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MRC EVENTS

Chinese New Year Celebration

This year MRC's Chinese Day Centre celebrated Chinese New Year at the Har Wee Yee restaurant to the delight of all the clients. The food was exceptional and plentiful. Twenty six people attended the celebrations including MRC General Manager Mr Cedric Manen, who welcomed in the New Year of the Rabbit, which begins on February 3, 2011 and ends on January 22, 2012. According to the Chinese tradition, the **Rabbit** brings a year in which you can catch your breath and calm your nerves. It is a time for negotiation.



The Rabbit is the fourth sign of the Chinese Zodiac, which consists of 12 animal signs. The Rabbit is considered a lucky sign. Not many people know that the Rabbit is a symbol of the Moon, while the Peacock is the symbol of the Sun, and that together, these two animal signs signify the start of day and night, represent the *Yin* and *Yang* of life. It is said that anyone making supplications for wishes to be fulfilled are certain to get what they want... and in the Year of the Rabbit, the wish-granting aspect of the Sun and the Moon combined is multiplied!

Gong Xi Fa Cai!!! (Congratulations and be prosperous)

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African Elders

The next meeting of the African Elders will be held on the 23rd of March from 2.30 until 4pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact Lynn Lee at the Phoenix Centre on 62 349138.

MRC Stakeholder Consultations

MRC has embarked on a consultation process to get an informed perspective on our relocation strategy through consultation with stakeholders, clients, members and the community. The process includes - Staff Consultations through anonymous online survey in November 2011 and discussed at monthly staff meetings; Stakeholder Consultations through online survey in February 2011 and a series of face to face consultations; Client, Room Users, Members & Volunteer Consultations in March 2011 preceded by a mail-out survey.

The first of our consultation session for stakeholders was conducted on Thursday 10 February. The Hon Cassy O'Connor MP, Minister for Community Development and Minister for Human Services opened the session with a presentation on the importance of the community sector in Tasmania. 35 people attended the session including Ms Elise Archer MP Liberal member for Denison and shadow spokesperson for Community Development, representatives from three local council areas – Hobart, Glenorchy and Clarence and representatives from our funding agencies and allied service providers.

Some of the key suggestions received at the session were - the new location should have a visible profile, be central for communities to access on a transport link, maintain proximity to other services and allied agencies, consider projected client demographics in terms of migrant settlement in the various local council areas and an increase in outreach work and outreach services to clients which will ensure maximum benefit to clients irrespective of where MRC is located.

We thank all the people who attended the session and those who answered our online survey.

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Suicide Intervention Skills Training

The Phoenix Centre has places available for members of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities who would like to participate in suicide intervention skills training. This two day workshop run by Lifeline will provide practical help for those seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Participants will learn how to:

- Recognise opportunities for help
- Reach out and offer support
- Estimate the level of suicide risk
- Apply a model for suicide intervention
- Link people with community resources

The training will be held on Thursday the 24th and Friday the 25th of March from 9.00 to 4.30. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided and participants who are not participating as part of their paid employment will receive a stipend to cover their time and associated expenses. For further details please contact Gillian Long on 6221 0999.

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CaLD Women's Health & Wellbeing Group

Women are invited to participate in a CALD women's Wellbeing through Walking and Movement group. Each Wednesday the group meets at the Phoenix Centre at 10am and travels by MRC bus to different locations in Hobart. The group has recently explored Seven Mile Beach, Mt Wellington and Blackmans Bay beach. Anyone interested in participating should contact Margaret Duro at the Phoenix Centre on 62 349138.

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Bike Kitchen

The Phoenix Centre is organising Bike Kitchen workshops for men. Sessions will be held on weekends during April and May (dates to be confirmed). Participants will have fun and meet others whilst learning useful skills which will enable them to turn broken bikes into fully functioning bikes for themselves or their family

members. Please contact Margaret Duro at the Phoenix Centre on 62 349138 for more details.

