

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007



Government of South Australia

Multicultural SA

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As the next Lieutenant Governor of South Australia, I will be in a position to further promote multiculturalism and the acceptance of cultural diversity as integral to this State's harmony.

I will be sworn in and begin my commission on 31 August, the day the current Lieutenant Governor Bruno Krumins AM, retires.

Mr Krumins is the founding Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC).

It is a great honour to have been chosen to support the next Governor, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Kevin Scarce AO CSC and I look forward to helping him recognise and celebrate the achievements of South Australians.

It also an honour to follow in the footsteps of the current Lieutenant Governor, Bruno Krumins, who has been a wonderful ambassador for all South Australians, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

I plan to continue to promote South Australia as an ideal migrant destination and as an attractive environment for investment, trade and economic development.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Two new appointments have been made to the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

I welcome on board Ms Swee Ming (Michelle) Dieu, who is of Chinese background, and Mr Mariano Ngor, who is of Sudanese background.

Ms Dieu and Mr Ngor will be valuable additions to our team of community-based Commission members.

Earlier in the year we farewelled four out-going Members: Dr Tilahun Mengesha Afrassa, Ms Marie Alvino, Ms Subha Mameledzija and Mr Teodoro Spiniello.

I thank each for their dedication to multiculturalism and to the work of the Commission.

I also commend the out-going Members for their energy, enthusiastic participation in SAMEAC's activities and contributions to the discussion and debates of the things that matter to multiculturalism and to SAMEAC's constituency.

Hieu Van Le

MULTICULTURAL S.A. RINGS IN NEWROZ

Multicultural Affairs Minister, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., donned traditional garb for the Kurdish Newroz or New Year celebration in March.

Multicultural S.A. provided a Multicultural Grants Scheme grant to the Kurdish Australian Association for the event.

This traditional Kurdish holiday traces its origins to the 7th century BC. It coincides with the northern Equinox, and marks the beginning of spring. It also symbolises freedom from oppression and life born anew.

Most Middle Eastern peoples celebrate Newroz (or Noruz), through a variety of traditions, customs, rituals, and stories.

MULTICULTURAL S.A. MEETING ON AGED CARE

Following representations from the Tatar Bashkort community, Multicultural S.A. organised an Aged Care Information Meeting.

The meeting provided members of Turkic communities with information about aged care services.

Rosa Colanero, Chief Executive Officer of Multicultural Aged Care (MAC) provided an overview of services and initiatives provided by the Commonwealth Government to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Ms Colanero spoke about:

- how MAC can assist ethnic communities in meeting their aged care needs, including residential aged care facilities;
- the formula for calculating places and distribution of funds;
- the different levels of care - low, medium and high; and
- independent living with support through a range of programs and respite care.

Monica Leahy from the Office for the Ageing provided details of State Government programs and initiatives including Home and Community Care (HACC), Grants for Seniors, Positive Ageing Grants, Aged Care Grants and Seniors Card.

Other speakers included Fiona Dunt from Helping Hand and Marius Van Helden from Dutch Aged Care.

Further information is available from Ms Nadia Gani at Multicultural S.A. on 8226 1944.



MULTICULTURAL S.A. HAS INFORMATION ON ISLAM

Multicultural S.A. has posted information about Islam and the Muslim community in South Australia on its website making this information more publicly available.

The subsite is one of several initiatives suggested by the South Australian Government Muslim Reference Group (S.A.G.M.R.G.).

The Muslim Reference Group was formed in 2005 to provide advice to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on improving community relations and promoting inter-faith dialogue relevant to Muslim communities in South Australia.

The website address is

www.multicultural.sa.gov.au/page.cfm/Islam

The Islam pages include information on: Islam, Australian Islamic Councils, Facts and Statistics, History, Women, Youth, Education, Resources for Professionals working with Muslims, Media, Funerals and further reading.

Other initiatives suggested by the S.A.G.M.R.G. are:

- An *Introduction to Islam and Muslims in Australia* resource pack for teachers and schools;
- Articles on Islam to be submitted to specialist and mainstream media publications; and
- promotion of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria Inc. publication *Media Guide – Islam and Muslims in Australia*.



Skye Greig from Multicultural S.A.'s Interpreting and Translating Centre and Sumeja Skaka, of Ayn Academy, at the Getting to Know You Islamic Expo in Rundle Mall.

MULTICULTURAL S.A. GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Multicultural S.A. was among South Australian Government agencies that supported an Islamic Expo in Rundle Mall in May.

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P., the Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Carmel Zollo M.L.C., and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Ms Grace Portolesi M.P., were among identities who took part in a cook-off.

South Australia Police, Families S.A. and the Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet had information stalls.

The *Getting to Know You* Islamic Expo gave Rundle Mall shoppers the opportunity to learn more about Islam and Muslims in South Australia.

The Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA), in partnership with the Islamic Council of South Australia, staged the day-long event to promote awareness and understanding of the cultures and values of Australian Muslim communities.

It was followed the next evening by a *Sharing Our Achievements* Islamic Symposium Dinner, designed to bring communities together and provide an opportunity for Australian Muslims to share their achievements and success stories.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSES

Multicultural S.A. and the Office for Women Again have sponsored a Women's Leadership Course for women of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The course, free to participants, is being provided by TAFE S.A.'s Workplace Education services at its Adelaide City Campus.

At the same time Workplace Education is providing introductory computing lessons to selected women's leadership course participants.

The need for further computer skills tuition was one of the findings of an evaluation conducted by Multicultural S.A. of the past two years of the women's leadership program.

Participants said the courses had helped boost self-confidence and esteem and helped make them more effective committee members.

The latest course, scheduled to finish in December, follows a highly successful 2006-07 course, with 14 graduates receiving Certificate III - Business Frontline Management certificates.

