

December 2006

Multicultural Life



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SAMEAC is a statutory body whose 15 members are nominated by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to Cabinet and appointed by the Governor. SAMEAC's primary functions are to: increase awareness and understanding of the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community and the implications of that diversity; and advise the government and public authorities on, and assist them in, all matters relating to the advancement of multiculturalism and ethnic affairs.

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Multicultural SA is responsible for advising government on multicultural and ethnic affairs, promoting multiculturalism and servicing SAMEAC. Multicultural SA has a focus on whole-of-government policy advice and coordination across government on multicultural matters. The Interpreting and Translating Centre is part of Multicultural SA.

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Multicultural Life is published by Multicultural SA. It is circulated free to community organisations, federal, State and local government agencies, industry, media, schools, public libraries and interested individuals. Contributions and enquiries to the editor are welcome. Multicultural SA thanks those people who have contributed to this edition of *Multicultural Life*. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Multicultural SA nor of the Government of South Australia.

ISSN 1035 - 1426

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Circulation 8,000

Photographers: John Apostolakis, Karene Crooks, Danyon de Buell, Toni Jupe, Yerasimos Patitsas, Danielle Spiteri.

Sharing stories, exploring cultural identities

South Australia has an international reputation for staging and hosting vibrant arts events and our venues, including our beautiful parklands, are second to none.

But it is not just the large scale, international events that bring different cultures together. Art is something that everyone in the community can do and is valued as a way of bringing people together.

So much of what makes our State exciting and inviting is its cultural diversity. Arts projects are a hotbed of innovation and creativity allowing all members of the community to express themselves, their pasts, their experiences, their cultures, in a way that can be shared with others. It is this act of sharing that invites participation and understanding.

This issue of *Multicultural Life* highlights just some of the multicultural arts activities that take place in our State and identifies the importance these projects have in sharing stories, exploring cultural identities and bringing communities together.



In August, I was fortunate to be accompanied by SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le, and others, on a study tour of Vietnam where we met many interesting and informative people and went to many fascinating places.

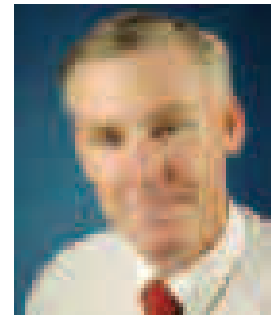
Visiting places such as Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Quang Tri, Hue, Da Nang, Saigon, Vung Tau, Tay Ninh and Can Tho was an exceptional opportunity to understand the background of the many people who have come to

Australia from Vietnam, often risking their lives in boats that were unseaworthy or overcrowded.

Reaching South Australia is not the end of the story and the difficulties faced by all migrants are not to be underestimated.

Lack of English skills, difficulty in having their qualifications recognised and literally re-building their lives is an enormous task for anyone.

The South Australian Government welcomes migrants and has a range of programs to meet the needs of our changing, culturally diverse society.



MICHAEL ATKINSON M.P.

Over the past five years the number of migrants coming to South Australia has doubled.

South Australia is becoming a destination of choice for migrants. It is important that South Australian communities are migrant friendly – ready, willing and able to welcome and support the settlement and participation of new arrivals. ○

MICHAEL ATKINSON M.P.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Young members of the Croatian Sports Centre S.A. Inc. and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P., supporting their teams in the World Cup.

Giving multiculturalism high priority

Multiculturalism is a portfolio area given high priority, and bi-partisan support, in South Australia.

This is reflected in the creation of the position of Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

I am pleased to be the first person appointed to this position, supporting the Minister, Michael Atkinson M.P.

I have taken a particular interest in and responsibility for the important work of the South Australian Government Muslim Reference Group.

I have met with the Reference Group on several occasions and am pleased that the Government has already been able to implement several of their proposed actions.

I was born in Ceppaloni, a village in Campania, southern Italy, and migrated to South Australia with my family as a young child.

Since then I have seen and been a part of the struggles and celebrations of migrants and their families as they have become an integral part of the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of our society.

When I was younger, before multiculturalism became widely accepted, we maintained our language, culture and faith, but it was a continual struggle when the prevailing sentiment of the day was that all new arrivals should assimilate and give up their own traditions and values.

Thankfully those early migrants did not give up what they valued – their commitment to family and learning and faith – and these values are now part of what makes our State such a great place to live.

Since the 1970s, when the Government of Don Dunstan embraced cultural diversity, multiculturalism has enjoyed bipartisan support in South Australia and has become, unarguably, one of our greatest achievements.

One of the joys of being fortunate enough to be a Member of Parliament is attending citizenship ceremonies.

Whenever I speak at such ceremonies, I explain my view of multiculturalism: Government encouraging us all to celebrate our diverse customs, traditions, culture and language, within the laws of this great nation, whilst acknowledging and celebrating our common links as Australians.

We are bound by English as our common language, our freedom of religion, our representative democracy, and our commitment to good education and health systems – the basis of a fair go for everyone's children.

In South Australia, we have shown the world how people of different races, creeds and colours can live together happily. Many of our immigrants settled here for just that reason.

When we apply for citizenship, as my parents did, it is the result of a conscious choice of a nationality, to complement our inheritance, be it an ethnicity, a religion, or whatever else.

In my opinion, the vast majority of South Australians recognise the benefits of multiculturalism for everyone and they respect people's right to maintain and share their traditions and values.



CARMEL ZOLLO M.L.C.

Minister for: Emergency Services; Road Safety; Correctional Services; Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs

As I talk to different communities, one of the priorities they have raised is the need to provide culturally appropriate care and support for older migrants.

This involves areas such as aged care and mental health services.

People from diverse backgrounds have different approaches and traditions associated with these issues.

Much of that relates to the importance they attach to family and community and respect for the aged.

Successive generations of migrants have made valuable contributions to our State – we have much to celebrate. ○



Minister Zollo on a visit to the Al-Khalil Mosque with (from left) Fred Shahin OAM and Imam Sulaiman Nouredine.

Committed to listening and responding

I am privileged to meet with many community representatives in my role as Chairman of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

It is perhaps not surprising that a feature of most communities is the importance they attach to their multicultural community arts activities.

Through these activities, communities give expression to and keep alive the spirit of their values, cultures and traditions.

