



migrant resource centre

southern tasmania inc.

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Holiday Notice

The MRC will be closed from 5pm Friday, 23 December to 9am Tuesday, 3 January 2012.

Our resources, including rooms and vehicles will not be available during this time.

We would like to thank all of our stakeholders for your support throughout 2011 and wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

MRC EVENTS

Visit by the Race Discrimination Commissioner of Australia

The MRC was honoured to host a visit by the Race Discrimination Commissioner of Australia - Dr Helen Szoke on Friday, 04 November 2011. Dr. Szoke was appointed as Australia's full time Race Discrimination Commissioner on 3 August 2011 for a five year term.

During her visit, Dr Szoke met with key MRC stakeholders and members of the emerging communities in Tasmania who provided an update on the Police Working group and Media working group. The working groups were formed earlier on in the year to consult with key agencies and engage with the culturally and linguistically diverse communities to identify issues and solutions around the key areas of police, media, housing, education and employment.



In her talk to the attendees, Dr Szoke touched on the importance of involving the communities and service providers in three national conversations:

- the development of a robust National Anti-Racism Partnership and Strategy;
- the Constitutional reform process – formally acknowledging the special place of the Nation's First Peoples and removing from the Australian Constitution discriminatory clauses based on race; and
- the development of priorities during her term as Race Discrimination Commissioner.

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FECCA Conference Update

The MRC CEO in his capacity as Chair of the Settlement Council of Australia attended the

FECCA Conference "Advancing Multiculturalism" in Adelaide on November 17 and 18. In addition to presenting a plenary session on 'Australia's Current and Future Multicultural Reality' alongside multicultural research expert Professor Graeme Hugo, the MRC CEO was a guest panellist at a youth forum at Multicultural Youth South Australia alongside the Chair of FECCA - Pino Migliorino, Dr. Helen Szoke - Australian Race Discrimination Commissioner and the Deputy Chair of the Australian Multicultural Council, Gail Ker.



Cedric was able to network with national stakeholders in the areas of multiculturalism including delivering some recommendations to the Consultative Forum on the National Anti Racism Strategy. Cedric also conducted a national consultation of Settlement Council of Australia members and stakeholders to hear emerging issues that the settlement sector is presently facing. Virginia Bashford and Emma Mathieson from the MRC Settlements team also attended the conference and visited key agencies in South Australia to observe settlement programs in action and bring any key learnings back to Tasmania.

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2011 Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant

MRC participated in the Myer Hobart Christmas pageant on Saturday, 19 November 2011. MRC's parade had over 150 members of the community and staff showcasing their culture and national Costumes. Some of the comments by the MC of

the event on MRC's pageant entry were "there is an explosion of colours and an abundance of diversity in this group" and "it appears that the United Nations has descended on the streets of Hobart"!



MRC's entry won the Best Community Group at this year's pageant. Many thanks to our dedicated settlements team for their co-ordination of the event and to the communities and other staff members who participated in the march.

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State Wide Tasmanian Community Forum

On Thursday, 1 December the African Communities Council of Tasmania, the Tasmanian New and Emerging Communities North and South, Multicultural Council of Tasmania, MRC and key agencies are conducting a State-wide Community Forum to hear issues affecting the culturally and linguistically diverse members of the Tasmanian community at the Stanley Burbury Theatre at UTAS. A number of key agencies will gather to hear presentations from community working groups in the areas of Police, Media, Education and Employment, Housing and Health.

The forum will be documented and the information disseminated to key community groups, settlement agencies and service providers with the view to informing better access to services. The MRC has been fortunate to secure a number of interstate guests including the Chair of the Queensland African Communities Council, Mr. Daniel Zingifuaboro,

the Police African Liaison Officer - South Australian Police, Mr. Juma Abuyi and the forum will be facilitated by Ms. Sky De Jersey the Executive Officer of the Settlement Council of Australia, the national peak body for the settlement sector. Till date over 150 community members and service providers have RSVP'd to attend the forum.

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Mental Health First Aid Training

The Phoenix Centre has several training opportunities funded by Anglicare for members of CALD communities, or those who work with them.

FREE Mental Health First Aid Training is available to those who work with, or who are members of, CALD communities. Two training courses are being offered. Both courses are held over two days and are being held at the University of Tasmania. Day One of the first course was held on Friday, 25 November and the final day will be on Friday, 2 December. As the number of people wanting to do this course exceeded capacity, we will be holding a second course which will be held on Monday, 12 December and Tuesday, 13 December. Spaces are still available for this course. Please contact Deborah Stroh-Riley on 62 349138 to register.

