

ethnicvoice

Newsletter of the Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council



Advocate. Celebrate. Engage.

Namaste, hujambo, bonjour and hello! Welcome to our winter edition, now the 3rd issue of ethnic voice. It's been a very cold winter in our region, but spring is just around the corner, with warm, sunny days ahead! Each issue of ethnic voice gets bigger and bigger, and we sure have a *HUGE* issue for you this time! In this issue, we read a special message from AWECC deputy chair Mayssa Powell, as she shares some insights about what's been happening with AWECC and in the Board. We will also have lots of photos for your viewing pleasure, with loads of events happening during the past few months. Don't forget to check out our Culture Calendar (page 15) for some of the multicultural activities happening over the next few months. Enjoy reading!

inside...



Advocacy in Action
Page 3



Refugee Week
Pages 4-5



AWECC's Office,
Page 10



Coming Up
Pages 12-15

MAYSSA'S MESSAGE

By Mayssa Powell,
AWECC Deputy Chair

Welcome to the third edition of the 'ethnic voice' newsletter. In this issue we show just a snapshot of some of the great achievements of our Albury-Wodonga multicultural and ethnic communities over the last few months and provide an update of AWECC activities since our last newsletter.

There have been so many things happening around our region. In May for the first time in the region the very successful *Festival of Light* was held at The Cube Wodonga with a fantastic display of lanterns, not to mention the delicious food which was prepared by members of the Sri Lankan community in the region. Then in June, Refugee Week was a great success with a really well attended and well organised event held in Albury, and a great visual display of cultural artefacts during the week shown on the *Reflections on High Wall* in High Street, Wodonga. The Albury-Wodonga Bhutanese Community also hosted a very successful National Soccer Championship in July participated by 16 teams, attracting over 400 visitors from across Australia.

AWECC is going from strength to strength with support from organisations on the Border. We have now moved into our new office space kindly provided by Gateway Health and will be fully operational from August. We have also been donated a computer for the AWECC office by Hume Medicare Local. We really appreciate the support of these local organisa-

tions. It is also that time of year when grant opportunities and funding submissions are due. The AWECC Board have therefore established a subcommittee to focus on fundraising.

At our monthly AWECC board meetings we have had some excellent guest speakers from different cultural groups and actively encourage other speakers to come and talk about their particular communities. AWECC Board members have also been raising the profile of multicultural issues in the Albury-Wodonga region and beyond. In May, our Chairman Teju Chouhan and I were invited to attend and present in Canberra at a workshop organised by the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA). FECCA is the peak, national body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The workshop was also attended by the Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism and Citizenship and discussion focussed on multiculturalism and social cohesion issues in Australia in general, and issues facing New and Emerging Communities in particular. Now that AWECC is 'on the national radar' we do need to increase our membership base, so that we have the opportunity to work more closely with FECCA who advocate and promote issues to government, business and the broader community. Teju has also just returned from Geneva, Switzerland attending an UNHCR Standing Committee meeting, Annual Tripartite Consultation on Resettlement (ATCR) and an NGO consultation. He gave a presentation at the ATCR on *"The Role of the Diaspora on Settlement and Integration of refugees"*.

There are many great events and achievements highlighted in this newsletter so I hope you will find it as exciting as I do; Remember, AWECC and the Ethnic Voice is here for you, so keep those contributions and memberships coming in!

YOU can support AWECC!

To make a real difference in our communities, we need people.

Call us to find out how on (02) 6022 9325 or email awecc@wodonga.vic.gov.au



NEW AND EMERGING COMMUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On 18 May the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council's of Australia's (FECCA) New and Emerging Communities Advisory Committee had an exciting workshop that generated discussions on a range of issues affecting new and emerging communities. These included access to funding for new and emerging communities, employment, multiculturalism and social cohesion, and domestic violence. AWECC Chairman Teju Chouhan and AWECC Deputy Chair, Mayssa Powell attended after being invited to share their perspectives. Other guests included representatives from the African-Australian Welfare Bureau, Multicultural Development Association (MDA) Ltd, Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism and Citizenship, Michelle Rowland, Senior Representatives of the Department of Employment and the Department of Social Services, including the Deputy Secretary for Families and Communities, Barbara Bennett.



TEJU GOES TO GENEVA

It was a proud moment for AWECC Chairman Teju Chouhan in June, when he read the global NGO statement on statelessness at the UNHCR's Standing Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. For Teju, formerly stateless from Bhutan and resettled as a refugee from Nepal to Australia, this was his first international trip with a passport to attend the meetings in Geneva, after gaining Australian citizenship only a month earlier. This is was a proud moment for all Nepalese-speaking Bhutanese, for Australia's refugee communities and for Albury-Wodonga, the community he now calls home.