The women were presented with their certificates by the Hon. Jennifer Rankine, Minister for the Status of Women at a special graduation ceremony.



Adelaide Institute of TAFE Educational Manager Lidia Lipkiewicz (third from left) and Training Co-ordinator Jean Georgopolos (second from right) with participants in the latest leadership course for women of culturally and linguistically diverse background (from left) Mary Magafakis, Amal Al Halabi, Emilia Cioccia, Gillian Bovero, Sahra Mohammed, Nadia Gani, Vincenza Ferraro, Judi Jing, Vahedeh Mansoury and Susie Tonna.



Women's Leadership Course participants should be:

- willing to play active roles in their community and pass on their skills and knowledge to other women, as well as display a capacity to work with other communities;
- have an excellent understanding of their own culture and of the implications of cultural diversity for the broader community;
- interested in further developing their leadership

- skills and interested in participating on boards and committees;
- proficient in both oral and written English and be bilingual or bicultural; and
- committed to completing the course (three hours classwork per week plus homework over a period of time).

For further information, contact Toni Jupe on 8226 1944 or email jupe.toni@saugov.sa.gov.au

MULTICULTURAL S.A. JOINS FORCES WITH R.S.L. FOR ANZAC DAY

Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds take part in ANZAC Day ceremonies each year in a joint initiative between Multicultural S.A. and the Returned and Services League.

This year, youths representing American, Dutch, Greek, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Polish, Serbian and Scottish communities participated in vigils at Adelaide, Blackwood and Morphett Vale on 24 April, Anzac Day eve.

Refugee youth from Somalia also attended. Some of them were interviewed on radio by the ABC's Peter Goers.

The ANZAC Memorial Youth Vigil provides an opportunity to say thank you and remember those who gave their lives in the service of their country.



Participation of culturally and linguistically diverse youth in this event helps demonstrate the great importance of multiculturalism in South Australia and shows that ethnic youth, as young Australians, are also very proud of their heritage.

Left: Bonny and Holly Armstrong represented the Dutch community at the Adelaide War Memorial.



Multicultural S.A. will continue to promote the profile of culturally and linguistically diverse groups within events that tell the story of the Australian nation.

Left: Khalid Abdi and Abdirahman Kahiye, from Somalia, at the Adelaide War Memorial.

MULTICULTURAL GRANTS SCHEME OPEN

Friday 7 September 2007 is the deadline for applications for the latest round of Multicultural S.A.'s Multicultural Grants Scheme grants.

Information about eligibility for the grants is available from a Grants Officer on 8226 1944.

Application forms are available from local Members of Parliament, or by downloading from the Multicultural S.A. website www.multicultural.sa.gov.au, or by phoning Multicultural S.A. on 8226 1944.



MULTICULTURAL S.A. CONNECTS WITH KAZAKHS

Multicultural S.A. and the Turkic People Association of Australia "Turan" Inc have been involved in two significant events for people from Kazakhstan.

With Multicultural S.A.'s assistance, Kazakh athletes visiting for the World Police and Fire Games were put in touch with local migrants from their region, who held social events and helped them find their way around Adelaide.

Multicultural S.A. also facilitated connections with the local community and a visiting Kazakh delegation looking at South Australia as a destination for its students.

The delegation spent three days in Adelaide before giving South Australia the final nod for a deal brokered over the past six months by the State Government's London office.

All four of the State's universities have signed individual contracts to receive Australia's first students from the Government of Kazakhstan's highly-regarded international scholarship program, the Bolashak Award.

Premier Mike Rann says 19 Kazakh students have begun applying to study in Adelaide and he hopes the majority will be accepted and begin study at the beginning of next year, although some may begin this year.

It is expected that the students' tuition fees alone will inject about \$1 million into the South Australian economy.

MULTICULTURAL S.A. CONSULTS STUDENTS

Multicultural S.A. hosted a meeting of international students, community leaders and Education Adelaide to hear about issues of concern to students.

A survival guide published by Education Adelaide answers many students' questions about living, working and studying in Adelaide.

The *International Students' Survival Guide to Adelaide* is a booklet available in printed form from Multicultural S.A., by phoning 8410 1311, or as a free downloadable document from the www.studyadelaide.com website under 'Getting Started'.

Students also asked for information about job opportunities.

Information about skilled occupations, and employment available to migrants under the Migrant Occupations in Demand List (M.O.D.L.) is available from the website: www.isa.com.au/skilled/sol.



Turkic People Association of Australia "Turan" Inc President Irek Garipov, seated, in hat, with members of the Kazakhstan delegation to South Australia.

RECORDING COMMUNITY HISTORIES

The Latvian Association of S.A. has produced a recording about the Adelaide Latvian Saturday School.

The D.V.D. is an example of how a group can record its community history for sharing with the community.

Multicultural S.A.'s Recording Community Histories events, held in partnership with the Migration Museum, the History Trust of South Australia, the State Library and Artlab, have provided information on recording oral histories, preserving community artefacts and preparing community exhibits. More workshops are planned for later in the year.

Pictured below at the Latvian community's D.V.D. launch are (back, from left) school Principal Mara Priedkalns, Multicultural S.A. Executive Director Simon Forrest, Member for Morialta Lindsay Simmons M.P., Consul for Latvia Dr Valdis Tomanis, the History Trust of S.A.'s Kate Walsh, Unley Mayor Richard Thorne, Ethnic Schools Board Chairman John Kiosoglous, South Australia Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Member Maria Barredo, Latvian School Council member Lilita Daenke and Adelaide Latvian Museum Co-ordinator Mara Kolomitsev, and (front) students Amy Balodis and Vineta Zveja.