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Sense of Place and Belonging Youth Camp (Far South Wilderness Lodge Feb 2-4th)

13 young people aged between 16-25 participated in a beautiful three day, two night camp to the far south wilderness lodge, near Dover 1.5 hours South of Hobart. Half of the participants had experienced one of these vibrant and dynamic programs in June 2010, whilst the other half were newer to Tasmania and the whole outdoor, lodge camping experience.

The camp was a great success, and will certainly be remembered for its dancing spirit, raft making and tiger snakes! The camp was blessed with sunny weather every day and the participants learned so many new things about the Tasmanian bush, and each other with a program of bush walking, hot springs, bush skills, team work, artistic creations, drawing and games as well as cooking, singing, sharing and connections together.

Our camp participants this year came from varied cultural backgrounds including Eritrean, Ethiopian, Afghani, Karen, Sudanese, and Bhutanese. Some of these students are completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award with the support of the MRC Youth Program, which requires going on a two day overnight camp.



The food was a delicious medley of vegetables, meat, noodles, rice and a great Australian BBQ.

Two of our Duke of Edinburgh students planned and shopped for all of the food for the trip with support from Eliza from the MRC.

Thanks to the wonderful support from experienced and dedicated team leaders from the Migrant Resource Centre, Phoenix Centre and Police and Community Youth Club, as well as emerging youth leaders, we are all convinced that this is the best way to learn about life in a new place, and build new and meaningful friendships and connections together.

We hope that we have the opportunity through funding grants, and other supportive agencies such as Colony 47 (Accommodation) and the Phoenix Centre (Food), to deliver such high quality, adventurous, fun and meaningful programs again.



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Community Partners Project (CPP) State-wide Forum 2011

The CPP State-wide Forum will be held at The Grange Meeting and Function Centre, 87 Midland Highway, Campbell Town on Friday, 13th May from 9.30am – 3.30pm.

The focus of the forum is 'the caring role in culturally diverse communities' and will provide guest speakers, CALD community guest panel and a workshop on care issues for CALD community members. Registrations for the forum are available at MRC.

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CPP Stakeholder Steering Committee Meetings

The CPP steering committee meetings for South will be held on Tuesday 22nd March, 2.30 – 4.00 pm at Connect Training Room, Glenorchy; in the North on Friday 1st April, 1.30 – 3.00 pm at MRC North, 95-99 Cameron St, Launceston and in North-West on Tuesday 29th March from 1.30 – 3.30 pm at MRC North-West, Room 44, Cnr Best & Rooke St, Devonport

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Moonah Taste of the World Festival

The Glenorchy City Council is hosting the Moonah Taste of the World Festival on Sunday 27 March 2011 details in the flyer below.



Moonah Taste of the World Festival

Sunday 27th March 2011

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Moonah Car-Park Hopkins Street, Moonah

Free Entry

A global food experience

World music & dance

Children's activities

Craft stalls

Korean Children's Theatre, *Halmang, 10 Days on the Island Festival*

Fabric of Our Table - Community Art Project

For more information visit
www.tasteoftheworld.gcc.tas.gov.au

This is an alcohol free event

Poster design by
Timothy Clark



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MRC SERVICE UPDATES

Creating Connections and Opportunities Project (CCO)

CCO is a new project which will be commencing at MRC's Connect office in March 2011. The project is funded under the Department of Premier and Cabinet's *Community Capacity Building Grants Program*. Objectives of the CCO project are:

- To raise awareness amongst private sector businesses about the eligibility of newly-arrived humanitarian entrants for paid employment and the economic dividend that these migrants bring to the businesses;
- To provide work experience in an Australian workplace for newly-arrived humanitarian entrants in Tasmania;
- To develop the work and social skills of newly arrived humanitarian entrants in Tasmania, including increasing their knowledge of an Australian work environment in the private business sector; and
- To secure a referee for future job-seeking endeavours and to develop new networks.

