

ethnicvoice

Newsletter of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council

2nd edition—2015



Welcome to the autumn edition of 'ethnic voice', the quarterly newsletter of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC).

The weather may be getting colder, but that's not slowing AWECC down! It's been a busy start to the year, with AWECC partnering with several agencies to provide a successful



program of events during Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day. AWECC's Strategy for 2015-17 and a new website is also on its way!

Inside this edition we take a look at some of the exciting multicultural events that have happened so far this year, including Cultural Diversity Week. We also check what's coming up over the next few months, including the Refugee Week fun day on June 13.

Please enjoy 'ethnic voice'!

inside...



family fun day • June 13, 2015

Special guests visit the Border p2, Harmony Day p4, Holi Festival p5, Refugee Week p6, Coming up! p10-11



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By Teju Chouhan,
AWECC Chairman

Welcome to the second edition of 'ethnic voice', newsletter of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council. In this bulletin, we high-

light some of our achievements at AWECC and provide you with a snapshot of what's been happening in our little multicultural world of Albury-Wodonga in the last few months.

It was an incredible few months for the AWECC team, finding ourselves more grounded and visible in the community. Collaborations and partnerships remained in the heart of what we did over this time. One of the highlights was our community engagement, partnering with a number of community organisations to host very successful events across this year's Cultural Diversity week.

It was an historic moment for AWECC with the official launch of the organisation in Albury on March

23. Special thanks to Irene Bouzo (CEO) and Eddie Micallef (Chairman) of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria for your visit to the Border and sharing your insights and experience with us.

Another significant achievement was the development of our first strategic plan. We now have a formal strategic direction for the next few years, and are already working on our 5 key priority areas; creating community resource hubs, developing a migrant employment programme, promoting community unification, advocating for community needs, and finding ways to help support migrant settlement.

AWECC also saw the development of a strategic partnership with Gateway Health, which will result in us having our own office space and operating out of the Gateway Health complex in High Street, Wodonga.

We are working hard to have a meaningful engagement and representation of the local ethnic groups and the organisations working with these groups. To achieve this, there is a need to come together, and we urge you to join forces with us by taking up a membership and getting involved in one of the many AWECC initiatives.

I hope you find this ethnic voice an interesting read.

ECCV VISITS THE BORDER

The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) Chairman Eddie Micallef and CEO Dr Irene Bouzo made a special visit to the Border in March to help celebrate the launch of AWECC at the Harmony Day event in Albury on March 22.

The ECCV delegates expressed their excitement of being able to celebrate with our community on such a sunny, happy occasion during Cultural Diversity Week. They were also full of praise for those involved in organising the event, later mentioning what a great and diverse community we have on the Border.



Above: ECCV Chairman Eddie Micallef (second left) with ECCV CEO Dr Irene Bouzo (third from left), with AWECC Board Members.

Eddie and Irene later joined AWECC board members for dinner, reflecting on the day and remembering the colourful fun of Holi, while congratulating AWECC on the positive start it has made and encouraging them for the future.

The ECCV has been instrumental in helping establish AWECC, particularly through the support of former Chief Executive, Mr Ross Barnett. The AWECC Board looks forward to a strong partnership with the ECCV into the future.

VOLUNTEER FAIR 2015

The AWECC had a stand at this year's Wodonga Volunteer Fair held in The Cube Wodonga courtyard on Saturday May 16. The Volunteer Fair was a part of National Volunteer Week which celebrated the massive contribution volunteers make to community and not-for-profit organisations and the wider community. The fair included a free barbecue, live music from the Wodonga Citizens Band, face-painting and more.

AWECC is seeking volunteers for a variety of roles in the future including helping hands at events and sub-committee members. If you would like to help as a volunteer or financial member, please call (02) 6022 9325 or send an email to contact@awecc.org.au



TEJU BECOMES A FATHER

AWECC chairman Teju Chouhan has become a father, after his wife Rekha gave birth to their first child, a daughter they named Grace. After "many interrupted sleeps", Mum, Dad and baby Grace are all doing well. Congratulations Teju and Rekha! This is another string to Teju's bow, and we know fatherhood is another role he will cherish and excel in.



AWARD FOR MODEL CITIZEN

AWECC board director Vijay Kuttappan has been awarded the 2015 David Battersby Award at Charles Sturt University (CSU). The award acknowledges Vijay's contribution to the student body, and recognises his good citizenship, leadership and service to the community. Vijay received the award from the CSU Head of Campus at a ceremony on May 19. Vijay is in

the final stages of completing a Master of Philosophy (M. Phil) for his research thesis on Indian seasonal migration of the farming community. Vijay lives in Lavington and has been a 'local' for more than three years. He is originally from Kerala, in the south-west region of India. The AWECC congratulates Vijay for his commitment to his research field and the local community.



