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MRC EVENTS

Packaged Care Programs Information Session

An 'information evening' was held at the Migrant Resource Centre on 3 August 2011 to provide advocacy information to Clients' families, carers and friends in a supportive social environment. It was held as part of our ongoing commitment to improving quality of services to our clients, families and carers of the packaged care programs. The panel was made up of representatives from the Office of the Public Guardian; Advocacy Tasmania the Office of the Public Trustee and Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Service. The event was attended by a good number of people despite the event having been held in Winter.

Topics presented by the panel members included discussions on the appointment of an 'Enduring Guardian'; 'Enduring Power of Attorney'; appointment of a trustee and behaviour management of people with dementia. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. MRC would like to acknowledge Nelson D'Silva, a social work student for organising this event as part of his work placement. Feedback from all attendees revealed a high level of satisfaction with the information session. About 87% of the respondents considered that the topics presented were informative and valuable and 80% had stated that they would recommend similar events to others to attend. The catering of hot meals prepared on-site was enjoyed by all. Another information evening for clients, family members and carers will be held next year.

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Launch of Australian Multicultural Council

The MRC CEO Cedric Manen, attended the launch of the Australian Multicultural Council at the Parliament House in Canberra on 22 August 2011 in his capacity as Chair of Settlement Council of Australia. The Australian Multicultural Council was formed as an independent bipartisan body to advise the Government on multicultural affairs

policy. The AMC consists of 10 members including a youth member and two ex-officio members (the Race Discrimination Commissioner and the Secretary of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship).



Present at the launch were the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural affairs - Senator Kate Lundy, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Chris Bowen MP and the Prime Minister of Australia the Honourable Julia Gillard.

Cedric also spent some time with Senator Lisa Singh.



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Phoenix Centre Annual Forum

The Phoenix Centre held its annual forum at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre on Friday

26 August. Over one hundred people attended the event and found the presentations and workshops facilitated by Dr Jill Benson, Professor Nicholas Procter and Renee Valentino to be stimulating, informative and interesting. Those who attended agreed the day was a huge success.

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Launch of MRC's Settlement Grants Programs 2011

MRC was honoured to have the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy officially launch four new projects under the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Settlement Grants Programs, on Tuesday 30 August 2011.



The new projects will support CALD community members from approximately six months to five years after arrival.

1. Justice Support Work: This project supports CALD community members who are trying to navigate the justice, legal or police departments and also the court systems. The Justice Support worker will case manage clients through the system and provide whatever support or advocacy is required. There is an element of capacity building with these departments to assist them in working with the CALD communities. The CALD communities will also receive information sessions to inform them about the various legislations in Australia, their

responsibilities and consequences of breaking the legislations.

2. Case Management: The Settlement Case Worker will assess, support, advocate and refer when necessary to assist the communities achieve the best outcomes for their settlement.

3. Top / Second Gear project: MRC has conducted the Top Gear program for the past three years. The additional funding is for a new program added to Top Gear to try and make it more accessible to the communities. Second Gear will assist the communities to become more orientated with the car, road, and road signs after they have achieved their Learner's License before they go on the road.

4. Immigration Advisor: The immigration advisor will assist community members with Visa application support and advice.

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Peace Festival 2011

The Peace Festival is a free event which will be held on Saturday, 24 September 2011 at Mawson Place on the Hobart Waterfront. The Festival has been organised by the Migrant Resource Centre (South), CALD community members, Hobart City Council, Clarence City Council, Kingborough Council and Glenorchy City Council.

The Festival runs from 12 noon to 4.00 pm, and will offer a range of free activities including music and performances featuring acts such as the Taiko Drummers, rapper Alfred Cauker and his group 'Sierra Free', The Multicultural Dance Group, and The Philanthropists. There will be a cultural craft display, henna designs, and other activities for those wanting a fun afternoon in the beautiful surrounds of the Hobart Waterfront. There will be food stalls available to purchase traditional food and refreshments. Come and enjoy the performances, and celebrate what a wonderful, peaceful place we live in, where everyone belongs.