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Computer Training and Job Coaching

Computer Training and Job Coaching commenced again at Connect on the 15th and 16th of February respectively. Whilst the computer training class is full there are a small number of vacancies for the Job Coaching program which is held every Wednesday from 10am – 3pm. For further information please call 6272 2614 or email akay@mrchobart.org.au

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CPP Newsletter March 2011

The CPP Newsletter March will be distributed to approximately 200 communities and aged care service providers throughout Tasmania. The CPP State-wide Forum registration will be sent out with the newsletter. If you would like a copy please contact MRC.

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MRC Positions Vacant

Cultural Arts Worker

MRC is seeking to employ a Cultural Arts Worker to work with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in Southern Tasmania on our CALD Cultural Arts and Craft project 2011 for the Refugee Week – 'traditional cultural aspects' exhibition in June 2011. This is a fixed term contract position for approximately 7.5 hours per week beginning April 2011. For further details including a copy of the position description and selection criteria please email reception@mrchobart.org.au Applications close 5pm Monday, 14 March 2011 and only applications addressing the selection criteria will be accepted.

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MRC Staff

MRC would like to welcome the CPP Assistant Project Officer North – Ina Bakker and CPP Assistant Project Officer North-West – Raj Rani Sharma

Ina and Rani have both previously been CPP Bi-cultural Workers for their Dutch and Hindi speaking communities. The assistants will provide support and assistance with the CPP Bi-cultural Worker training.

Creating Connections and Opportunities (CCO) Officer

This new position is a result of MRC Connect's success in the Community Capacity Building Grants 2011 round and was advertised through MRC's network early February. The position is for 15 hours per week for a 40 week period and we hope to announce the successful candidate shortly.

Community Partners Project (CPP) Bicultural Workers for South, North and North-West

Applications have been received and interviews are in progress for CPP Bi-cultural Workers in all three regions of Tasmania. The positions will be for Arabic speaking, Tigrinya speaking, Hindi

speaking and Farsi speaking Bi-cultural workers to start in March 2011.

Grant Alerts

Community Capacity Building Grants Program 2010-11 : Round Two NOW OPEN: Grants of up to \$2000

The Tasmanian Government aims to improve Tasmanians' participation in the social, economic, political and cultural life of their community by building individual and community capacity. The Community Capacity Building Grants Program has been established to support programs that best meet these aims.

The Tasmanian Government values the important role that local government, not-for-profit community organisations and community groups play in delivering initiatives that support Tasmanian communities.

Round two of this program offers small grants of up to \$2000 to local government and not-for-profit community organisations and aims to support community events and projects that:

- enable access to economic activities, sport and recreation, arts and culture for community members who face barriers to participation;
- provide opportunities to develop life skills; and
- celebrate diversity, promote social inclusion and involve the wider community.

Examples include multicultural events, positive ageing initiatives, annual celebratory events such as NAIDOC Week (1 July 2011), Seniors Week (October 2011) and International Day of People with Disability (3 December 2011).

Round Two (2) Guidelines and Application form (Word)

Round Two (2) Guidelines and Application form (PDF) → [TEXT](#)

Further information can be obtained by emailing cdgrants@dpac.tas.gov.au, phoning 1800 204 224 or by reading the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (PDF)** → [TEXT](#)

Applications close 5pm on Monday 4 April 2011

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Grant Round 22 of the Tasmanian Community Fund Now Open

The Tasmanian Community Fund provides grants to community organisations to enhance the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of Tasmanians. Two streams of funding are available:

- **Grants of up to \$10 000** [word document]
- **Grants of up to \$10 000** [pdf]
- **Grants of over \$10 000** [word document]
- **Grants of over \$10 000** [pdf]

Applications are due 30 March 2011. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Prior to submitting your application, the TCF Board and staff recommend that you **contact the fund** to discuss your project.

To request further information, please contact the fund admin@tascomfund.org
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Cultural Calendar Dates –March 2011

March 1 - St David's Day - St David's Day, which commemorates the patron saint of Wales, has been a national day of celebration for Welsh people since the 18th century, featuring parades, festivities and singing.