Above and Below: Teju Chouhan presents at several meetings he attended in Geneva.
Below Right: Presentation of the Australian Government's Refugee Week 2015 booklet to António Guterres, High Commissioner for UNHCR at the opening of UNHCR NGO Consultation 2015.

Teju attended the UNHCR Standing Committee meeting, Annual Tripartite Consultation on Resettlement (ATCR) and an NGO consultation by invitation from the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA).



Did you know...

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was formed in 1950 to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.



REFUGEE WEEK ALBURY- WODONGA

The Albury-Wodonga Refugee Week 2015 community and family day was full of little surprises and colour, a day for celebration as well as reflection. The event, this year held at Albury Entertainment Centre was well attended, with several hundred community members having plenty of things to see and do. From cultural dances and performances, to cake stall and traditional foods from Bhutanese and African cultures, a jumping castle, Henna body art and even a crazy, funny clown!

The event was presented by several organisations including AlburyCity Council, City of Wodonga, Albury-Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council, Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resources Bureau, St Vincent de Paul Society, Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, African Union Albury Wodonga, Bhutanese Association in Albury.



*“With courage let us
all combine...”*



ALBURY CITY BECOMES REFUGEE WELCOME ZONE



Albury City officially become a Refugee Welcome Zone in June after Cr Ross Jackson (above) signed the declaration on behalf of the council at a Refugee Week event in Albury.

A Refugee Welcome Zone is a Local Government Area which has made a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community.

Did you know...

Refugee Week was first celebrated in 1986 and coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June).

CELEBRATING BHUTANESE REFUGEE RE-SETTLEMENT

On June 18, a bus load of approximately 30 local residents, all former refugees from Bhutan, along with several other community volunteers and settlement workers, made a trip to Canberra to attend a special Refugee Week function. This year, the Australian Government celebrated its contribution to the resettlement of Bhutanese refugees. The Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, The Hon Peter Dutton MP hosted the event at Parliament House and paid homage to the Bhutanese communities' successful transition into Australia and the contributions that have been made. To mark the occasion, a video was produced by the Department featuring locals Teju Chouhan, Ram Khanal, Deoka Khadka and Kerrie O'Connell. The video can be viewed on YouTube, at this address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNFdCET0Hcc>



Picture insert: Teju Chouhan and The Hon. Peter Dutton MP.

Did you miss our Refugee Week display in Wodonga? Here's a couple of pics of the fabulously decorated windows.



QUICK FACT

Top origins

1. Syrian Arab Republic (3.88 million)
2. Afghanistan (2.59 million)
3. Somalia (1.11 million)

More than half (53%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (3.88 million), Afghanistan (2.59 million), and Somalia (1.11 million).

Source: Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)



gatewayhealth

UPDATE FROM THE MULTICULTURAL CLINIC

Things are busy as always here in Wodonga at the Multicultural Clinic. We have had several new families arrive - welcome to everyone!

Two of our young Congolese boys have had success representing the local area in soccer and cross country running. Well done Stevie and Leopold! Well done also to some of our patients who have been selected to participate in *Introduction to Interpreting* Course being run in Wodonga by Monash University. It has been wonderful having Bhakti Mainali Dhamala working for us in the role of Multicultural Support Worker and Nepali Interpreter. We are even starting to get direct referrals from the hospital for Bhakti's services. We are building a strong relationship with Albury Wodonga Health and supporting their efforts to increase the awareness of the importance of interpreter use in healthcare.

Gateway Health Multicultural Clinic ran a Women's health day in 2014 which was well attended and a great success. We shared information about Pap smears, breast care, pregnancy care and safe sex. This year we are repeating the event but this time for the men.

We are planning a Men's Health Day on the 4th September. We hope to cover topics such as sexual



Gateway Health's Multicultural Support Worker, Bhakti Mainali Dhamala (standing left), and Refugee Health GP, Dr. Catherine Orr (standing right) address attendees at last year's Women's Health Day.

health, gambling, smoking and alcohol and keeping fit and healthy.

More details to come but please spread the word!



Remember, Culture Club is still going strong every third Friday at Gateway Health, 155 High St Wodonga between 11am - 2pm. Come and share food, stories and fun. Everyone welcome. Recently, we had some members of our local Aboriginal community teaching some of our refugees how to decorate boomerangs. For more information about Culture Club or the Multicultural Clinic, call Gateway Health on (02) 6022 8888.