It is heartening to see these activities featured in this issue of *Multicultural Life*.

One of the aims of the Commission is to increase awareness and understanding of the ethnic diversity of the South Australian community

and the positive impact of that diversity in our society.

To achieve this aim we need to listen to community members, hear their views and be effective in responding.

As part of our commitment to this, after SAMEAC meetings, we have organised consultations with leaders of different communities; to hear their views, concerns and suggestions and to provide a focus for us to be able to provide an effective response.

This year we have met with community members from Italy, Greece, China, Africa, England, Scotland, Wales,



HIEU VAN LE

Ireland, Germany, Holland, Austria, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Indian sub-continent.

The consultations provide invaluable insights and are one vital element in enabling us to connect with communities.

(continued on page 6)



Speakers at the *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background Women on Boards and Committees* Seminar in July included (from left) SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le; Chairwoman of the Premier's Council for Women, Suzi Roux; Director of the Office for Women, Sandy Pitcher; Associate Professor in Asian Studies at the University of South Australia, My-Van Tran; and Convenor, SAMEAC Women's Advisory Committee, Maria Barredo.

(continued from page 5)

Other activities include attending community events, meetings and conferences to help us build up a picture of the diversity of South Australia and the implications this brings and, on many occasions, meeting with community leaders to discuss specific concerns confronting their communities.

Each member of SAMEAC also acts as a point of contact for specific communities and organisations.

This arrangement enables us to extend our listening even further and to ensure that we are always in touch with communities.

Understanding issues of concern to the community is essential for our work if we are to effectively advise the Government and public authorities on all matters relating to multiculturalism and ethnic affairs – another of our primary functions.

While keeping in touch with the communities helps us to respond to needs effectively, we also hear valuable

ideas and suggested solutions.

The wisdom and advice we gain from listening also assists us to be more focused in the formulation of effective strategies. ○

HIEU VAN LE
*Chairman,
South Australian Multicultural and
Ethnic Affairs Commission*



SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le with Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre Executive Director Dr Noris Ioannou.



Prize-winning artist Bill Cook (left) with his sculpture *Athena Rising* is congratulated by (from second left) Michael Abbott, Chairman of the Board of the Art Gallery of South Australia, judge Russell Starke, of Greenhill Galleries, SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le and Theo Maras, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia Inc. at the *Contemporary Greek Australian Art Exhibition*, part of the Adelaide Hellenic Cultural Festival *Odyssey* at the Nexus Multicultural Gallery.

“LISTENING to communities and gaining understanding... is essential for our work if we are to effectively advise the Government and public authorities on all matters relating to multiculturalism.”

Innovation is the key

Providing interpreting and translating services on more than 35,000 occasions in 110 languages and dialects during one year is quite a feat.

This is the achievement of the Interpreting and Translating Centre (I.T.C.), which has been providing services to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in SA for more than 30 years.

Innovation is key to the I.T.C.'s development. One area in which it is leading the way is translation technology. By using this technology the I.T.C. can take existing published material in any form, such as brochures, magazines and leaflets, and re-produce them electronically in any one of the 110 languages and dialects covered by the Centre. The end result is published material that looks exactly the same as the original except for the language in which it is written. This technique is known as multilingual text overlay.

Over its 30-year history, the I.T.C. has worked hard to provide exceptional customer service.

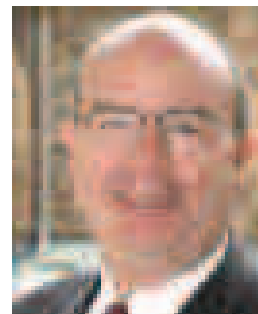
Its work has had a tangible impact on people from non-English speaking backgrounds, ensuring they are able to access the same government and business services as all other South Australians.

The quality of this service and its development over the years is largely due to the leadership of Mr Erricos Neophytou, Manager of the I.T.C., who worked in the Centre for 22 years. Earlier this year we said a fond farewell to Erricos on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication was outstanding and his commitment to ensuring the services of the I.T.C. were

continually improved never waned.

In 2001 his work was recognised in the Australia Day Honours in which he was awarded a Public Service Medal. I take this opportunity to pass on my gratitude to him and wish him a relaxing and peaceful retirement.

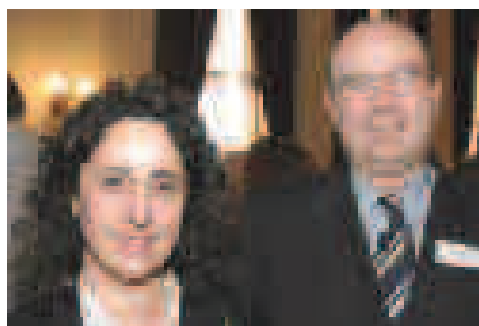
Without the I.T.C. access to many services would be out of reach to people from non-English speaking backgrounds. But by delivering high



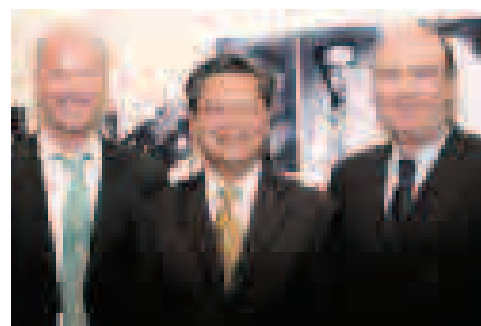
SIMON FORREST

quality, efficient translating and interpreting services the I.T.C. is playing its part in gaining equity for all members of the South Australian community. ○

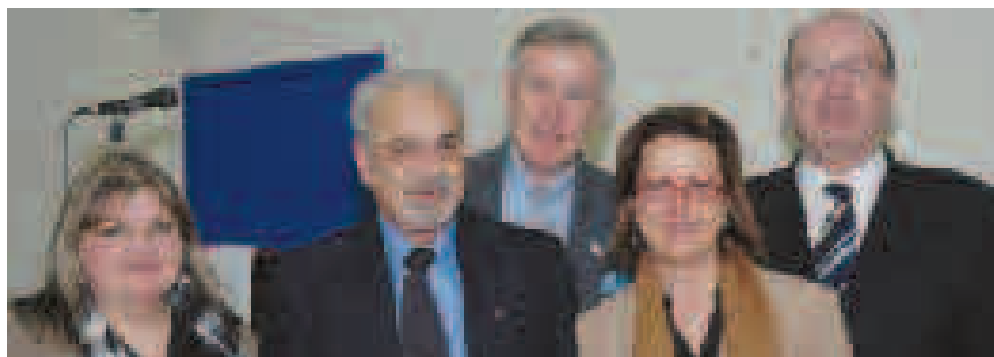
SIMON FORREST
*Executive Director
Multicultural SA*



Com.It.Es of SA (Committee of Italians Abroad) member Paola Niscioli with Multicultural S.A. Executive Director Simon Forrest at a Parliament House reception in honour of the visit to South Australia by two Members of the Italian Parliament, Senator Nino Randazzo and Mr Marco Fedi M.P.



General Secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. Vassilis Eloveris with SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le and Simon Forrest at the opening of the *Photo Exhibition in Memory of Don Dunstan* at the Barr Smith Library, held as part of Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival, *Odyssey*.



Retiring Interpreting and Translating Centre Manager Erricos Neophytou (second left) is farewelled by (from left) interpreter and translator Graciela Vicente, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P., interpreter and translator Gabriela Callaghan and Simon Forrest.



Professor Jerzy "George" Smolicz

Vale Professor Jerzy "George" Smolicz

The late Professor Jerzy "George" Smolicz has been praised for his contribution to the development of multiculturalism and education in South Australia and beyond.

Professor Smolicz, who died in November, was Director of the University of Adelaide's Centre for Intercultural Studies and Multicultural Education and chaired the South Australian Government's Multicultural Education Committee.

"He had a significant role in the development, promotion and success of multiculturalism," said the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P.

Professor Smolicz was born in Poland in 1935 and, in 1939, was deported to Siberia with his parents.

He then journeyed through Central Asia, Persia and Lebanon before settling in Scotland, rather than returning to communist Poland.

His early education was in a Polish refugee school in Tehran, his primary schooling was in French in Beirut, his secondary education was in the highlands of Scotland, and he studied at Edinburgh and Oxford universities.

In May 1965 he moved to South Australia to lecture in Education at the University of Adelaide and later was awarded a personal Chair in Education.

In the late 1960s Professor Smolicz began to formulate theories and policies that would subsequently shape the nation's multicultural policies and practices.

He attracted an endless stream of world class scholars and policy leaders to the Centre for Intercultural Studies

and Multicultural Education.

In 2002 he was awarded the inaugural United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Linguapax Prize for his lifelong contribution to the study of language policy in linguistically diverse societies and in 2003 was appointed Ambassador of Dialogue at the World Congress of "Dialogue among Civilizations".

Professor Smolicz was an adviser to Commonwealth and State governments, working closely with many leaders.

In the early days he worked with the political pioneers of multiculturalism such as, in South Australia, Don Dunstan and Murray Hill, and, federally, Al Grassby and Malcolm Fraser.

In 1983 Professor Smolicz was appointed by Lynn Arnold to chair the South Australian Task Force on Multiculturalism that was responsible for the report, *Education for Cultural Democracy*.

The report, widely known as the Smolicz Report, became the blueprint for successive South Australian Governments in the area of multiculturalism. ○



One of Prof Smolicz's proudest moments was meeting Pope John Paul II

Multicultural Arts

Using different art forms as a means of expression is not new but it is as relevant today as it has ever been. South Australia's cultural mix ensures that there are many stories to be told, cultures to be discovered and traditions to be unfurled.

In this issue of *Multicultural Life* we discover some of the arts activities taking place in South Australia. From painting to performance, from singing to sculpture, each page tells a story of diversity, creativity, innovation and participation.

ONAM festival showcases performing arts



Dancers perform the semi-classical dance *mohini addam* at the Onam festival

Malayalees of South Australia celebrated this year's Onam on 3 September at Woodville Town Hall with chief guest, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P. Onam is the biggest and most important harvest festival celebrated in Kerala, India with celebrations often expressed through the performing arts.

At South Australia's celebration a floral carpet (pookkalam) welcomed guests and community members and a traditional lunch was followed by a variety of cultural performances.

www.adelaidemalayalee.org

A stunning visual backdrop to the stage depicting a classic Keralite villa, was designed by Dina Giriprasad, and after a rang-pooja dance, the function was officially opened with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the President of the Adelaide and Metropolitan Malayalee Association, Mr Sreekumar Kesavan and guests.



Songs and craft displays celebrate Bangladeshi New Year

Adila Noor sings a traditional song at the Bangla New Year festival.

The South Australian Bangladeshi Community celebrated the Bangla New Year with traditional songs, dance and craft displays from Bangladesh. The festival celebrated the culture, language and music of Bangladesh and showcased the community's traditions.



Vietnamese book project co-ordinators (from left) Hong Thanh Nguyen, Phuong My Van and My-Van Tran.

Vietnamese Folktales and Festivals

A book focussing on the folktales and festivals of Vietnamese culture is being collated by the South Australian Vietnamese Teacher's Association Inc. Multicultural S.A. provided the association with a grant towards the cost of producing the book titled *Glimpses of Vietnamese Culture through Heroes, Folktales and Festivals*. The book is designed to capture the character, soul and essence of Vietnamese culture and will be generously illustrated to show the wider community colourful aspects of Vietnamese culture.

Special Feature
Multicultural
Arts

Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre Inc.

A forum to explore the connections between food and faith and a series of spiritual music concerts are just a couple of the highlights from the past year's program of events and projects at Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre Inc.

Ajak Kwai performing at Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre Inc. in September.

Utilising a range of visual arts, performing arts and special events programs covering exhibitions, artist talks, world music and dance concerts, workshops and forums, Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre provides a setting for artists and audiences to interact; inspiring understanding of different cultures and traditions.

“By nurturing and developing traditional and contemporary art forms,” says Nexus Executive Director Dr Noris Ioannou, “we hope to help a diversity of communities share experiences, stimulating a cross-cultural process of multicultural interaction and celebration.”

