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MRC EVENTS

Kids and Family Easter Mountain Day

On a gloriously sunny day on Friday 29 April, more than 100 people gathered at the Fern Tree Community Centre for the Kids and Families Easter Mountain Day Out. Many communities were represented including the Karen, Somalian, Rwandan, Congolese, Australian, Ethiopian, Sudanese, Burmese and Chinese to name just a few.

The event was organised by the MRC Settlements Team with support from Hobart City Council, Save the Children and Centacare. A metro bus was chartered from Hobart Franklin Square and for many people, it was the first time they had ventured to this part of greater Hobart. It was a great day with an emphasis on getting to know the new community area of Fern Tree, making new friends and enjoying the different activities scheduled through out the day.

After a scrumptious morning tea of hot cross buns, scones and slices, team members from Save the Children began an organised play session for children. The game of 'cat and mouse' went down extremely well and made for an exciting start to the mornings play. Some adults participated and grinned from ear to ear during the game. Veronika from Save the Children had some interesting observations to make about the games being an important part of a child's development.

Children who chose not to take part in the games were able to enjoy the makeshift art and craft hub and paint pictures and make 'butterfly' creations using folded paper and glitter paint



Easter Egg Hunt Debrief Mission accomplished!

Lunch was a huge barbeque including vegetarian trimmings.



Lunch in the bush surrounds

The next major planned activity was hosted by Anna Bluck from the Hobart City Council. Anna brought along a collection of stuffed native Australian animals which were a huge hit with both children and parents. Anna incorporated a lot of knowledge into her interactive presentation about the animals and their habitat.

After the very well received animal education session, it was time to further explore the area through a guided bushwalk. The metro bus arrived at 3.00pm to ferry people back to Hobart city.

We would like to thank Centacare, Save the Children, Anna from Hobart City Council, Metro Tasmania and acknowledge the significant efforts of MRC staff and volunteers involved in making this event a huge success.

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Community Partners Project (CPP) State-wide Forum

The CPP State-wide Forum was held at The Grange Meeting and Function Centre at Campbell Town on Friday, 13th May 2011. The focus of the forum was 'the caring role in culturally diverse communities'. A total of 108 people registered for the forum and CPP would like to thank Dr Paul Levett, Director of Aged and Community Care Branch, Department of Health and Ageing for his opening address and commitment to the project and to Cedric Manen and Marianne Potma for

their ongoing support for the program.

Robyn Carney (Uniting Aged Care) presented *The Knitting Room*, Vanessa Ogborne (DTA Education Officer, Diversional Therapist, Mater Hospital, Sydney) presented *LinkAGE - Connecting the Generations*, Angela Smith (Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre) presented *Respite Options and Support for Carers* and Hans Schmid "(MRC Partners In Culturally Appropriate Care) presented *Torture & Trauma 'Supporting older people from diverse backgrounds who have experienced trauma'*

The CALD community guest panel consisted of the following community members from various CALD communities:

- Afghani: Najibeh Jafari
- Chinese: Kim Phong
- El Salvadorian: Maribel Amaya
- Ethiopian: Zemenay Gebremichael
- German: Melanie Tekolf
- Philippine: Merma Kelly
- Sudanese: Juma Piripiri

Dr Robyn Brogan and Judy Harris provided a workshop on care issues for CALD community members including dignity and respect for CALD people in aged care.



Participants interact at Dr Robyn Brogan's Workshop on dignity

Many thanks to the CPP Bi-cultural workers: Nagham Al-Khani, Najibeh Jafari and Zemenay Gebremichael for the South, Mariam Dada for the North and Monika Sharma for the North-West who have contributed generously to the CPP program over the last 3 months and in particular to the CPP State-wide Forum 2011. Thank you to the excellent support from the CPP Assistant Project Officers Ina Bakker from Launceston and RajRani Sharma from Burnie.

The forum participants were entertained by Sujata Dasgupta with Indian Cultural Dancing and by Monika Sharma with Henna painting. The forum was supported by all the MRC staff and MRC volunteers who made the day a resounding success – many thanks to everyone.