March 3 - National Day Bulgaria

March 5 - Tibetan New Year (Losar) - Losar is an occasion to dispel the obstacles and negativities of the old year and is marked with activities that symbolise purification.

March 6 - Independence Day Ghana

March 8 - Shrove Tuesday - Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent. Pancakes are traditionally eaten on this day.

March 9 - Ash Wednesday – Lent begins - Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar, traditionally a time of fasting and reflection. It begins with Ash Wednesday.

March 11 - WOMADelaide (to 14 March) – This festival features a three-day music, arts and dance festival held in Adelaide's Botanic Park.

March 12 - Moomba Waterfest, Melbourne (to 14 March) – This festival's highlights include Dragon Boat races, the 'Birdman Rally', fireworks display, the Moomba Parade and Waterfest Carnival.

March 12 - National Day Mauritius

March 13 - Estia Greek Festival, Hobart – Over the past fifteen years Estia has provided a forum for showcasing and sharing the rich Hellenic-Australian culture, heritage and tradition with the broader community

March 14 Mon - Cultural Diversity Week, Victoria (to 21 March) – Cultural Diversity Week features a program of festivals and events highlighting Victoria's cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.

March 14 Mon - New Year: Nanakshahi – year 543 – The Sikh calendar is called the Nanakshahi Calendar and takes its name from Guru Nanak, who founded the Sikh religion more than 500 years ago.

March 16 - Sydney Road Street Party, Brunswick, Melbourne (to 27 March) –This large multicultural gathering is an all-ages day, celebrating peace, understanding and cultural diversity.

March 17 - Five Holy Days of Pronia (Banjah) to 21 March – The Mandaean community from southern Iraq and Iran.

March 17 - St Patrick's Day – This day is Ireland's National Day. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith.

March 18 - Adelaide Salsa Festival (to 20 March) - This festival features Latin American dance parties, workshops and performances.

March 20 - Geelong Highland Gathering – Features massed pipe bands, Scottish culture, livestock, merchandise, music, dancing and haggis hurling.

March 20 - Thai Culture and Food Festival, Melbourne – This is a celebration of Thai culture in Federation Square, Melbourne, with food stalls, dancing, arts and crafts.

March 20 - Fraser Coast Cultural Festival, QLD – The Fraser Coast Cultural Festival, north of Brisbane, is a celebration of cultures with

entertainment, street theatre, a parade, international food, craft and display stalls.

March 20 - Purim – Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.

March 20 - Holi – Holi is a boisterous festival with people smearing each other with coloured water and bright powders. Originally a festival to celebrate good harvests and fertility of the land, Holi also commemorates some key figures in Hindu mythology.

March 20 - Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia

March 21 - Harmony Day – Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. Schools, community groups and organisations across Australia host Harmony Day events. See: www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/

March 21 - Norouz (various spellings) New Year – Norouz means 'new day' in Persian and is a traditional festival of spring that has been celebrated for more than 3000 years by people from Iran and surrounding countries.

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reminds us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.

March 21- Independence Day Namibia

March 23 - National Day Pakistan

March 25 - Independence Day Greece

March 26 - Greek Antipodes Festival, Melbourne (to 27 March) – The Antipodes Festival takes over Lonsdale Street to celebrate all things Greek (dates TBC). Outside of Greece, Melbourne is the largest Greek-speaking city in the world.

March 26 - Greek Festival of Sydney (to 27 March) – The Greek Festival of Sydney, one of Australia's largest and longest running annual cultural events, is a celebration of Greek-Australian lifestyle, culture and heritage.

March 26 - Independence Day Bangladesh

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International Women's Day is celebrated around the world on 8 March and MRC acknowledges the contributions and achievements made by Women from CaLD backgrounds to their community

Tune in to Hobart FM 96.1 to get more updates from the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc on the last Monday of every month. Next broadcast is on Monday, 28 March 2011 at 1pm. If you would like to contribute any community updates, please email aanil@mrchobart.org.au

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