For example, earlier this year in just one of many projects, Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre brought together people from four different religious backgrounds (Hindu, Orthodox, Buddhist and Muslim), in an interfaith forum to discuss the cultural symbolism of food and religion.

Another of Nexus Multicultural Arts Centre's innovative intercultural collaborations was the Ouds project. Throughout 2005 and early 2006, a series of multicultural workshops allowed musicians from a range of backgrounds, including Greek, Egyptian, Anglo-Celtic and Turkish, to explore music traditions of the oud, a string instrument resembling the mandolin. The project fostered relationships between communities.

The final oud concert was a sell-out attended by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P., and many community leaders.

African Rhythms was the focus of the Nexus Spring Season of concerts with Sudanese singer Ajak Kwai expressing heartfelt songs about freedom and love in her native Dinka language as well as in Arabic and English. The Dada Nii Experience, using West African percussion and harmonies, also featured in another concert.

“Nexus projects are about giving artists, writers, musicians and communities a voice and a means to collaborate and develop their ideas in cross-cultural ways,” explains Dr Ioannou.

“Generating dialogue and innovative art forms is the key to the work of Nexus. By engaging artists from diverse communities, supporting collaborative artistic development, and connecting them with diverse community groups, (we are) enabling their creative voice to be heard by a wider audience.”

www.nexus.asn.au

A scene from *The Mule's Foal*

Theatro Oneiron

Theatro Oneiron was established in 1990 in Adelaide to celebrate Greek culture.

Theatro Oneiron's objectives are to present the best of modern Greek theatre as well as works of Greek-Australian playwrights, Greek-themed plays and Australian dramatic works. All productions are presented in Greek, English, or both, with synopses or subtitles, or both.

Among its major works are *The Courtyard of Miracles* (in Greek and English production versions), *The Four Table Legs* by legendary Greek writer Iakovos Kambanellis and *Cafe Cavafy*, an original work researched in Adelaide, Alexandria, Athens and Cambridge. Most recently Theatro Oneiron staged a modernist version of Euripides' *Trojan Women* and *From Kifisia With Strength* which toured to Perth.

Theatro Oneiron Youth (TOY) was established two years ago as an offshoot of the parent company and a Youth Creative Associate has been appointed to provide a youth perspective to its policies. In 2005 TOY was invited to participate in the *Come Outs* arts festival for young people and developed an exciting exploration of the *Ghost Dogs* script by Maude Davey.

As Artistic Director, Max Mastrosavvas, explains: "This was a wonderfully surreal and episodic piece. The result was an exceptional, full-length presentation that engaged audiences and the entire cast connected with all the cultural references in the script and so imbued the performance with a unique 'Greekness'."

This year the company has staged *The Mule's Foal*, a stage adaptation of an award-winning novel by Greek Australian writer, Fotini Epanomitis.

The future looks rosy with a re-staging of *The Mule's Foal* planned for 2007 and an exploration of Aristophanes' comedies.

Max Mastrosavvas can be contacted via email: mmastros@iprimus.com.au

Faerd in concert

Special Feature
Multicultural
Arts

Folk Federation

The word 'folk' can mean different things to different people but, it is often seen as being about people and their lives expressed in music, stories, songs and dance. It crosses borders and barriers.

The Folk Federation of S.A. aims to provide a wide variety of folk activity in one place. Concerts, folk dances, touring folk artists, mini festivals, workshops and seminars showcasing a diverse range of multicultural artists – all feature in a varied program of events.

Artists who have played at the Folk Federation recently include Faerd, a Scandinavian/Celtic fusion group with musicians from Denmark and Sweden; Linda Rankin and friends who presented a night of Celtic music; and Catherine Fraser and Duncan Smith, a Scottish fiddle and piano duo.

The program for 2007 promises to continue the multicultural theme. The Federation is putting together the music program for the Goolwa Wooden Boat and Music Festival in March which will feature a range of multicultural folk musicians and artists.

www.folk-sa.asn.au

Learning about the cultural traditions and experiences of other South Australians through writing is key to the Multicultural Writers Association of Australia (M.W.A.A.)

Multicultural Writers

Members of the Multicultural Writers Association of Australia meet on a regular basis to share ideas, stories and readings. The association organises and participates in a range of events including *kabaredo* (literary cabarets), literary picnics held in regional areas and workshops to examine the drama of existence through the writings of a diverse range of poets.

The association is currently working towards the publication of an anthology titled *Culture is ...* with the aim of sharing the multicultural experience of living in Australia.

“Self-expression through language is a vibrant art form,” explains board member Anne-Marie Smith. “It is as satisfying to share your thoughts with others as it is to exchange multicultural food!”

“All of us have Australian stories to share,” says Anne-Marie. “Just by being one of the first inhabitants of Australia or by coming to this country as settlers, migrants or refugees, we can all contribute to this anthology. Now is the time to show that although we all may be different we still belong together. Reading these stories will help other Australians feel they were not alone in their experiences.”

Dr Smith can be contacted via email: paasmith@kisser.net.au

The *National Treasures* exhibition is at the State Library of S.A. from January to March 2007.



Multicultural arts feature in much of the work of the State Library of South Australia, providing the focus for talks, lectures and exhibitions and forming part of an events program.



Photo STATE LIBRARY OF S.A.

Special Feature Multicultural Arts

State Library

Adelaide will host an exhibition reflecting Australia's multicultural origins and featuring national treasures from Australia's libraries from 25 January to 25 March next year. Examples of some of the exhibits are a Japanese map, with text in Japanese, of the coast of Western Australia prepared in 1942; a book written in Dutch by Francisco Pelsaert *The Unlucky Voyage of the Batavia* which was published in 1647; and a coat hanger made by a Berlin-born civilian while interned in Hay, New South Wales in 1940.

During March 2007, a series of four guided conversation walks are planned. Non-English language speakers will be invited to take part in a *Conversation on the Move*. Each session will introduce a different aspect of South Australia's cultural precinct, visiting different places along North Terrace such as the Art Gallery of S.A. and the Botanical Gardens. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions about life in Adelaide and to practise English with other learners in small groups. The walks are free but bookings are essential. To reserve a place call (08) 8207 7269 or email marketing@slsa.sa.gov.au

www.slsa.sa.gov.au

A colourful, vibrant and challenging photographic exhibition, *Here & Now* formed the focus for the opening of Refugee Week in October, hosted by the Migrant Resource Centre of South Australia (M.R.C.S.A.).