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Multicultural Day Centre Fashion Parade

MRC's Home and Community Care (HACC) day centre clients have been donning some interesting attire this month!!!

The day centres have been participating in several fashion parades with outfits from many different persuasions. Staff and clients teamed up for a comedy routine depicting an elderly couple with a hilariously misunderstood conversation. Staff members also participated by dressing up in their relevant national costumes. One staff member wore a Wet-suit and claimed it as a traditional 'Tasmanian outfit' (well it does rain a lot in Tassie!)



It was thoroughly enjoyed by all with lots of laughter and very vocal encouragement from the audience.

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Afghan Youth Workshops

On June 7 and 14, Connect will hold workshops for the Afghan youth of Hobart on finding work during the upcoming summer holidays. These workshops are a result of a community consultation with the women of Hobart's Afghan community held in December 2010. The consultation found that there was great concern from the women with regards to their children being able to find work during the summer

holidays. As a result two workshops are being held at the Connect premises during the June school holidays.

The training will be conducted by Connect Coordinator Amy Kay, Creating Connections and Opportunities Officer Daniel Geiger and MRC Volunteer Dean Barker.

Looking for a **JOB** during the holidays?



AFGHAN YOUTH

- Job Searching
- Resume Preparation
- Skills Assessment
- Online Applications
- Interview Skills

| | |
|---------------|---|
| WHEN: | Tuesday 7 th & Tuesday 14 th June, 2011 |
| WHERE: | connect 332-334 Main Rd Glenorchy (Bus Stop 25) |
| TIME: | 10am to 1pm |
| PHONE: | 6272 2614 |
| Email: | akay@mrchobart.org.au |

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Tasmanian Transcultural Mental Health Network (TTMHN) State-wide Meeting

The next State-wide meeting of the Tasmanian Transcultural Mental Health Network will be held on Monday the 6th of June 2011 from 9.00am - 12.30pm. The video-linked meeting will be held at the following locations:

Hobart: St John's Park, Level 2, Carruthers Building

Burnie: NWRH Admin Meeting Room

Launceston: Allambi Room 44, 33-39 Howick Street

The meeting will incorporate a half day training workshop, facilitated by Multicultural Mental

Health Australia (MMHA), to assist mental health services to implement the MMHA National Cultural Competency Tool for Mental Health Services (NCCT) and to access the support structures in their state or territory. This training is offered to all relevant stakeholders in most states, including NGO/community sector organisations, the public and private sectors. The Training Workshops will focus on why and how to use the NCCT, and how to make your programs more suitable to people from CALD backgrounds with mental illness, as well as providing you with strategies to overcome any workplace barriers in implementing the National Cultural Competency Standards.

Places are limited. Please contact Renée Valentino on 03 62210999 for more information.

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‘Traditional Cultural Aspects’ – Refugee Week Exhibition

The Migrant Resource Centre in partnership with the Moonah Arts Centre is coordinating a vibrant and diverse series of workshops and an exhibition for the MRC Cultural Arts Program 2011.

The exhibition ‘traditional cultural aspects’ will showcase the diversity and talent of artists and craftspeople working in culturally diverse communities. The exhibition will be launched by the Honourable Cassy O’Connor MP, Minister for Human Services and Community Development, on Friday 17th June at 6.00pm at the Moonah Arts Centre. The exhibition runs from the 18 June to 30 June.

The workshops will produce work to be exhibited at the exhibition and will focus on retaining and transferring traditional skills within the community, sharing and exchanging culture, and developing networks and opportunities for cultural artists.

For further information please contact Emily Conolan or Suzanne Feike on 6221 0999.

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United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

The Phoenix Centre will host an event on Monday the 27th of June at 2pm in the Acacia Room (49 Molle St) to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The event aims to remind us that torture is a crime and provides us an opportunity to stand united against this cruel violation of human rights. This year, the campaign theme is Poverty. Poverty is a root cause of torture and also an effect of torture on individuals, their families and wider societies. Providing rehabilitation to survivors, as well as working for justice and prevention of torture therefore helps break a cycle of poverty.

Please contact Margaret Duro at the Phoenix Centre on 6221 0999 for more information.

