

# Multicultural Western Australia



Office of Multicultural Interests  
Government of Western Australia

Newsletter of the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI)

April 2007

## Harmony Week 2007

*"CONNECT outside the square and make a world of difference"*



From 15 to 21 March 2007 Western Australia celebrated Harmony Week through various activities and events. One of the highlights of the Week was CONNECT@Hyde Park.

This year OMI worked in partnership with the Town of Vincent to present CONNECT@Hyde Park on Sunday 18 March 2007. The event included a **World Stage** featuring a music and dance program; a **Mind Marquee** housing a stimulating program of speakers and panel discussions about multiculturalism; a **Harmony Hotspots** featuring football clinics, children's theatre and camel rides; and the **World Village** featuring over 30 cultural groups and organisations.

The Town of Vincent estimates that CONNECT@Hyde Park attracted over 5000 people and audience surveys indicated that 93.5% of people would attend a similar event next year. OMI would especially like to thank the **Town of Vincent** and **Mitsui Iron Ore** for their support of Harmony Week 2007 and all the community groups and organisations who participated, making it a great family event.

### Harmony Week in the Media

The 2007 Harmony Week Media Strategy was highly successful in bringing the message of the Week to all Western Australians through print, radio and television. Harmony Week was featured in 75 articles in metropolitan community newspapers, 68 articles in regional community newspapers, and four pieces in state-wide newspapers. This coverage was extremely positive and included nine front cover page articles, which incorporated eye catching photographs. Radio was also a successful medium with two lengthy feature interviews on the ABC, including a 20 minute interview with the Sudanese Bari Group, and a lengthy coverage on ASeTTS, which recognised the recent win by ASeTTS of a Western Australian Multicultural Community Service Award. Special thanks also to the ethnic radio station 6EBA, which broadcasted all day from CONNECT@Hyde Park.

## Women in Leadership Awards

Four Perth women have been recognised for their work in helping fellow female migrants and refugees overcome economic and social barriers.

Hon Ljiljana Ravlich MLC, Minister for Multicultural Interests and Citizenship, presented the Women in Leadership Awards at the Ethnic Communities Council of WA 2007 International Women's Day Celebrations held on Friday 9 March 2007.

Minister Ravlich said that the Awards were given to four women in recognition of their work in bringing hope and self-determination to other women.

"Even in a developed society like ours, women are still fighting for fair treatment in many areas of life, including family, workplace and community decision making," the Minister said.

The Minister added "Migrant women, especially those from a non-English speaking background, face many barriers when settling into a new country.

I commend all migrant women for their enormous courage, strength and hard work in trying to overcome the barriers and provide the best environment for their children to be educated and grow."

The Awards were presented to Lily Roza Pinto, Marian Osman Wais, Despa McDonnell and Shehaam Kirsten.



The Cancer Council Western Australia Make Smoking History Campaign will launch a powerful new television commercial in May 2007. The Campaign will highlight the health effects on children of second hand smoke and encourage parents to make their home and car a smoke free zone. To find out more about Make Smoking History, visit <http://www.cancerwa.asn.au/prevention/tobacco/>.

Parents considering quitting can call the Quitline on 13 7848. Quitline has options for people to speak to a counsellor in languages other than English and can provide resources in other languages.

## Connecting outside the cultural square

The AdoptASchool Association Inc. and Mt Hawthorn Junior Primary School joined together to celebrate Harmony Week 2007 with activities to promote interaction and understanding between students and communities.



The activities were designed to coincide with a visit by Balinese School Principals to Perth as part of a cultural exchange program by the AdoptASchool Association Inc. The one week visit by twenty-four senior educators and one senior student from Bali was organised by Mrs Susan Cromb, Chairperson of the AdoptASchool Association Inc, and the committee. Susan established the Association shortly after the Sari Club bombing, first sponsoring families and individuals, then developing a scheme to link schools in Bali to those in WA as a means of support, cultural understanding and exchange.

The week long visit ended with a day at Mt Hawthorn Junior Primary School to join the Harmony Week celebrations that were funded by OMI, followed by a farewell dinner and presentation night at the Pelican Café in North Beach.

Anyone interested in knowing more about AdoptASchool Association Inc., particularly schools wishing to join the scheme, should contact Susan Cromb out of school hours on 9409 2876 or 0402 914 521.

## Cultural Exchange Forum

The South West Migrant and Multicultural Service co-hosted a Cultural Exchange Forum with Bunbury Public Library during Harmony Week. The Forum was a big success, with over 20 members of the community, of all ages, attending.

Migrant women from Thailand, the Philippines and South Africa spoke and answered questions about their cultures and traditions. The speakers were colourful and the crowd was lively. After the presentations, everyone mingled and chatted over tasty, homemade Malaysian food. It was a wonderful evening and comfortable setting for everyone to come together to celebrate diversity.

### Do we have your correct details?

If your address or any of your details have changed, please send your current contact details to [harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au) or telephone OMI on (08) 9222 8800.

To subscribe to [Multicultural Western Australia](#)

Email: [harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:harmony@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Phone: (08) 9222 8800 Fax: (08) 9222 8801

Website: [www.omi.wa.gov.au](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au)

## Northbridge History Project uncovers our rich multicultural heritage

Northbridge is a fascinating and complex area, which has reflected growth and changes in the State, and has been home to nearly fifty different nationalities and ethnic groups starting with the original Aboriginal inhabitants. Since the 1800s to the present day the Chinese have had a strong presence in Northbridge, from market gardening to commerce. Post-war migration to WA saw a significant Italian and Greek presence in Northbridge and this has contributed to the 'expresso bar lifestyle' and 'café culture' which is synonymous with Northbridge. Today, 'café culture' in WA is a much celebrated symbol of multicultural urbanism, used to promote everything from tourism to land sales. Migrants have played a very significant part in this transformation. Polish and Vietnamese migrants have also contributed greatly to the changing culture of Northbridge and WA.

The Northbridge History Project draws on this rich cultural heritage and aims to build community understanding of the dynamics of the area. The Northbridge History Project group has organised a History Studies Day, which will feature presentations from historians and ethnic and community leaders to highlight the multicultural tapestry and the many hidden histories of Northbridge. In many instances, this is the first time that the material will be presented publicly.

The Northbridge History Studies Day is on Saturday 12 May 2007 from 1:00pm to 5:40pm at the State Library Theatre, Alexander Library Building, Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge.

Registration Forms and details about the Project are available at [www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au](http://www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au) or by telephoning 9222 9305.

### The Family Violence Education Grants Program

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit is providing small grants of up to \$5,000 to CaLD communities. The grants will assist community leaders, elders and religious leaders to undertake education and/or training activities that will provide them with better skills and confidence to address the issue of family violence in their communities.

Expressions of Interest must be received by the Family and Domestic Violence Unit in hard copy or via email by Monday 7 May 2007 at 5.00pm.

For further details and application form go to [www.omi.wa.gov.au/Newsfiles/DCD\\_Grants.pdf](http://www.omi.wa.gov.au/Newsfiles/DCD_Grants.pdf).

### WA Week Small Grants Scheme

WA Week is a once a year chance for all Western Australians to take part in a grand celebration of our past, present and future.

To encourage communities in all regions of the State to become involved in and benefit from WA Week, Celebrate WA, in partnership with the Government of Western Australia, has made available a WA Week Small Grants Scheme and invites all eligible groups and organisations to apply.

For further information go to [www.celebratewa.com.au](http://www.celebratewa.com.au) and click on WA Week Grants. Applications close on Friday 15 June 2007.