



Issue 18, September 2011

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MRC EVENTS

Update from the CEO of Migrant Resource Centre

On Wednesday, 21 September, Cedric Manen the CEO of Migrant Resource Centre, attended a Joint Roundtable with Minister for Sport Mark Arbib and Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Senator Kate Lundy at the Parliament House in Canberra. It was a three hour roundtable with national representatives of Sports and Settlement stakeholders. Cedric met with Dr Helen Szoke, the new Race Discrimination Commissioner for Australia and is pleased to confirm that Helen will visit with the MRC and stakeholders on Friday, 04 November.

Cedric was also lucky to have bumped into Andrew Wilkie and Lisa Singh at Parliament House.

Cedric also visited Queensland in his capacity as Chair of the Settlement Council of Australia to observe innovation in the community sector at work at the Multicultural Development Association (MDA) and A.C.C.E.S. Services. Many thanks to Gail Kerr and Kerrin Benson for their support of Cedric's visit and the Settlement sector. There are many exciting and sustainable programs that continue to provide support to CaLD communities.

On Thursday, 29 September 2011 Cedric participated in a national round table on future policy directions for Settlement Grants Program with the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy
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MRC Youth- September School Holiday Program

The September School Holidays were packed with sport and recreation activities with over 100 participants enjoying the four key events over the break. These included an excursion to Nutgrove Beach, Sandy Bay, A Sports day at Hobart's PCYC,

Swimming at Hobart's Aquatic Centre and a Two Day World Soccer Tournament at Cornelian Bay.

During the first week's activities students learned how to catch the metro bus to the key locations in Hobart including Hobart's Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) and the Migrant Resource Centre on Molle Street. At the PCYC participants enjoyed some indoor soccer, a very tough game of basketball and were also introduced to the gym equipment for running, cycling and weights.

On the beach excursion the brave young women had a quick dip in the Derwent at Nutgrove Beach, whilst the boys engaged in a running game in the sand dunes and some sand sculpture creations.

The second week was dominated by a very popular few hours at the swimming pool and the two day World Soccer Cup Tournament. The World Cup had six teams of mixed ages, genders and cultures with 10 cultural backgrounds represented. Participants got to play over 10 games during the tournament with a grand final played between Barcelona and the Fighters. Appropriately the grand final was a draw. Special Awards were given to some of the outstanding participants, motivators and talent.



The Youth Program is grateful to Second Bite, for food donated for the event and Football for Everyone who provided the equipment, some players and umpiring for the program.



Participants and young people interested in soccer are welcome to train and play practice games at the Domain every Monday with Chris and others from Football for Everyone (Free of Charge!). Many thanks to Reclink who donated some prizes, and the Hobart City Council for providing a great venue at beautiful Cornelian Bay.

The School Holiday Program and World Cup event could not have happened without the partnership with the PCYC who worked closely with MRC's Youth Worker during the holidays to transport, entertain and cater for all of the energetic participants.

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Peace Festival 2011

The 2011 Peace Festival was held at Mawson's Place, Hobart Waterfront on Saturday, 24 September from 12 – 4pm. There was back to back entertainment from traditional to more contemporary music and dance which included participation from a wide range of community and cultural groups such as Karen, Bhutanese, Buddhist, Chilean and African communities. There was also entertainment provided by local Tasmanian performers including a community choir and band.

Delicious food was available from a variety of cultural backgrounds including Afghani, Ethiopian, Madi, Italian and Thai. The Salvation Army provided more 'local' fare with sausages in bread and the Huonville High School and Rwandan Coffee Club sold great coffee as part of

their fundraising projects for developing countries.



A couple of additions to this year's festival were an International market with craft, clothing, jewellery and produce from a range of countries. There was also a cultural arts display which showcased a great selection of clothing, fabrics, paintings, dolls and artefacts from around the globe.

Overall the festival was a great opportunity for communities to come together and share with the broader Tasmanian community aspects of their culture in the form of entertainment, food and craft. It was a great family day with entertainment for the kids provided by Kingborough Council in the way of craft activities, also face painting by the Huonville High school students and hair braiding by members of the African communities.