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Phoenix Centre Annual Forum

The Phoenix Centre will hold its annual forum on Friday the 26th of August. We are delighted to confirm that Dr Jill Benson and Prof Nicholas Proctor will deliver presentations and facilitate workshops at the forum.

Dr Jill Benson has been a GP for 28 years, with a subspecialty in mental health for many of those years. She has worked in Aboriginal and refugee health for the last six years and is Director of the Cultural Diversity arm of the Health in Human Diversity Unit, University of Adelaide. Dr Benson is also the Senior Medical Officer at the Migrant Health Service (SA), a state government funded service that provides health care to refugees and asylum seekers and supports GPs and other health professionals in Adelaide.

Nicholas Proctor is a Professor of Nursing at the University of South Australia. He has a long history of mental health research and service delivery and currently advises on mental health issues to State and Federal Governments. Some examples of his work include mental health and suicide prevention for asylum seekers and community education on depression for CALD people. He is a member of the Department of

Immigration and Citizenship Detention Health Advisory Group - Mental Health Subgroup and the Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution (CISSR), providing advice to the Federal Government on all matters related to mental health assessment and care of immigration detainees. During his distinguished career Professor Proctor has been a consultant to health, immigration and human service organisations such as the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Programs Branch, Department of Health and Ageing; the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Multicultural Mental Health Australia.

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Human Rights Week 2011

Human Rights Day is celebrated every year all over the world to mark the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (the Declaration). In Tasmania we celebrate with Human Rights Week (HRW). The HRW Organising Committee invites you mark these dates in your calendar; this year the HRW Launch will be on Friday, 2 December 2011, at the Hobart Town Hall; and the HRW March will be held in Hobart on Friday, 9 December 2011. The week in between will have various events to celebrate and to educate about the Declaration and human rights issues around the world. Please consider hosting an event! For more information, enquiries or support for your event please contact the Human Rights Organising Committee by emailing: HRWTasmania@gmail.com

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MRC SERVICE UPDATES

Drum Beat

The Transformers project has been running a 'Drum Beat' program for high school students through Brooks High School. During the 10 week program students are learning about team work, a sense of self and friendship, as well as drumming. Each week the 10-12 participants are keen to get started on the session. The group has been working towards learning two performance songs to present to an audience of their choice, some ideas being, parents, teachers or a grade

assembly. Brooks High School has been very



supportive in enabling the Drum Beat program to be delivered at the school, and the assistance of an EAL teacher has ensured the success of the program.

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Healthy Relationships Group

The Transformers project is also running a six week wellbeing and relationships program with a group of CaLD students from Mowbray Heights



Primary School. The group aims to explore identity, celebrate differences and similarities, to identify emotions, to enhance positive relationships and to resolve difficulties in a positive way. Students have created 'about me' posters, made music that expresses anger, happiness and sadness, and created face masks that emphasize their feelings. As well as these creative tasks, students have participated in activities that allow them to share things they like

and dislike, as well as being able to express why that is.

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Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals (SONA) Report

The Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, announced the release of a report on settlement outcomes for migrants and humanitarian entrants: *Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals*

The national report looks at many aspects of settlement including outcomes in areas such as education, employment, language and access to government services. It also includes some state comparisons.

The media release and report can be accessed at: <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/kl/2011/kl164839.htm>

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MRC Positions Vacant

Employment Support Service (ESS) Coordinator North

MRC is expanding its Connect Employment Support Services program to include Launceston. This new position will operate out of the Migrant Resource Centre (Northern Tasmania) Inc office in Launceston.

The ESS Coordinator North will be responsible for providing positive employment outcomes for clients based in the Launceston area. The above position is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Further information about this position, including a copy of the Position Description and Selection Criteria, contact the Migrant Resource Centre on 62210999 or email reception@mrchobart.org.au

Only applications addressing the selection criteria will be considered. Applications close 5pm Monday 6th June 2011

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MRC New Staff

MRC welcomes -

Emma Mathieson – Community Development Officer

Emma recently returned to Tasmania after spending nearly 6 years overseas with her husband and children. Due to her husband's assignments with the United Nations she lived in Sri Lanka, South Africa and Denmark. Emma has an Arts background and work experience in disabilities and education. She has worked in both local and international community development. During her three years living in Sri Lanka she initiated a craft project at a women's refuge for Internationally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and ex child soldiers. The goal of the project was to empower the women and achieve economic self sufficiency, the income generated was used to fund English language classes.