Migrant Resource Centre

Each photograph in the exhibition *Here & Now* detailed the stories of members of new and emerging communities of refugee background with accompanying oral history about how they came to live in Adelaide.

www.mrcsa.com.au

The exhibition was just one part of the Refugee Week program which included an extensive array of events including forums, information sessions, welcome days and movies.

Other arts projects on which the M.R.C.S.A. has worked this year include a night of African music titled *African Journey*, giving African communities an opportunity to share their cultural heritage; and craft activities for children from the Uzbekistan community during the school holidays.

African Journey participants sharing their cultural heritage

To celebrate the music of the groups along the old trade route linking China to the Mediterranean, M.R.C.S.A. has developed *The Silk Road* project. The project celebrates the richness of culture brought by migrants from this part of the world.

As Houman Ehsani, a Persian musician involved in *The Silk Road*, explains: "Our music is food for the soul. It is uplifting and fulfilling. Sharing music with our fellow Australians is like inviting everyone to feast at the same banquet table." This project will continue into 2007 with *The Silk Road* performing in the Adelaide Fringe Festival in March.

Australian Refugee Association

The essence of the work of the Australian Refugee Association (ARA), is providing advice, assistance, advocacy and practical support in settlement services for refugees. ARA seeks to help refugees settle in Australia with independence and dignity.

Special Feature
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Art is recognised by ARA as a highly effective means of expression and communication, particularly where language breaks down, and so the association has developed a number of community arts projects.

The ARA African Women's Dance project focuses on youth development and developing the whole person. Self-esteem and pride in African cultures are promoted, friendships created and social skills enhanced.

Arts and crafts activities are explored by the ARA Girls Group which includes video production, mask-making and scrap-booking to explore issues pertinent to them in both their home and school lives. A Boys Group is being developed along similar lines to that of the Girls Group, but will also include hip hop writing workshops to enable the young people involved to find a powerful voice for their thoughts and feelings.

Regular exhibitions are held in the ARA foyer to promote the work of artists from refugee backgrounds to visitors and the general public.

www.ausref.net

From the *Pictures in My Heart* exhibition



Special Feature Multicultural Arts

Through a range of programs including performing and visual arts, gallery spaces and community cultural development funding, Country Arts S.A. increases **access and participation in the arts** for all South Australians.

COUNTRY ARTS S.A.

Country Arts S.A. is the principal provider of arts programs to country South Australia.

Pictures in My Heart is a poignant exhibition created by men who fled Afghanistan in fear of their lives in 1999-2000. The men worked with key South Australian artists to create individual paintings and print-making reflecting the memories, desires and aspirations of the Afghan Hazara refugees. The exhibition has toured throughout South Australia and will be in Mount Gambier between December 2006 and February 2007.

As Danyon de Buell, Arts Development Manager for Country Arts SA in the Riverland-Mallee area, explains: “*The Pictures in my Heart* exhibition was wonderful and for this region was an incredible eye-opener. The number of Afghanistan community members who attended was overwhelming. Their sense of engaging with this exhibition was, at times, very emotional.”

Another regional project is the Riverland Youth Theatre’s multimedia performance of *Landed* produced in collaboration with the Riverland Multicultural Arts Committee. The play explores the links between South Australia’s multicultural heritage and its connection with the land. The production won the Youth Education Program (YEP) Award at the Adelaide Fringe in 2006 and, it is hoped, will be performed again in Adelaide in 2007.

www.countryarts.org.au

The Migration Museum



Migration Museum

The many identities and cultures of the people of South Australia are on display at the Migration Museum on Kintore Avenue in Adelaide.

The Migration Museum is designed to develop understanding and awareness of South Australia's multicultural diversity and holds many exhibitions, both permanent and temporary, as well as providing a space called the *Forum* enabling community groups to tell their own stories through presentations, displays and exhibitions.

In 2007 there will be an exhibition by the Association of South Australian Chinese Writers (March-May) followed by an exhibition by the Greek Cypriot Community (June-August).

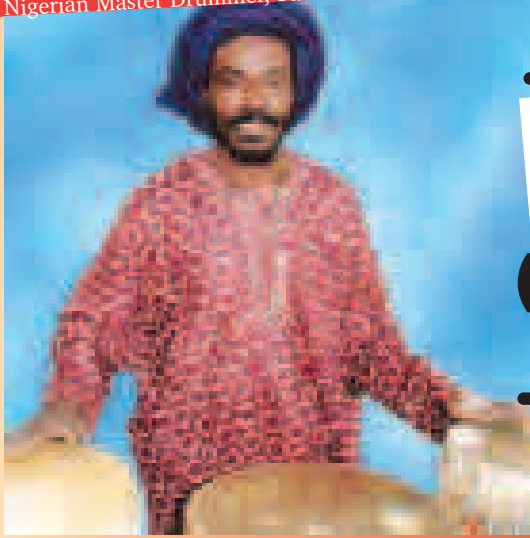
A collection currently on display is testimony to the work of Caroline Chisholm who, in the 1850s, worked to help migrants traveling to the goldfields. She set up shelter sheds along the route where reasonably priced food and lodging were provided. The exhibition titled *Chisholm's Homes: Shaking down the Miracle*, shows 2D and 3D art created through community and school-based workshops.

Exhibitions from the Jewish Museum of Australia about Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew and Captain in the French Army in 1894, and a photographic exhibition of Finnish migrants in Australia by photographer Kirsi Reinikka are also being prepared for the 2007 program.

The *Banner Collection* is one of the Museum's permanent exhibitions, started when the Migration Museum opened in 1986. Community groups created banners representing memories of homelands and dreams of a new life in Australia. There are now more than 40 banners in the collection providing a striking and colourful display.

www.history.sa.gov.au/migration/about.htm

Nigerian Master Drummer, Sam Oshodi



Japanese theatre and African drumming were both features of the recent program at the Adelaide Festival Centre allowing audiences, and the wider community, to experience cultural diversity.