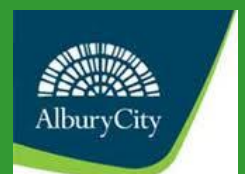
Apply for a stall at Albury's QEII Twilight Market

Albury City is calling on traders of innovative and unique goods, along with fresh producers to apply for a stall at the annual QEII Twilight Markets. This boutique market is held on the second Thursday of the month, during daylight saving, from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. Unique to Albury, the market attracts over 1,000 people to the city's square.

For more information and to apply online go to:

www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/markets

or contact Albury City's Events Team on 02 6023 8761.



Did you know...

the Mexican flag has the most colours (16) of any country.

AUSTRALIAN-BHUTANESE NATIONAL SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP

After a successful campaign last year, by their Albury-Wodonga 'Three Stars' Soccer team, the Bhutanese community of Albury-Wodonga hosted the 4th Australian Bhutanese National Soccer Championship 2015 in July for the first time in the regional areas. Despite their brave efforts, the local 'Three Stars' team were unable to defend their title which was eventually won by the Cairns Bhutanese football Club. The women's team, who were playing for the first time in the championship, showed great spirit but were not able to make a play for the women's title, which was won by a strong team, Druk Sporting United from Hobart.



Wodonga Mayor, Cr Rodney Wangman opens day two of the championship.



Above: Project Coordinator, Ram Khanal of the Bhutanese Association in Albury, talks to ABC radio.

Left: Spectators wait for the trophy presentations.



The Hobart and Adelaide women's teams before their grand final match





Albury Mayor, Cr Mack kick starts the event



Ashika Rai and Meena Korenghee entertains the crowd.



Ram Khanal and Teju Chouhan of Bhutanese Association do some final checks of the schedule.

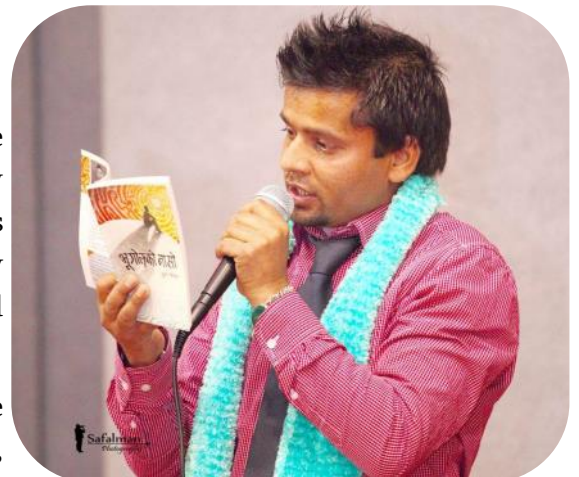


The men's grand final teams from Adelaide and Cairns.

The soccer championship was played over three days, with games hosted in Albury, Lavington and Wodonga.

To celebrate the closing of the event, participant and interstate guests attended the cultural night at Mirambeena Community Centre in Lavington on July 11. The hugely successful event was organised by Bhutanese Association in Albury and sponsored by Albury City, City of Wodonga, St Luke's Anglicare, and Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga.

Congratulations to the Bhutanese Association in Albury and the organizing committee, and well done to everyone who participated, volunteered, or cheered from the sidelines!



The Event Manager, Durga Rimal recites a verse from his poetry collection "Vugolko Naso" launched at the cultural night.

Did you know...

Page 9

Despite some of the most mountainous terrain in the world, soccer is a very popular sport in Nepal and Bhutan.



#EmbraceDiversity

The Victorian Government and the AFL has teamed up to launch an #EmbraceDiversity campaign to promote inclusion and harmony in Australia and around the world.

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/EmbDiversity

Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/EmbDiversity

AWECC is the proud tenant of a new office!

Our address:

Room F10, level 1, Gateway Health,
151-153 High Street, Wodonga.

Postal: PO Box 920, Wodonga VIC 3689




Let's Rebuild. Brick By Brick & Hand In Hand.

In April, Nepal experienced the worst earthquake to hit the nation in nearly a century. Months on, Nepal still needs your help in rebuilding the country. With organisations such as Global Volunteer Network busy developing and coordinating recovery and rebuild programs, you can help support via the Nepal Recovery and Rebuild Project in the wake of this tragedy.