Emma also trained as an ESL teacher and worked in a Japanese School in Sri Lanka where she set up a program for the children using game and play therapy to build confidence with speaking English.

More recently in Copenhagen, Denmark she worked with members of the Osterbro International School to organise and initiate fundraising events.

Emma feels very lucky to have had such amazing experiences living in very diverse cultures; she is looking forward to settling back in Tasmania and being able to use her skills and life experiences in her position at the MRC.

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Spotlight on Our Volunteers – MRC Acknowledges its Volunteers

National Volunteer Week – 9 May to 15 May

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. ~Elizabeth Andrew

In recognition of the invaluable contributions made by volunteers, MRC hosted an evening tea

for all its volunteers on Thursday, 12 May 2011. 26 MRC volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to network and socialise with drinks and Chinese Smorgasbord. Volunteers were presented with certificates of appreciation and a poem by MRC volunteer Danijella Hills.

MRC nominated two of its volunteers - Veronique Tabor and Peter Jones to receive an award on behalf of all MRC volunteers from the Honourable Rob Valentine, Lord Mayor Hobart City Council at its volunteer recognition reception on 11 May, 2011.

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Cultural Calendar Dates – June 2011

June 1 Wed: Independence Day - Samoa

June 2 Thu: Ascension of Christ – This day observes the departure of Jesus from earth after his resurrection. It is perhaps the earliest observed celebration in Christianity

June 2 Thu: Foundation of the Republic - Italy

June 6 Mon: National Day - Sweden

June 8 Wed: Shavuot – Shavuot is a Jewish celebration of Moses's descent from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments

June 10 Fri: National Celtic Festival, Portarlinton, Vic (to 13 June) – This annual festival celebrates Celtic music and culture. Each of the Celtic lands is represented – Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, Cornwall and the Isle of Man

June 10 Fri: Portugal Day, Camós Day and Day of Portuguese Communities

June 12 Sun: Pentecost – Pentecost celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit and is regarded by some Christians as the birthday of the Christian church

June 12 Sun: Pentecost – The Coptic Church has a major feast on this day

June 12 Sun: Greek Glenti, Darwin – The Greek Glenti Festival has developed into the largest ethnic celebration in the Northern Territory

June 12 Sun: Independence - Philippines

June 13 Mon: National Day - Russian Federation

June 13 Mon: Queen's Birthday (except WA) – Celebrating the King or Queen of Australia's birthday in Australia dates back to 1788, when Governor Phillip declared a public holiday. Order

of Australia award recipients are announced on Australia Day and the Queen's Birthday

June 16 Thur: Martyrdom (Shahidi) of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib – On this day Sikhs remember those who have suffered for the faith. The day is observed by reading the Guru Granth Sahib

June 17 Fri: National Day - Iceland

June 18 Sat: Winter Magic Festival, Katoomba NSW – Musicians and magicians, jugglers and gymnasts, choirs, clowns and community take over the main street of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains

June 18 Sat: National Day - Seychelles

June 19 Sun: Refugee Week (to 25 June) – Since early 1945, seven million people have come to Australia as new settlers, including more than 700 000 people under humanitarian programs,

initially as displaced persons and more recently as refugees

June 20 Mon: World Refugee Day - United Nation

June 23 Thu : National Day and Official Birthday of HRH the Grand Duke - Luxembourg

June 25 Sat: National Day - Croatia

June 25 Sat: Independence Day - Mozambique

June 25 Sat: National Day - Slovenia

June 26 Sun: National Day - Madagascar

June 27 Mon: Independence Day - Djibouti

June 30 Thu: Independence Day - Democratic of Republic of Congo

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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, 27 June 2011 at 1pm. If you would like to contribute any community updates or articles, please email aanil@mrchobart.org.au

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