Find Peace Festival on Facebook by searching "2011 Tasmanian Peace Festival."



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Mental Health Week 2011

The Phoenix Centre will be holding a workshop for Mental Health Week on Friday 14 October. The guest presenter will be Judy Saba. Judy is a Cross Cultural Psychologist with New South Wales Police, a Churchill Fellowship recipient and experienced trainer. Judy is committed to the delivery of competent cross cultural psychology and training services and works from the philosophy of shared responsibility and capacity building.

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MRC Service Update

Connect IT Training

As a follow-on to the free IT Training conducted at Connect for eligible clients earlier this year, Connect will be commencing another 'Introduction to Computers and Word Processing' course on Tuesday, 13 September 2011. The course is delivered in 2 hour sessions over 8 weeks.

The training is conducted by a highly experienced I.T. trainer, Michael Collinson, on a voluntary basis. Michael has a passion for assisting people to get to a particular stage in their computer use and knowledge. Connect has received fantastic feedback from participants who attended the course on previous occasions and we are excited about being able to provide this vital service again.

For further details ring Connect on 6272 2614 or email akay@mrchobart.org.au
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MRC Client – Success Story

MRC 'Connect'– Creating Connections and Opportunities Project

Geridi Buzubona was born in Burundi, Africa. He came to Australia in 2006 from a refugee camp in Tanzania with no English and no qualifications. Since arriving, Geridi completed 510 hours of English Classes and continued with extra English classes at Mission in 2009. Geridi has been looking for employment since arriving in Hobart with minimal success. He managed to get seasonal fruit picking work after completing Certificate 1 in Horticulture, although nothing permanent came of this. Job Coaching opened in October 2010 which Geridi attended.

Geridi gained Cultural Work Experience through the CCO Project at Tasmanian Bakeries. Due to his commitment to work he was offered fulltime employment after only 5 days out of a possible 10 days Cultural Work Experience. Geridi has now been employed 3 months and is looking forward to the possibility of becoming an Apprentice Baker as his Professional Development Pathway. Meanwhile he is learning all the aspect of food processing and production including attending workplace funded courses for Food Handling, Food Safety and Hygiene. Geridi has had to overcome many barriers to get to this stage. He is very happy being employed and is now seeing his future as very positive.



The Creating Connections and Opportunities Project started in late April. To date we have had 10 successful outcomes for clients from numerous cultures including Ethiopia, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Bhutan and Sudan. Cultural work experience was achieved in areas such as Hairdressing, Quilt manufacturing, commercial cleaning, Industrial cleaning, Commercial Bakery and Food processing. All clients involved have had a well needed look into Australian work culture. During these placements 6 CCO Project clients have been offered fulltime employment, 38 hours plus overtime in numerous companies in the Greater Hobart area.

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MRC Staff

MRC bid farewell to Joanna King, Chinese Bicultural Worker who is relocating to USA with her family and acknowledge Joanna's significant contribution whilst at the MRC .

MRC welcomed the following new staff in August 2011:

Ankarah Grace – Phoenix Centre Counsellor

Ankarah has worked for the past five years at Hobart Women's Health Centre as the Health Promotions/Health Worker.

Ankarah is a Social Worker with a diverse background in community work both paid and voluntary work.

Ankarah is passionate about working with people, human and environmental rights, embracing diversity, community, and working from an empowerment framework which respects and validates people's strengths, stories and beliefs.

Ankarah also has a great passion for creative expression and loves singing, song writing, music, theatre, writing, dancing, storytelling, art and learning - Tasmania has a wealth of talent, beauty, and creativity.

Anna Williams – Justice Support Worker –

Anna has been employed as Settlements Project Officer at MRC since March 2011 and is very excited about her new role.

Anna holds an arts/law degree and finished her legal practitioner training course in mid 2005 and was admitted as a Legal Practitioner of the Supreme Court of Tasmania in August 2005.

Anna also worked as a project officer at the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts in investment attraction and export marketing for a couple of years.

Anna enjoys discovering new places and people and has an overriding interest in social justice issues both here and around the World. Anna recently returned to Tasmania after travelling, volunteering and working in Latin America between 2010 and the beginning of this year.

