



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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June 2008

From the Chair

I hope you have all received the information emailed and posted out from the office regarding the UTAS Diversity Conference to be held in Launceston on the 1st and 2nd of August 08. The University of Tasmania is hoping for a broad representation of the various community groups in the south of the state. To facilitate this for individuals the university has offered free registration and transport (via bus) to and from the venue for community member representatives. I take this opportunity to urge MCoT members to take advantage of the offer and attend the conference.

The last MCoT council meeting was very well attended and many community groups were represented to witness the official handing over of the Government Grant by Lisa Singh MHA, Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development. Also in attendance were; Marguerite Scott, Director of Community Development and Janet Ong, Manager of Multicultural Tasmania.

I am pleased to inform you that the FECCA Chairperson, Ms Voula Messimeri has been appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), in the general division. In the official honours listing this is recorded as being awarded on the basis of "service to the community through executive roles with a range of multicultural organisations and advocacy roles on behalf of migrants, refugees and women".

The combined Executive and Management Committee are in the process of organising a multicultural dinner, which will be held at the Hellenic Hall in Federal Street, North Hobart in September 08, with the focus on community diversity and inclusion. We are planning entertainment and food that reflects the varied communities. In order to achieve the best result I urge as many community representatives as possible to attend the next MCoT meeting and put forward any ideas or suggestions. Your input will be invaluable and will help ensure that the evening is enjoyable and a resounding success. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you at the next meeting on 18th June. I would like to make this opportunity to thank our out-going NEDA representative, Sajini Sumar, for her past representation and wish her well for the future and I also wish to welcome our interim representative to NEDA, Elida Meadows and wish her well.

Davor Perovic

Next MCoT Council Meeting

7.00 pm
16th July 2008

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

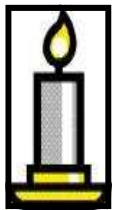
Unattended



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

Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.

Samuel Johnson
(1709—1784)



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

UPDATES

NEDA

(NATIONAL ETHNIC DISABILITY ALLIANCE)

The NEDA Member and Key Stakeholder Meeting is being held in Sydney on Friday the 20th June. **NEDA's vision** is for an inclusive Australia where cultural diversity and disability rights are valued as essential aspects of an equitable society and their **mission** is to represent the rights and interests of people from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) with a disability, in partnership with their families, carers and service providers across Australia.

Philippine Independence Day

Celebrations to commemorate Philippine Independence Day will be held at Laetare Garden, Moonah on Saturday 21st June.

Tickets: **\$47.00** per head.

RSVP: Mrs Ludivinia Cooley on **03 6231 0627**

Croatian National Day

You are invited to attend the Croatian National Day Breakfast to be held at the Australian-Croatian Club, 1 Eady St. Glenorchy at 8.00am on the 25th June. **\$15.00**

To RSVP call **Rob** the club's General Manager on **0458 027 013**

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!

June Days

- 1 National Day (*Samoa*)
- 3 Foundation of the Republic (*Italy*)
- 4 Emancipation Day (*Tonga*)
- International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**
- 5 Constitution Day (*Denmark*)
- 6 National Day (*Sweden*)
- 10 National Day (*Portugal*)
- 12 Independence Day (*Philippines*)
- National Day (*Russia*)
- 14 Anniversary of 1941 Soviet Deportation of Baltic People
- 15 Refugee Week begins (*15 - 21 May*)
- 17 National Day (*Iceland*)
- 18 National Day (*Seychelles*)
- 20 World Refugee Day**
- 23 National Day (*Luxembourg*)
- 25 National Day (*Croatia*)
- National Day (*Slovenia*)
- Independence Day (*Mozambique*)
- 26 National Day (*Madagascar*)
- International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**
- 27 National Day (*Djibouti*)
- 30 Independence Day (*Democratic Republic of Congo*)

Have your say about the Community Services Industry Plan!

The Peaks Network* are holding three forums to get your feedback on the draft Community Services Industry Plan. The forums are being held at:

- **Hobart on Tuesday, 24 June from 10-12pm** – Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper Street, Glenorchy
- **Burnie on Thursday, 26 June from 2-4pm** – Family Based Care Association (North West) Inc, first floor Corner of Wilson and Wilmot Streets, Burnie (Wilmot Street entrance immediately beside Federal MP Sid Sidebottom's offices).
- **Launceston on Friday, 27 June from 10-12pm** – Family Based Care (North) Inc, 22 Earl Street, Launceston

A copy of the draft Plan can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

The aim of the Plan is to provide the community services industry with a united position from which it can engage with government to tackle the challenges that impact on community service organisations everyday.