AWECC Board Director Sue Portors, who volunteered in Nepal in 2013 and has set up a fundraising page to raise money for the rebuild effort. Please visit her page to read her story and make a donation.
<https://www.gvnfundraising.org/fundraise?fcid=454608>



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



St Monica's Primary School
Learn to Love Love to learn


Parent-Child Mother Goose Program

Lots of ideas for parents of children aged 1.5-5 years

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program provides a group experience for parents and young children based on the oral traditions of rhymes, songs and storytelling.

This program can:

- give you a repertoire of songs and rhymes to use to engage with your child during good and more difficult times
- enhance your child's communication and language development
- strengthen your bond with your child
- introduce you both to a school setting




Bring your child along and enjoy rhymes and songs followed by morning tea and storytelling

When: Thursdays in Term 3—commencing 16 July
Time: 9.10 – 10.40 am
Where: Room 9 (Outside School Hours Care building), St Monica's Primary School, 137 Brockley St, Wodonga
Cost: Free for parents and children
Bookings are essential—contact Naomi on 0409 334 647


♥ Cuddle, Connect, Communicate ♥

Discover the power and pleasure of using rhymes, songs and stories with your child and meet other families

Presented by the
City of Wodonga



A free fun-filled event for
the whole family



Wodonga Children's Fair

“Every child's favourite event is back!”

Sunday, October 25, 2015
 10am to 3pm
 Wodonga Racecourse,
 Hamilton Smith Drive, Wodonga

For more information and program highlights,
 please phone (02) 6022 9300 or
 visit wodonga.vic.gov.au/childrens-fair

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



Did you know...

The driest inhabited place in the world is Aswan, Egypt where the annual average rainfall is .02 inches.



Conversational English

Thurgoona Community Centre is running FREE conversational English classes that take place from 10.30am to 12.30pm every Friday at the Centre. This is such an excellent opportunity for the families to meet new people, learn English skills, make friends and participate in activities, games and much more.

The community Centre offers FREE transport – for further details contact: (02) 6043 1588

नमस्ते!

FREE bus pick up!

Meet new people!
Make new friends!

Practice speaking English with Tutors & Helpers

你好!

Speak English with FREEDOM! Group

Learn something new every week!

FREE English-Learning classes

Operates during the NSW school term

Welcome all cultures & nationalities!

Kumusta!

हैलो!

Play learning games & activities

Bring your family & friends!

Practice Reading & Writing Skills

Friday Mornings, 10.30am—12.30pm

Thurgoona Community Centre

10 Kosciuszko Road, Thurgoona 2640

Call 6043 1588 for FREE bus pick up!



Friends of Lacluta 10th anniversary dinner

Special guests:
His Excellency Abel Guterres
Timor Leste Ambassador to Australia
and
Rae Kingsbury
Timor Leste Consul to Victoria

Saturday 26 September 2015
7-10 p.m.
Uniting Church
Rowan Street, Wangaratta

2 course dinner and beverages
Cost: \$40 per head
Dress: Business
Raffles, music,
Photographic display and more.

Reservations by 18 September 2015
Rural City of Wangaratta
Ph: 03 5722 0888
E: council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Coming up....



**Albury Wodonga Indian Australian
Association Celebrating....**



Showcasing India's Folk & Classical Dance

When : 15th August 2015, Saturday at 3:00 pm onwards

**Where : North Albury Public School,
868, Mate St, North Albury 2640**

Free Event for all AWIAA members

Non Members entry fee \$10 per person kids under age of 12 free.

Limited Seats Available for Non-Members.

Advance booking required.

For Ticket enquiry please contact : Aruna Mob.: 0423 346 092

Sponsors of the Event

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ● Boost Juice Albury | ● Indian Chimney Albury |
| ● Caltex South Albury | ● Indian Tandoori |
| ● Daintree Medical Wodonga | ● Mate St Dental |
| ● Domino's Lavington | ● Pizza Galore Wodonga |
| ● Fastway Courier | ● Prime Care Dental Wodonga |
| ● Fresh Fruit & Veg. Market | ● Thurgoona T/A |
| ● Global Groceries | ● Vinnova Dental Wangaratta |
| | ● Vishaw Groceries |

Aruna Gandhi
President
Mob: 0423 346 092

... For more details contact ...
Email: awiaa.contact@gmail.com

Padma Ayyagari
Public Coordinator
Mob: 0400 474 939

Did you know...

A salmon-rich, low cholesterol diet means that Inuit's (Eskimo's) rarely suffer from heart disease.

Do YOU have something to share?