Special thanks to the CaLD communities involved for enriching Tasmania with their culture and

providing the great food, entertainment and craft. Also Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Clarence City Council, Kingborough Council, Multicultural Council of Tasmania and MRC staff who formed the committee and jointly made this Peace Festival possible.

Our appreciation to PMLS who provided the sound and stage equipment, Control Catering for the Bainmairee's and support with the food stalls, Southern Water, Salvation Army and MRC volunteers.

We look forward to next year's Peace Festival to be hosted by the Kingborough Council.

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Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant 2011

The annual Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant will be held on Saturday, 19 November 2011 and the Migrant Resource Centre will be continuing our long tradition of participating in the Parade.

Last year around 150 people participated from a variety of communities. Some of the communities included Sudanese, Karen, Bhutanese, Afghani, Chinese, Korean, Ethiopian, Scottish and Irish. The atmosphere was chaotic with a strong feeling of goodwill all round.

This year the overarching theme for the Migrant Resource Centre's entry in the Christmas Pageant is 'appreciation of diversity' and a 'call to welcome people from all over the World who now call Tasmania home.'

MRC's parade will be an explosion of colour, culture, music and dance. There will be an array of flags and colourful props to symbolise diversity and all communities will march as one group to symbolise togetherness and harmony.

Last year the MRC won the Lord Mayor's Award and was runner up in the prize for Best Community Group. The pressure is on to continue this fine performance this year!

All communities are welcome to parade with the Migrant Resource Centre! Workshop dates in the flyer below:



Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant Saturday, 19 November 2011

Prop Making Sessions:

Thursday 29 September - 1pm - 4pm

Thursday 6 October - 1pm - 4pm

Thursday 3 November - 1pm - 4pm

Thursday 10 November - 1pm - 4pm

**Prop Making Sessions will be held at MRC
49 Molle Street**



For more information please contact:

Anna Williams, Email: awilliams@mrc-hobart.org.au
Phone: (03) 6221 0999

All Communities Welcome to Parade!

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Senior's Week Event 2011

Senior's Week will be observed in Tasmania from October 1 to 7 and clients from all the four day centres run by MRC i.e., Croatian Day Centre, Chinese Day Centre, German Day centre and Multicultural Day Centre will participate in special senior's week events organised by MRC. In keeping to this year's Seniors' Week theme of "Back To Nature" the day centre clients will go on a trip to Mt Field National Park, where we hope they will experience nature in all its glory by taking a walk through the park to view Russell Falls. This will be followed by a two course lunch at the National Park Hotel.

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MRC Annual General Meeting 2011



requests the pleasure of your company for our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 27 October 2011 at 6 pm for a 6.15 pm start
in

The Terry Martin Room
Glenorchy Civic Centre, 2 Cooper Street, Glenorchy 7010

Followed by supper
(Please advise special dietary requirements if any)

RSVP: 19 October 2011 phone: 6221 0999 or email: reception@mrchobart.org.au

AGENDA

1. Introduction by Chair – Mr Otto De Vries
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes 2010 AGM
4. Matters Arising
5. Ratification of the Migrant Resource Centre Revised Constitution
5. Adoption of reports by
Chair – Mr Otto De Vries
Treasurer – Ms Maureen Rudge
Chief Executive Officer – Mr Cedric Manen
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Guest Speakers on "perspectives of Women in Islam"
Dr Parisa Aminzadeh
Ms Najibeh Jafari
8. Recognition of our Volunteers
9. Election of Board of Management
Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer
Second Treasurer
Secretary
Second Secretary
Committee Members (5)
10. Close
11. Refreshments and entertainment

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Mental Health Week 2011

The Phoenix Centre will be hosting a free event on Friday, 14 October 2011 from 9.30am to 4pm at the Glenorchy Civic centre, Cooper Street Glenorchy. The program includes interactive training for CaLD community members and providers of mental health services.

Judy Saba a Cross Cultural psychologist and Churchill Fellowship Recipient will conduct separate workshops for Services Providers and CaLD communities followed by a combined session on "Learning Together Working Together".