Want to make a difference?

Join the AWECC!

As a member you will be helping us make the Border an even better place for our multicultural community to live, learn, & work!

Individual memberships only \$10 per year!
Corporate/group membership \$50 per year.

Call (02) 6022 9325 or email
contact@awecc.org.au



CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK



Cultural Diversity Week 2015 was presented by AWECC in partnership with Albury City Council, City of Wodonga, Albury-Wodonga Volunteer Resources Bureau, St Vincent de Paul Society, Albury-Wodonga Indian Australian Association and several other organisations.



HOLI FESTIVAL



CULTURE CLUB MORNING TEA

The Wodonga Library hosted a morning tea for the community as part of Cultural Diversity Week in conjunction with Gateway Health's Culture Club program. The morning also marked the official opening of the 'welcome' window, a window installation at the entrance of the library with the word 'welcome' translated into the most common languages spoken on the Border.



BHUTANESE JUSTICE FORUM

The Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation held a consultation forum with about 20 members and leaders of the local Bhutanese community in February. Hosted at Gateway Health Wodonga, the meeting involved members of several agencies including the police service, courts, corrections, dispute settlement service, Hume Riverina Community Legal Service. The consultation allowed the department to learn more about the communities' culture, and experiences with the justice system and police, which will help inform the departments' fu-

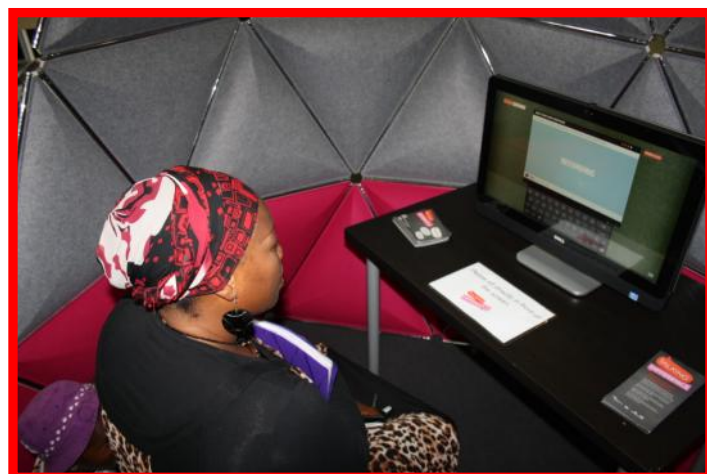


Talking Difference

The Talking Difference Portable Studio arrived on the Border in March as part of Cultural Diversity Week. The studio was located in the Wodonga Library and gave members of the public an opportunity to discuss difficult topics such as racism, diversity and what culture means to them. The Talking Difference project aims to reduce race-based discrimination through the arts. It is run by the Immigration Museum and funded by Vic Health.



The Immigration Museum is located in Melbourne's CBD. For more information visit: museumvictoria.com.au





Wodonga Court Tour

More than 50 members of the Borders multicultural community attended a tour of the Wodonga Magistrates' Court on May 15 as part of Law Week 2015. The tour was organised by the Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation and the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service, and gave participants a chance to see inside the court rooms, learn about the roles of magistrates and solicitors, and help reduce any fear or uncertainty about going into a court.

Multicultural Clinic Open

Gateway Health Wodonga officially opened its Multicultural Clinic on Wednesday May 13. Close to 100 attendees celebrated in style with many taking the opportunity to showcase some fantastic and colorful traditional dresses and outfits. The clinic was officially opened by Gateway Health CEO Mr. Leonard Peady, and included warmly received speeches made by refugee patients of the clinic, via Nepali and Swahili interpreters.

Gateway Health welcomes clients from both sides of the Border, and has dedicated health services for clients of migrant and refugee backgrounds. The multicultural clinic has a refugee health doctor (GP), a refugee-health nurse, a Nepali-speaking interpreter and uses other language interpreters when needed. There is also access to a range of services, including mental health and family counselors, allied health professionals, and a Headspace clinic.

Culture Club

Culture Club is a monthly social program for migrant and refugee patients (anyone is encouraged to attend) held on the 3rd Friday of each month and often involves cooking, cultural games and activities, music and guest speakers. For information about the multicultural clinic or Culture Club, call

(02) 6022

Refugee Health Doctor Catherine Orr (back row third left), and Refugee Health Nurse Penny Wilson (front row third left), with members of the refugee community.