Your input is critical to ensuring that the Plan accurately reflects the priorities for the industry.

The purpose of the forums: Each forum will focus on identifying how the Plan can be strengthened, and whether there are critical gaps that need to be ad-

dressed.

The Peaks Network is also interested in getting feedback from community service organisations on quality frameworks. This is because DHHS has recently released a copy of a report from QMS on options for a quality and safety framework for Tasmanian community service organisations - [click here](#) for the report and a feedback document.

We will also be seeking your feedback on this document to ensure that the Peaks Network can advocate on behalf of community service organisations about what support organisations need for a quality framework to be effective.

RSVP: Please RSVP for the forums by contacting Elida Meadows (elida@tascoss.org.au; 62310755). If you are unable to attend a forum but would like to provide feedback please contact your Peak Body or contact Maree Fudge (maree@tascoss.org.au; 62310755). **Please RSVP by Monday, 23 June.**

The Industry Plan will be launched at the **Fairer Futures: People Place Policy Practice Conference (29-31st Oct 08)**. You can find out more about the conference by [clicking here](#)

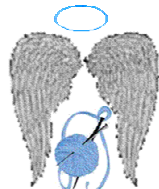
(* The Peaks Network is made up of: Aged Care Services Tasmania; Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council; Family Support Services Association; Mental Health Council of Tasmania; Multicultural Council of Tasmania; National Disability Services; Shelter Tasmania; Tasmanian Council of Social Service; Tasmanian Association of Community Houses; Volunteering Tasmania and Youth Network of Tasmania)

MCoT Angels Spreads its Wings!

Vikki Miteff, Convenor of the MCoT Angels Knitting Group has told the office that she is working towards expanding the group statewide. . She already has a new recruit in the form of an old pen pal in Launceston where she is arranging for knitted garments to be collected through the Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania). If you are a regional member and are interested or know someone who may be interested in participating in this worthwhile project please contact the MCoT Office. We need knitters and a collection and distribution point in each regional centre.

Vikki has been very busy lately – she has completed a Cross Cultural Awareness Training Session with Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) and she recently spoke with Angela Smith from Carelink. After hearing about MCoT Angels, Angela suggested that this could be the basis of a proposed craft project for the residents of Glenview Aged Care Residential facility. Vikki continues to spread the word through her program on community radio and she is very grateful for the support of 96.1 Hobart FM which is instrumental in the project's success.

Well done Vikki and congratulations on your Volunteer Recognition Award from the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania).



MEMORIES, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Your and your friends are invited to preview the art and craft exhibition from our Tasmanian Refugee Communities.

Objects of all kinds and functions will be featured: from domestic utility items to musical instruments, decorative items and textiles.

Mr Sylvio Opira will represent the Glenorchy City Council's Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee.

The exhibition will be opened on **Wednesday 11th June at 6.00pm** and run until **Wednesday 25th June.**

Moonah Arts Centre
65 Hopkins Street, Moonah
 Monday to Friday: 12.30 - 5.00pm
 Saturday: 10.00 - 2.00pm



MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE
 (Southern Tasmania) Inc

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

INVITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP

Australia's Refugee Week is from Sunday 15th June to Saturday 21st June 08 and is a national celebration held each year. The theme for Refugee Week this year is "A Place to Call Home" which encourages people to think about the global themes of protection and human rights by focusing on the fundamental right to secure a place to call home and acknowledge the 700,000 refugees and humanitarian entrants who have called Australia home over the past sixty years. This year for refugee Week the DIAC Tasmania office is hosting two public lectures, one in Launceston and the other in Hobart. The lectures will talk about Australia's humanitarian program and about the refugees who are making Tasmania their home in 2008 and beyond. Margaret Piper from the Refugee Resettlement and Advisory Council will provide a keynote address on Australia's refugee program. You will hear from a local former refugee about his story since arriving as a refugee and starting a new life in Tasmania. A service provider will also speak on the subject of the services refugees receive upon arrival as well as how you can help refugees call Tasmania home. Please come along to the lecture, bring your family and friends, and spread the word about the event.

PUBLIC LECTURE: REFUGEES IN TASMANIA

Date: Thursday 19th June 2008
Time: 6:00—8:00 pm
Venue: Stanley Burbury Lecture Theatre
Hobart University of Tasmania Campus
Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP: Mary Dickins on Mary.Dickins@immi.gov.au or 62 205360