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Cultural Responsiveness Training Workshops

On behalf of the Phoenix Centre, the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health (Melbourne) will be delivering three workshops in December:

Tuesday 6 December

9am-12noon Conducting Focus Groups with CALD Communities (**Limited spaces available**) Please contact Deborah Stroh-Riley on 62 349138 to register.

1pm-4pm Sustained Engagement with CALD Community Members (Full)

Wednesday 7 December

9am-12noon Culturally Competent Health Assessments (Full)

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Packaged Care Programs Afternoon Tea

MRC's Packaged Care Programs will be hosting an afternoon tea to celebrate Christmas on Monday, 5 December 2011 from 2pm – 4pm at the Chinese Community Association of Tasmania, 7 Burnett Place, North Hobart. Afternoon tea and entertainment will be provided to MRC's Packaged Care Programs staff, clients and support workers.

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Volunteer Thank You Event – Waterworks Reserve –29.11.11

The native bush setting, a warm balmy evening with the added feature of ducks and kookaburra was complimented by the attendance of 30 dedicated volunteers who met to celebrate the MRC Annual Thank You BBQ.

Many staff also enjoyed the contribution of their time prepare food and to organise this event. We were fortunate to have violin and piano accordion entertainment provided by Alex, Wanda, Midj, and Monika (the occasional percussionist).



Thanks to Otto and Betty for the hot beverages and Christmas cake, Tasmanian Bakeries for the pastries and bread and Hobart City Council for the venue.

Volunteer Recognition continues to be high priority on the MRC agenda. It is our way of acknowledging and showing appreciation to volunteers for the many hours volunteers contribute in supporting the MRC and its clients. Over the past 12 months, in excess of 100 volunteers contributed close to 5,000 hours of their time. A wonderful achievement indeed!

For the September 2011 quarter volunteers were involved in the following areas of work:

- BoM in Governance: 11
- Aged Care Programs: 22
- Settlement – Top Gear and Second Gear: 24
- Youth Program: 6
- Learning for Growth Program: 10
- Phoenix Befriending: 9
- Phoenix Natural Therapies: 2
-

During the 2011 year 43 new volunteers were inducted into the MRC volunteer program and we are pleased to say that most have commenced in the various volunteer roles. Volunteers are encouraged to be involved in all the program areas and their feedback is always welcomed and incorporated into the MRC program areas.

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MRC Service Update

MRC 'Connect'

Job Coaching at 'Connect'

The first round of Connect's Job Coaching Program finished on Wednesday, 9 November with three out of four participants being offered employment. The fourth participant commenced a three week paid work trial on 16 November in the hospitality industry. The next Job Coaching Program will commence at the end of January 2012.

Falls Festival Information Sessions

The Connect coordinator held information sessions in November for paid positions at this year's Falls Festival. The first session was for youth (18 to 25 years old) for work on the Green Team during the festival. This is a great opportunity for younger clients to experience the Falls Festival for the first time while working and earning some money during the holidays. Six youth have been confirmed for various positions.

The second session was for the Karen community for post-festival Green Team positions. Twenty Karen people worked last year during the post festival clean up and did such a great job the

festival manager asked Connect to double the numbers for this year's festival.

'Connect' North

'Connect' North had the opportunity to promote their services at Launceston Service Providers Meeting facilitated by Centrelink and DEEWR.

Job Coaching is now up and running in the North which we hope will further enhance interview skills and improve applicants' ability to do their best at job interviews. Job Coaching helps to increase participants' knowledge of industry by visiting work places, training institutions and inviting people from industry to talk to the group.

As many courses are coming to an end, we are able to offer assistance to graduates and have been able to help with job applications and setting up work experience. Some of the clients have been accepted into the State Government Work Experience Program commencing late November and are gaining valuable work experience at the City Council and the Hospital.

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Feedback on MRC Projects

CALD Cultural Arts & Craft Program 2011

A Year 7 student from The Friends' School, Gabrielle Andolfatto, has received a second place for her entry in the Tasmania Together Youth Challenge 2011 for a project on how children can make Tasmania a better place in 2020. Students are asked to express their vision for the future in a creative way and to relate it to the goals of Tasmania Together.

Gabrielle used the MRC CALD Cultural Arts & Craft Program 2011 funded by the Community Capacity Building Grants Program 2011 as the basis of her project entitled 'A Multi-cultural Arts Program brings Tasmanians Together.'