Adelaide Festival Centre

Getting everyone moving was Sam Oshodi, a Nigerian master drummer and craftsman who performed as part of the Adelaide Festival Centre's *Something on Saturday* program. Sam helped everyone attending his performance develop a better understanding of African traditions and ways of life.

Theatre Kazenoko Kansai from Japan told the story of a child created out of paper, reflecting on the importance of paper in traditional and contemporary Japanese life and art and was particularly focussed on introducing children to the theatre. Another feature of the program was the *Wakakirri National Story Festival*, a national competition for all schools to celebrate creativity, vitality, cultural diversity and the environment.

Special Feature Multicultural Arts

And the program didn't stop there. *In Other Words*, in conjunction with Craftsouth Centre, is an exchange project linking South Australian contemporary craft, design and visual art with the traditional craft practices of our culturally diverse communities.

The exhibition displayed cross-cultural art interpretations from 10 countries including Turkey, Poland, Japan and Greece in media such as clay, weaving, needlework, Middle Eastern musical instruments and puppet-making.

www.afct.org.au

Art Gallery of South Australia

Apart from having a large permanent collection of Australian, European, North American and Asian art, the Art Gallery of South Australia hosts temporary exhibitions throughout the year as well as offering exciting events which invite the whole community to sample multicultural arts.

During Winter 2006, the Art Gallery celebrated the *South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival* with a free exhibition showcasing work by contemporary South Australian artists including Aldo Iacobelli, the recipient of the 2006 SALA monograph, Hossein Valamanesh and Muriel van der Byl amongst many others.

Spring saw the celebration of Chinese culture with an open invitation for everyone to join in Chinese Year of the Dog activities.

The Art Gallery of S.A. is continuing its program of community events into 2007 and an *Egyptian Culture Day* is already being planned for March.

www.artgallery.sa.gov.au

Performers from Yevshan Ukrainian Arts at the 2006 Adelaide Fringe Family Day.

Adelaide Fringe

One of the highlights of the Fringe is the *Family Day* in which multicultural community groups share their food, fashion and music. The 2006 Festival saw, among others, the Sudanese community putting on a fashion parade and African drummers providing music and workshops. The day is free and attracts up to 40,000 visitors each year. In 2007 *Family Day* is on Sunday, 18 March at Rymill Park, Adelaide.

For artists, Adelaide Fringe provides an inspirational environment and the event has become known for its fresh ideas, imagination, spontaneity and fun.

From 2007 Adelaide Fringe, the largest arts event in Australia, will be held annually and will run for three weeks every March.

www.adelaidefringe.com.au

from Nigeria, makes his Adelaide debut. He is known for his hard-hitting lyrics and political opinions.

Other artists in the line-up include Lunasa from Ireland with their inventive arrangements; Lior, who focuses on the memorable melodies of his Middle Eastern heritage; and Lila Downs from Mexico with intense performances and provocative lyrics reflecting the most personal and deep side of Mexican traditions.

The festival is a journey of cultural discovery and understanding that makes it one of the nation's most popular and successful festivals, complemented by a strong visual arts program.

In 2007 WOMADelaide will take place on 9-11 March.

www.womadelaide.com.au

Started in 1960, the Adelaide Fringe offers artists from all over the world the opportunity to showcase their talent, engaging and interacting with audiences at venues across Adelaide and beyond.

As an open access event Adelaide Fringe provides an opportunity for local artists to present their work to a wide audience and anyone with ideas and enthusiasm can register to take part in the program. Artists from a diverse range of cultures take the opportunity to present their work in an inspiring and creative environment.

Womadelaide

Every summer for one weekend in March thousands of people from across Australia gather in Botanic Park for WOMADelaide, to be enlightened and entertained by music and dance performances by groups from all corners of the globe.

WOMAD, which stands for the World Of Music, Arts and Dance, was founded in 1982 by rock-music superstar Peter Gabriel as a means of bringing musical wonders to the world stage.

Internationally, eight WOMAD festivals are presented each year and in 2007 the program promises to be extensive and

eclectic with artists from as far afield as India, New Caledonia, Ireland, Africa, Argentina and Portugal.

For the first time in Australia, with a career spanning six decades, comes Asha Bhosle (India), the most-recorded artist in the world with more than 12,500 titles.

In an exclusive Australian performance, Femi Kuti, the award-winning son of the legendary Afrobeat pioneer, Fela Kuti

Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

International Police Tattoo

Special Feature
Multicultural
Arts

Ethnic groups from South Australia were able to share their **culture, talent and expertise** with an audience of 22,000 at this year's Police Tattoo.

Showcasing talent from diverse cultures and communities from around the world, the 2006 Commonwealth Bank International Police Tattoo took place in Adelaide in May.

Local performance groups featured strongly. The Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble performed a traditional folk dance of the steppe region of central Ukraine. The Greek Lyceum of South Australia Song and Dance Ensemble presented the Pentozali dance – with its musical origins found in the 18th century Greek revolutionary movement against Ottoman Turk domination – from the island of Crete.

A Japanese drumming ensemble, Atsui-no-Taiko (meaning 'hot drums'), performed a dynamic piece with precise choreographic movement.

Multicultural S.A. coordinated the involvement of the ethnic groups and such was the significance of the event that SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le took the salute at one of the performances. The first Police Tattoo was held in South Australia in 2001, then in 2003, and from this year will be staged every two years. The event unites the community through music and performance and this year hosted more than 700 performers from around the world.

www.policetattoo.com

Multiculturalism key to community harmony

There has been robust debate in the media recently about national security, Australian values and the future of multiculturalism. SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le responds.

Some commentators have labelled multiculturalism as “mushy and misguided” and say it is a bad thing.

However, in defining Australian values, leaders on both sides of politics have made reference to the notion of “a fair go” as being quintessentially Australian.

Multiculturalism is all about giving people “a fair go” so that they can participate fully in society and achieve their goals, no matter the language they speak, the religion they practise or the country they were born in.

Multiculturalism is a policy for dealing with the diverse composition

of our population and for responding to the growing sophistication of the social and cultural aspirations of all Australians. So far it has been most effective.

Multiculturalism has proven to be the most effective way of encouraging and allowing migrants and refugees – who settle in Australia for very different reasons – to strive for the best lives for themselves and in doing so, contribute to the advancement of Australia.