Eliza Muskett – Settlement Case Manager

Eliza has been at the Migrant Resource Centre since July last year, first as a UTAS Social Work student and then as the Settlement Support Worker. Eliza was appointed to her new role as

Case Manager in the Settlement Team on 15 August. Eliza enjoys working at the MRC because she has the opportunity to combine both her degrees in political science and social work with her interest in working with people and her passion for human rights. Outside of work Eliza is currently enjoying planning her wedding and is looking forward to working with everyone at the MRC in her new role.

Maree Healey – Phoenix Centre Administration Assistant

Maree has a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Cert IV in Business Communication, and is currently studying for a Graduate Certificate in Counselling. She has over 20 years experience in administration and project officer roles and in recent years has worked for the Kingston Community Health Centre and Good Beginnings.

Stephen Sward – Student on placement

After completing a placement at the Education Department in 2010 Stephen joined the Settlements team as part of his 4th year University placement for Social Work. During the course of his placement he will have the opportunity to work closely with MRC's Community Development Officer in the organisation of this years Tasmanian Peace Festival. In addition, he will also be involved in numerous community forums and meetings, youth work, and have the opportunity to develop a men's project. The last seven weeks has proven to be a great learning experience and Stephen would like to thank the Settlements team and MRC South for allowing him to complete his final Social Work placement for 2011 and looks forward to reflecting on some positive outcomes.

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Spotlight on Our Volunteers

Congratulations To A Brave And Clever Young Mother!

**Article contributed by
- Danijela Hils, MRC Volunteer**

Last night I had a call from my friend and client - I teach her English through Polytechnic home tutoring program. She is a mother of four so she

is always very busy, but has managed to learn English well. She called me to tell me a great news – “that she is now doing some paid work as an interpreter for other refugee women through Relationships Australia”.



I am so proud of her and all her wonderful family, husband and four boys. I took them to the African day festival, and some other events you organise. I hope that this story can show the other members of the CALD community that everything is possible in this beautiful community here in Hobart.

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Community Posts

TUU Fiesta International

Come help us celebrate Tasmania's love for its diverse population at Fiesta International 2011 on **Saturday, 10 September from 6pm!** This unique annual celebration (previously known as Multicultural Night) is loved by all, nationals and internationals alike. Performances from multicultural talents combined with food from around the world are sure to make this night one to remember! A great time is bound to be had by all as you immerse yourself in this internationally-charged evening full of grand events and worldly food. Plus who knows, you might just meet some amazing people while you're at it. Tickets will soon be available to purchase at www.oztix.com.au and at the door for \$10.00 for adults or \$25.00 for families (2 adults + 2 children under 12 years) or for pre-purchase at the TUU Contact Centre for \$8.00 for Uni Students. A full list of performances will be announced soon.

THE TASMANIA UNIVERSITY UNION PRESENTS

FIESTA INTER NATIONAL

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT 2011

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
SANDY BAY CAMPUS

TUU ACTIVITIES CENTRE
SEPTEMBER 10
6:00PM
\$10PP
PREPURCHASE
TICKETS
AT OZTIX.COM.AU



Chinese Lion Dancers
Bollywood Dancing
Breakdancing
Japanese Drummers
& many more performances

A NIGHT OF
TRADITIONAL
FOOD, MUSIC,
LIVE PERFORMANCES
& CELEBRATING

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

TASMANIA'S
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY

Proudly supported by



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Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) Management Committee

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 17 August during which a new Management Committee was elected. MRC would like to welcome the following new Management Committee members of MCOT and look forward to working with them.