The event will be a chance for service providers and CaLD community members to share knowledge and discuss common concerns about mental health and wellbeing issues. For further details and register for this event please contact Kylie Millar on kmillar@mrchobart.org.au or **6234 9138**.

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MRC Service Update Job Coaching at 'Connect'

Connect will be running its Job Coaching Program funded by Skills Tasmania over the next 40 weeks. The program will be broken into 10 sessions of four blocks each, offering a structured 10 day program over five weeks. This allows participants to be grouped together in relation to needs and skill levels (including spoken and written English). This will also allow the job coach to work with smaller groups and offer increased individual assistance.

The Job Coaching program will be conducted by Kiros Hiruy, who brings with him nearly 20 years experience in training, employer canvassing, interview techniques, networking and many other skills to assist and support Connect clients to acquire meaningful job search/readiness skills and ultimately employment.

The first block of Job Coaching will commence on Monday, 10 October 2011.

For further details ring Connect on 6272 2614 or email akay@mrchobart.org.au

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Connect Launceston

The Job Coaching program will also be offered at Connect North.

On Tuesday, 6 September the Connect North Coordinator, Sylvia Wing, held an information session "What's in a job?" to provide information for young people from a refugee background in Years 11/12 who will be seeking employment at the end of the school year. The session was very

successful with 23 students and parents attending. Guest speakers included: Ben Smith from Work and Training (Traineeships/Apprenticeships), Geraldine from Centrelink Career Information Centre, K Mart Manager and a JSA provider.

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MRC Positions Vacant

CaLD Community Connections

Project Officer Launceston (0.6 FTE)

The Phoenix Centre is part of a national network of torture and trauma support services and is managed by the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tas) Inc. The Phoenix Centre is seeking to employ a Project Officer for their National Suicide Prevention Program in Launceston on a part time basis (0.6 FTE). To find out more information and for a copy of the Position Description, please email - reception@mrchobart.org.au. Only applications addressing the Selection Criteria will be considered.

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MRC Staff

MRC welcomed the following new staff in August 2011:

Jan Clippingdale – HACC Trauma Counsellor

Jan commenced working with MRC as the HACC Trauma Counsellor from 25 August and will be working with older migrants who are survivors of trauma. Previously Jan has worked with people in many and varied situations who have suffered trauma, including with Palestinian refugees in the Middle East and Kosovos at Brighton Camp. She has also worked in catholic colleges with refugees from Africa (mainly the Sudan) and helped them with career planning, settling into school and with trauma and other counselling. Jan has also worked with people who had suffered in the Port Arthur Tragedy and notes that she is always amazed at the resilience of the people she meets.

In her other working life, Jan has a counselling practice in South Hobart (Counselling and Psychology) and if you would like to know more please go to www.captas.com.au

Jan is a mother of three beautiful adult daughters whose work involves law, sociology and the environment. Her interests are in the environment, bush walking, meditation and Jan is a Board member of the Hobart Women's Shelter.

Natalie Pausin – Immigration Advisor

As the immigration advisor Natalie will be primarily working with humanitarian entrants seeking to propose family members under the Special Humanitarian Program as well as clients who qualify for the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS).

Prior to joining MRC, Natalie held various public advisory roles at State and Federal government level including Consumer Affairs, the Workplace Ombudsman and, most recently, the Department of Human Services – Child Support. Natalie also volunteered for a period at the Tenants Union of Tasmania. It was a direct result of her volunteer experience with Centacare's IHSS program and witnessing the anxiety newly-arrived families felt for loved ones left behind that Natalie decided to train as a migration agent.

Natalie's other interests/obsessions include food, photography, roller derby and motorbikes.

Tessa McCaig – Top/Second Gear Worker

Tessa has recently moved to Tasmania from Bendigo in Central Victoria, where she has lived for most of her life apart from a few periods living in Cambodia between 2004 – 2007. In Cambodia Tessa volunteered with English language schools and generally spent her time immersed in the rural of life Cambodia.

After this period, Tessa returned home and completed a Diploma of Community Welfare Work, where the concepts of Community Development were introduced to her and a whole new world of opportunity opened up.