Because of its benefits, which are there for all people to see and enjoy, multiculturalism has been one of our most successful social policies.

In the current debate about multiculturalism, it is alleged by some commentators that it has weakened our national cohesion and watered down our shared Australian values.

This fear is exacerbated by the global war on terror and suspicion directed at Australia’s Muslim communities as a potential threat from within. Terrorism experts have given a significant and resounding rebuke to this argument by highlighting that what the current security environment requires is a heightened engagement with Australia’s Muslim communities.

Indeed, Michael Clyne in his recent book *Australia’s Language Potential* notes that some of the key intelligence failures in the United States can be attributed to a lack of Arabic language skills.

(continued on page 22)



Participants in the SAMEAC Multicultural Forum *Multiculturalism in different jurisdictions* on November 29 included (from left) Rosa Colanero, Sathavy Suos and SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le.



Bosnian-born Sabina Delalic (left) and Papua New Guinean-born Therese Minitong-Kemelfield are two of the thousands of migrants to South Australia who have become Australian citizens.

(continued from page 21)

We are in fact fortunate that Australia's unique multicultural society has fostered dialogue with Muslim communities, helping to create a climate of trust and respect.

As Chair of the South Australian Government Muslim Reference Group, I have been working closely with Muslim communities and am fully aware of the pride they take in Australian citizenship and their commitment to community harmony.

Multiculturalism in Australia has broken down barriers and invited people of all backgrounds to engage the great project of Australian nation building, and worked to counteract the alienation of minority groups that has resulted in violence in some other nation states.

As leading Islamic American cleric, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, of New York, has said, multiculturalism is the antidote to "monoculturalism, with its attending clash of civilizations paradigm, (which) has brought the world to the brink of nuclear disaster and global destruction".



Premier Mike Rann M.P. welcomed Mohamed Algadi and Isha Munya from Somalia to the Eid Al-Fitr reception at Parliament House.

Australian nationalism is based on the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion, English as the national language, respect for the rule of law, acceptance and equality. These are values cherished by all Australians.

These values are also integral to multiculturalism. Multiculturalism reflects the culturally and linguistically

diverse reality of the Australian population, with some 43% of the population born overseas or with at least one parent born overseas, and about 200 different languages spoken in the community.

So you can see, multiculturalism underpins the Australian way of life.

Globalisation, advances in communications technology and competition for skilled labour all mean that we are heading toward an even more diverse future.

They say that hard work brings luck and we can count ourselves lucky in Australia that we have a unique and successful brand of multiculturalism to build upon in meeting current and future challenges posed by an increasingly diverse population.

This is no time to bury our head in the sand. Our future economic prosperity and community harmony depend upon it. ○

“MULTICULTURALISM in Australia has broken down barriers and invited people of all backgrounds to engage in the great project of Australian nation building, and worked to counteract the alienation of minority groups that has resulted in violence in some other nation states.”

Christmas Pageant

More than 80 people from eight ethnic communities took part in the 73rd Adelaide Christmas Pageant on 4 November.

Members of the Argentinean, Croatian, Dutch, Indian, Japanese, Kenyan, Kurdish and Polish communities participated, dressed in traditional costume.

The participants – organised by Multicultural S.A. – and the *Christmas Around the World* multicultural float made a colourful spectacle as they proceeded through Victoria Square and along King William and other city streets.



Members of South Australia's Japanese community get ready to accompany the multicultural float in the Christmas Pageant.



Some of the Polish community members who participated in the Australia Day Parade.

Polish settlement

The Polish community celebrated its 150th anniversary of settlement in South Australia with events throughout 2006.

Earlier this year, the Premier, Mike Rann M.P. held a reception at Parliament House and a Polish festival took place in February. Other events included a mass and picnic at Polish Hill River near Sevenhill in the State's mid-North, a dinner dance at the Dom Polski Centre, and participation in the 2006 Australia Day Parade.

Launch of Muslim Media Guide

On 31 October, Multicultural S.A. launched the *Media Guide: Islam and Muslims in Australia*, which was developed by the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria (IWWCV) through a Commonwealth Living in Harmony grant.

Launching the publication in South Australia was one of the actions recommended by the South Australian Government Muslim Reference Group to address concerns regarding media representation of Islam and Muslims. The guide is aimed at improving relations between Australian Muslims and the media. In the words of the IWWCV's chairperson, Tasneem Chopra "We hope to achieve that elusive thing – balanced reporting."



Deputy Editor of *The Advertiser*, Rex Jory; SAMEAC Member, Gala Mustafa; and Adjunct Professor at University of Technology Sydney, Dr Peter Manning at the launch of the *Media Guide: Islam and Muslims in Australia*.

http://home.vicnet.net.au/~iwwcv/IWWC_media_guide.pdf

Vietnamese National Conference



Delegates at the Vietnamese National Conference at Mansfield Park in June 2006 included Vietnamese Community in Australia President Dr Tien Manh Nguyen (centre front) and Vietnamese Community in Australia (SA Chapter) President and conference organiser Mr Loc Doan (front, fourth from right).



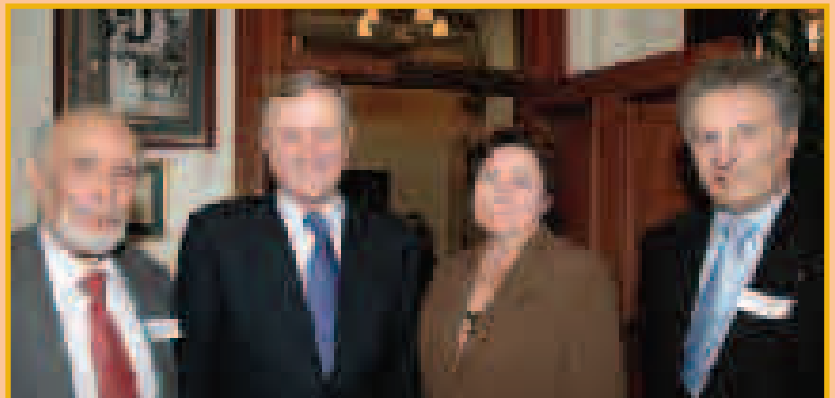
Chinese interpreter Eva Liu introduces Wu Shiwang (left) and Chen Liangfeng.