Chairperson: Ms Tiiu Raabus
Sr Vice Chairperson: Mr Mahendra Pathik
Vice Chairperson: Mrs Helen Kosmeyer
Secretary: Ms Florence Parker
Treasurer: Mr Anil Shrestha

Management Committee Members

Ms Maureen Adamson
 Mr Pradip Dhungana
 Mrs Alicja Dobosz
 Mrs Mary Excell
 Mr James Graham
 Ms Aloysiane Misumba
 Ms Marie Palencia

Mr Amarjit Singh
 Mrs Sajini Sumar
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Cultural Calendar Dates – September 2011

Sept 1: National Wattle Day: Wattle is an Australian's floral emblem. With nearly 1000 Australian species, wattles symbolise diversity & resilience

Sept 1: National Day :Libya

Sept 1: Constitution Day :Slovakia

Sept 1: National Day :Uzbekistan

Sept 1: Parkash First Reading Aadh Granth Sahib: The Aadh Granth (Original Scripture) was installed at Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) Amritsar in India. The first reading ceremony was on the 1st September 1604.

Sept 1: Ganesh Chaturthi: This popular festival culminates with a clay statue of the Hindu elephant god Ganesh being immersed in water to remove the misfortunes of mankind as the statue dissolves.

Sept 2: OzAsia Festival, Adelaide (to 17 Sept) The OzAsia festival celebrates the richness and diversity of Australian and Asian culture through theatre, dance, music, film, food and visual arts.

Sept 2: National Day: Vietnam

Sept 3: Brisbane Festival (to 24 Sept) –The festival program include dance, opera, theatre, visual arts. Symphony, contemporary music, circus, side shadow and many free events

Sept 3: National Foundation Day: San Marino

Sept 4: Multicultural Eid Festival and Fair, Fairfield Sydney: Held annually after Ramadan, Muslims and non Muslims from all backgrounds can enjoy a variety of food and cultural programs in a friendly family atmosphere (date TBC): :

Sept 6: National Day :Swaziland

Sept 7: Battle For Australia Day : Battle for Australia Day commemorates the service and sacrifice of all those who served in defence of Australia in 1942 and 1943 when we faced the gravest threats to our nation

Sept 7: Independence Day :Brazil

Sept 8: National Day : Andora

Sept 8: Independence Day: Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of

Sept 9: National Day: Korea, Democratic People's Republic of

Sept 9: National Day :Tajikistan

Sept 12: Mid-Autumn (moon) Festival: The Mid-Autumn Festival is a popular East Asian celebration of abundance and togetherness, dating back over 3000 years. The traditional food of this festival is the mooncake.

Sept 12: Coptic New Year : The Copts have been celebrating New Year for over 1700 years and the Coptic Orthodox Church is one of the oldest Christian churches in the world

Sept 14: Turning Wave Festival, Gundagai NSW (to 18 Sept): A celebration of Irish and Australian music and the related arts.

Sept 15: Independence Day: Costa Rica

Sept 15: Independence Day: El Salvador

Sept 15: Independence Day: Guatemala

Sept 15: Independence Day: Honduras

Sept 15: Independence Day: Nicaragua

Sept 16: Proclamation of Independence: Mexico

Sept 16: Independence Day: Papua New Guinea

Sept 17: Australian Citizenship Day: Citizenship ceremonies are held across Australia to welcome people into the Australian community. Citizenship is the bond which unites all Australians and becoming an Australian citizen is

a step that shows commitment and loyalty to this country.

Sept 17: Oktoberfest (to 3 Oct): Oktoberfest is a German festival celebrated by communities worldwide. It is celebrated with folk dancing, singing, food and drink.

Sept 18: National Day : Chile

Sept 19: Independence Day: Saint Kitts and Nevis

Sept 21: National Day :Armenia

Sept 21: National Day :Belize

Sept 21: Independence Day: Malta

Sept 22: Proclamation of Independence: Mali

Sept 23: National Day :Saudi Arabia

Sept 24: Children's Festival, Bankstown, Sydney: This festival is for children and their families to share experiences from different cultural backgrounds (date TBC):Festival

Sept 24: Independence Day: Guinea-Bissau

Sept 29: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year): Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year festival, commemorates the creation of the world. A synagogue ritual is the blowing of the Shofar, a ram's horn trumpet. Apples are dipped in honey as a symbol of the sweet New Year that lies ahead

Sept 30: National Day : Botswana

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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, 26 September 2011 at 1pm. If you would like to contribute any community updates or articles, please email

aanil@mrchobart.org.au

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