Gabrielle states in her project:



Suzanne Feike from MRC & Gabrielle

'The Tasmanian Multi-cultural Arts Program is designed so that people from the local community can learn about the cultural groups that make up Tasmania, have a better understanding of the cultural groups, as well as reconnecting the skills and talents that the refugees or immigrants may or may not have forgotten when they arrive in Tasmania. These skills are often pushed away while people are concentrating on learning English and "fitting in". My idea is about everyone being important and each person (and their story) adding to our community.'

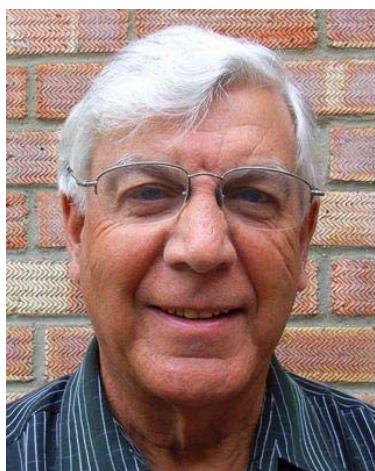
Gabrielle discussed her project with Suzanne Feike at the MRC and Suzanne provided insights for the project and invited Gabrielle to participate in the MRC CALD Cultural Arts & Craft Program 2011. Gabrielle attended the MRC Royal Hobart Show display and volunteered 4 hours of her time to assist at the display on the Show Day Holiday.

Gabrielle finishes her project with this comment:
"Let's get people thinking and talking about this idea – build on the great things that are already happening!"

Congratulations on your achievements Gabrielle!
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Focus on our Volunteers: Peter Jones – Top Gear Project

My Volunteering Interest At MRC: Driver training and mentoring through MRC's Top Gear project.



My Experience With Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (Cald) Communities :

From 1972 onwards we befriended Asian University students until retirement in 2011. Since then, I have been working

with newly arrived refugees particularly those with a Karen background coming from Burma.

My Favourite Life Experience: Teaching business and financial mathematics to TAFE students who thought they couldn't handle mathematics.

I Presently Spend My Daylight Hours: Keeping physically active (golf, bike riding and gardening), following up with the Karen families on their various needs and problems.

I Admire: Our rivers, coastline and forests in Tasmania

I Laugh When: I watch 'Spicks and Specs'

The Biggest Challenge I Find Is? - Keeping age at bay

My Wish For The Cald Communities Of Tasmania: That each individual can exploit life's opportunities to the same extent as any person born in Australia.

My Hero: Francis Schaeffer (teacher, philosopher, ethicist and theologian) who asked the question "how now should we live?"

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Cultural Calendar Dates: December 2011

December 1 Thu: National Day - Central African Republic

December 1 Thu: National Day - Romania

December 2 Fri: National Day - Laos

December 2 Fri: National Day - United Arab Emirates

December 5 Mon: The King's Birthday Anniversary, Thailand

December 6 Tue: Independence Day, Finland

December 6 Tue: Ashura - Ashura marks Noah's departure from the ark, the exodus of Moses from Egypt and the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson. Islamic

December 8 Thu: Immaculate Conception - This Catholic feast day commemorates the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin all of her life.

December 11 Sun: National Day, Burkina Faso

December 12 Mon: Jamhuri Day, Kenya

December 16 Fri: National Day Bahrain

December 16 Fri: National Day Kazakhstan

December 17 Sat: National Day Bhutan

December 18 Sun: National Day Niger

December 18 Sun: National Day Qatar

December 20 Tue: Chanukah – Festival of Lights – Chanukah (Hanukkah) commemorates the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. It lasts for eight days and nights, and each night an additional candle is lit.

December 23 Fri: Emperor's Birthday Japan

December 24 Sat: Christmas Eve – Carols By Candlelight – Carols By Candlelight is a community event especially for children. Pack a picnic dinner, bring a rug, light a candle and join in singing Christmas carols in the season of peace and goodwill.

December 25 Sun: Christmas Day – Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, peace on earth and good will. Christmas lights and trees are displayed, carols sung and children eagerly await the arrival of Santa Claus and gifts.

December 26 Mon: Boxing Day – Two important sporting events are held—the start of the Sydney to Hobart bluewater classic yacht race and the Boxing Day test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

December 27 Tue: Woodford Folk Festival, Qld (to 1 Jan) – The festival appeals to a diverse audience with all ages and many nationalities attracted each year to its music, street theatre, talks, art, food, craft and stalls.

December 31 Sat: New Year's Eve – New Year's Eve is a time for communities, families and

friends to celebrate the year past and the year to come. Fireworks light up cities and harbours around Australia.

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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. There will no Radio broadcast and newsletter by MRC for the month of December.

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