Port Wakefield gets 'Taste of China'

More than 300 Adelaide Plains residents were treated to a *Taste of China* event at the Port Wakefield Football Club rooms in June. Two high school students, Wu (Vincent) Shiwang and Chen (Jack) Liangfeng, whose parents are among several Chinese temporary skilled workers sponsored by local employer Primo Australia, were introduced by local Mandarin-English interpreter and translator Eva Liu. Eva is a recently arrived migrant who assists with English language tuition.

Italian Parliamentarians congratulated

A reception was held on 22 August at Parliament House to honour the visit to South Australia of two Members of the Italian Parliament, Senator Nino Randazzo and Marco Fedi M.P., who are the first Australian-Italians to be elected to the Parliament of Italy where they represent the world's biggest electorate: Oceania, Asia, Africa and the Antarctic.



Premier Mike Rann M.P. and Minister Carmel Zollo M.L.C. welcome Senator Nino Randazzo (left) and Marco Fedi M.P. (right) to South Australia.



Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P. (third from left) with members of Muslim communities at Parliament House.

Eid Al-Fitr Reception

Premier Mike Rann M.P. and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson M.P. hosted a reception at Parliament House on 27 October to celebrate the Islamic festival of Eid Al-Fitr, which marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan. The reception was attended by members from Muslim communities across South Australia.



Adelaide's Odyssey

Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival *Odyssey*, held in September and October, featured a packed program including the 5th Adelaide Greek Film Festival, lectures at the University of Adelaide, a contemporary Greek Australian art exhibition and a photo exhibition in memory of Don Dunstan.

An Orchestra Odyssey concert at the Adelaide Town Hall featured music by Greek composers including Mikis Theodorakis, Dimitris Lagios and Yiannis Markopoulos.

The music was arranged and conducted by John Kourbelis, and performed by the Adelaide Art Orchestra, soloists on Greek traditional instruments and singers Panos Christou and Polly Arabatzis (pictured above) and Tassos Bouyiessis.



Speakers at the Cultural Diversity Seminar

Cultural Diversity Seminar

People of all ages and cultural backgrounds came together to listen to messages of peace from three of South Australia's most respected religious leaders at Noarlunga in November.

Father Charles Gauci (the Ministers' Fraternal), Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, (Adelaide's Beit Shalom Synagogue) and Imam Khalid Yousuf (the leader of Adelaide Mosque) were invited to talk about peace in a Cultural Diversity Seminar presented in conjunction with Project Abraham, a joint venture between the Jewish and Muslim communities of South Australia.

The project, partly funded under the Australian Government's Living in Harmony Community Grants Program, and organised by the City of Onkaparinga, seeks to improve understanding between Judaism, Islam and Christianity, and acknowledge commonalities, rather than difference.

New arrivals try hand at sports

A successful Come and Try Sports day was held in Bordertown in conjunction with a Community Multicultural Forum. The Come and Try Day gave new migrants to the region a chance to try their hand at different sports including golf, table tennis, volleyball, croquet and basketball. The activities were organised by Tatiara District Council with funding support from Multicultural S.A. and the Office for Recreation and Sport. As a follow-up, some Bordertown sports clubs have offered to run social days and the basketball club has made the stadium available for social games on Sundays.



Participants at the 'Come and Try' sports event give table tennis a go.

Regional forums promote migrant-friendly communities

Ideas on how regional towns could be migrant-friendly were discussed by residents at Community Multicultural Forums held in Naracoorte, Mount Gambier and Bordertown in July and August. The forums were organised by the South East (now Limestone Coast) Multicultural Network. They were funded by a grant to the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board under Multicultural S.A.'s Regional Migrant-Friendly Initiatives program. Dozens of recently-arrived migrants to the region from East Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries took part in the forums.



SAMEAC Member and Mount Gambier resident Gala Mustafa (back, second right) with new migrants at the Bordertown forum.

New lease on life for old centres

Many community centres are only used for a limited time each week.

With this in mind Multicultural S.A. has funded community associations to enable them to share their premises with new and emerging community groups, as well as providing assistance with the newer group's settlement and development. The S.A. German Association and the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A., both with large premises in central Adelaide, have been helping groups such as some Middle Eastern and African communities,



Interior of the S.A. German Club in Flinders Street, Adelaide.

by providing them with premises in which they can meet and hold functions or meetings. New and emerging communities

wishing to use this service should contact a Grants Officer at Multicultural S.A. on 8226 1944.

Contact a Grants Officer at Multicultural S.A. on [8226 1944](tel:82261944)

Recording Community Histories Seminar

Building the capacity of ethnic groups to record and tell their stories is the agenda of a forthcoming seminar.

record and tell their stories with a view to promoting community harmony and inter-cultural understanding.

Three follow-up workshops are planned for seminar participants on Saturday 24 March, on the following topics:

- Collecting and Displaying your Cultural Heritage (hosted by the Migration Museum);
- Recording Oral History (hosted by the State Library); and
- Preserving Community Artefacts (hosted by Artlab).

The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission is hosting a seminar on the *Recording of Community Histories* on Wednesday 7 March 2007.

The seminar is being held in partnership with the Migration Museum, the State Library, the History Trust and Artlab to build the capacity of ethnic community groups to

Promoting Awards in Ethnic Communities

Each year the Australian government presents a number of awards to citizens across Australia.



Multicultural S.A. is keen to encourage ethnic communities to nominate people who deserve recognition for their work for a civic award. For further information visit www.multicultural.sa.gov.au

Civic awards are presented to members of the community in recognition of the outstanding achievements and contributions they have made in a diverse range of fields and areas of endeavour. Recognising that there are significant numbers of people from ethnic communities working exceptionally hard, volunteering their time, effort and often money, working on projects of benefit to the community, Multicultural S.A. has put together a package of information to encourage community organisations to nominate members for civic awards.



Lizzie Russell transcribing an oral history interview at the Migration Museum.

To find out how you can participate, contact Stephen Brock from Multicultural S.A. on (08) 8226 1904, or via email: brock.stephen@saugov.sa.gov.au

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