translated into community languages.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) assists the compilation of the *Access and Equity* report by consulting with migrant and humanitarian entrant community members each year.

It is now time to commence consultations in Tasmania for the 2006-08 report. Your community may have already received a letter from Mary Dickins, the Community Liaison Officer, in the Tasmania DIAC office about the report. She will also attend the MCoT meeting on Wednesday 16 July to talk to you about the process of receiving community feedback and answer any questions.