If you have a story or event to contribute to ethnic voice,
please send an email to awecc@wodonga.vic.gov.au



Celebrating Immigration

*Come and join us for a very special
4 course luncheon on
Sunday 30th August 2015,
12.00pm
At*

Club Savoy
252-254 Great Alpine Road
Myrtleford
\$30 per head
Everyone Welcome
Bookings are essential
RSVP Friday 21st August 2015

*For bookings or enquiries please call
Club Savoy - 5751 1296
Ottavio Cardamone - 5752 1445
Trevisani - Armando Pasquali - 57221945
Vincentini - Caterina Revrenna - 5752 1552
Trentini - Cristina Parmesan - 5752 1496
Calabresi - Peter Sacco - 04193617712
Siciliani - Pippa LaSpina - 5752 1610
Friuliani - Anna Ellero - 5752 1942
Alpini - Nino Parolin - 5752 1699
Savoy Ladies - Rosa Volpe - 5752 1839*

Please notify the Club for any special dietary

Culture Calendar

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Tarang 2015
Showcasing Indian Folk &
Classical Dance

3pm start
North Albury Public School,
Mate St, Nth Albury
Cost: \$10 (AWIIA Members
and children U12 FREE)
Tickets: 0423 346 092

**AUGUST 21, SEPTEMBER 18,
OCTOBER 16, & NOVEMBER 20**
Culture Club

Gateway Health
155 High Street, Wodonga
Cost: Free
Enquiries: Penny Wilson,
(02) 6022 8888
Every 3rd Friday of the month
All welcome, 11am–2pm.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
Celebrating Immigration
4 Course Luncheon

Club Savoy
252-254 Great Alpine Road,
Myrtleford
Cost: \$30
Bookings: (03) 5751 1296
All welcome, 12pm start

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30
Bonegilla Sunday Roast
Celebrate the traditional roast
and learn about the migrants'
first thoughts of an Australian
menu.

Tour 11am, lunch 12:30pm
Bonegilla Migrant Experience
Cost: Adults \$30, children \$20

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Multicultural
Men's Health Day

Gateway Health
155 High Street, Wodonga
Cost: Free
Enquiries: Penny Wilson,
(02) 6022 8888

SEPTEMBER 4 to SEPTEMBER 10
Spirit of Anzac
Centenary Experience

Experience an interactive insight
into Australia's involvement in
the First World War.
Wodonga Sports & Leisure
Centre.
Cost: Free, bookings essential
spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Australian Citizenship Day
Citizenship ceremonies are
held across Australia to
welcome people into the
Australian community.

**SEPTEMBER 19 to
NOVEMBER 15**
Faith, Fashion, Fusion - Muslim
women's style in Australia
This fascinating exhibition
explores an emerging modest
fashion market.
Exhibition opening & fashion
parade—September 19 at 2pm
Albury LibraryMuseum
Cost: Free

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Friends of Lacluta
10th Anniversary Dinner
2 course dinner and beverages,
raffles, music and more!
(See page 9 for more details)
Uniting Church
Rowan Street, Wangaratta
Cost: \$40 per head

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
Wodonga Children's Fair
10am to 3pm
Wodonga Racecourse
Hamilton Smith Drive
Wodonga
Cost: Free
Enquiries: (02) 6022 9300

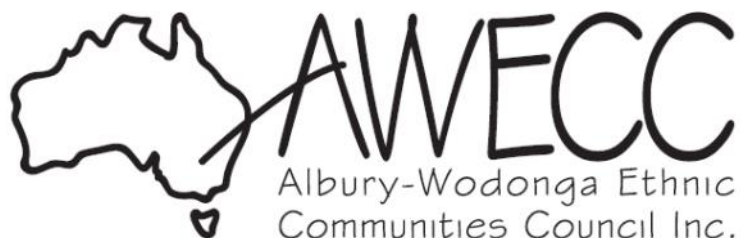
UNTIL NOVEMBER 15
From Paris to Albury
High Fashion and Regional
Australia in 1960's
- Fashion Exhibition.
Albury LibraryMuseum,
Cost: Free



Find us on
Facebook

Did you know...

French fries are believed to have been invented in Belgium not France.



Contact us

Phone: (02) 6022 9325
Post: PO Box 920, Wodonga, Victoria 3689
Room F10, level 1, Gateway Health, 151—153 High St, Wodonga
Email: awecc@wodonga.vic.gov.au
facebook.com/alburywodongaec

Chairman, Teju Chouhan
Phone: 0401 311 193
Email: teju.chouhan@gmail.com



The AWECC receives funding from the Victorian Government through the Peak Multicultural Organisations Grants Program.