8888.



Girl Guides help with *The Good Lie*



They may have been small, but the ten or so Girl Guides who helped with the Harmony Day screening of the film 'The Good Lie' proved to be expert popcorn makers and ticket sellers!

The Good Lie tells the powerful true story of a group of Sudanese refugees who adjust to a new life in America. The film was shown at The Cube Wodonga on Harmony Day.

The AWECC thanks the Girl Guides Wodonga for their wonderful support.



JAMIE'S MINISTRY OF FOOD



Well done to the refugee group for graduating from *Jamie's Ministry of Food* Cooking Program!



Multicultural Story-time at Wodonga Library



Sau reads a story book in Cantonese to her eager audience. Her interactive story-telling included Kangaroo hopping and animal noises!



AWECC Secretary Carol McQuade reads a favourite children's book in Spanish during Story-time at Wodonga Library as part of Cultural Diversity Week.

Positions Vacant - Educators

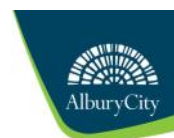


Albury Family Day Care is an established service on the Border, sponsored by Albury City. The service currently cares for more than 350 children and has vacancies for children in Albury, Corowa, Norris Park, North Albury, Lavington, Table Top and Wodonga. The Albury Family Day Care is also looking for new educators who are passionate about working with children and who

want to be part of an exciting and professional team.

If you need child care, or you would like to know about becoming an educator with Albury Family day Care, then please call (02) 6043 5830 or email:

alburyfamilydaycare@alburycity.nsw.gov.au



PREMIERS GALA DINNER 2015

AWECC members and Wodonga Council staff were 'dressed to impress' for this years Premiers Gala Dinner on 14 March. The event was held at the Crown Palladium in Melbourne, and was an extravaganza of dance, traditional music, and ethnic costume, and formed part of the opening of Cultural Diversity Week. Victorian Premier, The Honorable Mr. Daniel Andrews was in attendance, as were a host of other government representatives, community leaders and other dignitaries.



AWECC will soon have its own office!

We will soon be located within the Gateway Health complex in Wodonga. Details coming soon!



refugee week 2015



with courage
let us all combine

family fun day • june 13, 2015

free barbecue and traditional foods • performers • games • activities

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 11.30am to 2.30pm

Albury Entertainment Centre

525 Swift Street, Albury

Refugee
Week



supported by:



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau Inc



Coming up...

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Vesak Celebration

The Vesak Festival celebrates, three major events in the life of The Buddha, the birth, enlightenment and Passing away on the full moon in May. Each year Buddhists celebrate Vesak using light (Vesak Lanterns, candles, butter lamps) to symbol Lord Buddha's teachings which enlightened people.



For the first time in Albury-Wodonga, Festival of Light (Vesak Lantern Display) has been organised to enlighten the border.

31st May
2015

Wodonga Cube
"The Court Yard"

Time: 6.00pm onwards
(Enjoy some Sri Lankan finger food)

Australian Bhutanese Interstate Soccer Championship 2015


After a successful campaign last year in which the Albury-Wodonga team won the national championship, the local boys will be seeking to back up with another good performance when they host the 4th Australian Bhutanese Interstate Soccer Championship in Albury-Wodonga in July.

The championship will be played over the following days:

- * July 9—Alexandra Park, Albury
- * July 10—Willow Park, Wodonga
- * July 11—Jelbart Park, Lavington

The championship is an opportunity for the communities far and wide to come together, and share a common passion, soccer. So come down and cheer on our local talent!

Contact: ram.c.khanal2008@gmail.com



**4TH AUSTRALIAN BHUTANESE
INTERSTATE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP
ALBURY-WODONGA 2015**

**SPORT
IN MIND**

DATES AND VENUES

- Thursday 9th July
- Alexandra Park, Albury
- Friday 10th July
- Willow Park, Wodonga
- Saturday 11th July
- Jelbart Park, Lavington

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Mental Health Workshops
- Cultural dances and music
- Food stalls
- Athletics

CONTACT DETAILS

M: 0431153330, 0401311193, 0421931536
E: ram.c.khanal2008@gmail.com

CULTURAL NIGHT

Saturday 11th July, 4 pm
-Mirambeena Community Centre, Lavington



**ORGANISED BY
BHUTANESE ASSOCIATION IN ALBURY INC.**

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO ETHNIC VOICE?

If you have stories, events or information you
would like to contribute, please send your
submissions to: awecc@wodonga.vic.gov.au



Contact us

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