Tessa is very passionate about Community Development and whilst continuing with studies in 2009 – 2010 with a Law/Arts degree, she began volunteering with the Loddon Campaspe

Community Legal Centre with their Family Violence and Migration Advice Services. Tessa was also employed for several years across this period as an Outreach Drug and Alcohol Support Worker in a Needle and Syringe Program. Tessa feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to focus on getting back to the grass roots of her passions, by reconnecting with the everyday experiences of people from refugee backgrounds in her new role with the MRC.

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Spotlight on Our Volunteers: Isaiah Lahai – Phoenix Centre Volunteer



My Volunteering Interest At MRC: I am volunteering 1.5 days per week at the Phoenix Centre as part of a requirement of the Volunteering Sociology unit I am studying at the University of Tasmania.

My Experience With Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (Cald) Communities : Being a refugee from Africa, I have a diverse cultural background that can be used to contribute to the social and cultural development of Tasmania. I am a member of the Diversity Council at the Glenorchy City Council. Being a leader in the African Community Council has enhanced my ability and potential to contribute positively towards multiculturalism in Tasmania.

My Favourite Life Experience : Being a father is one of the greatest experiences I have had. Being at home with my four kids makes me laugh and I feel blessed to be a father.

I Presently Spend My Daylight Hours: Most of my daylight hours are spent studying at University with the hope of getting a degree in Social Work in three years time. As a volunteer I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with people. It also enhances my chances of connecting to the wider community. My passion is to work with refugees and give back what has been given by the Australian community.

I Admire : Working with organisations in a volunteering capacity because it helps me build a special relationship with the community.

I Laugh When : My children make me laugh, especially my five year old who like to pretend to pose as a model.

The Biggest Challenge I Find Is? Getting my University assignments done on time and sharing domestic responsibilities with my wife – especially the concept of sharing 50:50 in the Australian culture.

My Wish For The CaLD Communities Of Tasmania : Social inclusion regardless of obstacles.

My Hero : I have too many heroes. The one that inspires me most is Barack Obama. He has given me hope that race is not a barrier to political success.

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Cultural Calendar Dates: October 2011

October 1 Sat: National Day China

October 1 Sat: Independence Day Guinea

October 1 Sat: National Day Nigeria

October 3 Mon: Day of German Unity

October 3 Mon: National Day: Iraq

October 3 Mon: National Foundation Day, Republic of Korea

October 6 Thu: Vijay Dashami - This Hindu festival marks the triumph of good over evil. The festival of Dasera concludes the festival of Navaratri, which extends over a number of days.

October 8 Sat: Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) This holiest day of Jewish year is observed with fasting and repentance. Many Jews will refrain from work and attend synagogue services.

October 9 Sun: Independence Day Uganda

October 10 Mon: Fiji Day

October 12 Wed: Independence Day Equatorial Guinea

October 12 Wed: National Day Spain

October 13 Thu: Sukkot. Sukkot commemorates the 40 year period during which the Jewish people were wandering in the desert. Sukkot were the huts in which they lived during this time.

October 16 Sun: Queensland Multicultural Festival, Brisbane.

October 19 Wed: National Day Niue

October 20 Thu: Birth of the Báb. Baha'i followers celebrate the birth of the Báb on this day, a prophet and forerunner of their faith. Work is suspended on this day.

October 20 Thu: Inauguration (Gurgadi) of Guru Granth Sahib. This day commemorates the eternal installation of the Sikh holy book, Guru Granth Sahib

October 23 Sun: CHOGM Arts and Culture Festival, Perth (to 30 Oct). This festival, staged to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), offers a range of arts and culture events and celebrates WA's cultural diversity.

October 24 Mon: Independence Day Zambia

October 26 Wed: National Day Australia

October 26 Wed: Deepavali - Festival of Lights. Australians of Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths celebrate Deepavali (Diwali), or the Festival of Lights. This is a very popular festival that celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

October 27 Thu: National Day St Vincent and the Grenadines

October 27 Thu: National Day Turkmenistan

October 28 Fri: Queen's Birthday (WA).

October 28 Fri: National Day Czech Republic

October 29 Sat: Republic Day Turkey

October 31 Mon: Halloween.

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

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