



Telephone: (07) 4775 1588
 Fax: (07) 4725 5833
 Email: admin@tmsg.org.au
 Address: 63 Ross River Road
 Mundingburra QLD 4812
 Post Address: PO Box 1801
 Aitkenvale QLD 4814

Please visit our website:
www.tmsg.org.au

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A Multicultural Future for All

This is the title which the Queensland Government has given to its Multicultural Policy 2011.

In 2009 the Queensland Government initiated a review of its multicultural policy by releasing a discussion paper entitled 'a multicultural future for all of us'. T.M.S.G. personnel were among the many people across Queensland who engaged in discussion, deliberation and sharing of their experiences and ideas around the very important subject of multiculturalism.

Some discussions were held at the T.M.S.G. Office prompted by a series of questions which were publicly displayed for people to consider and respond to. These same questions formed the basis of a forum of discussion with people from different ethnic groups, especially Pacific Islanders.

One of the government forums was held in Townsville and several members of T.M.S.G. participated in it. So of course we were indeed pleased when the new State Multicultural Policy was (finally) announced in July this year. It emphasises citizenship, diversity, harmony and a 'fair go'! Below is an extract from edition 16 (August—September 2011) 'Community Connect'.

The policy outlines initiatives which aim to make migrants and refugees safer and offer them greater access to jobs, interpreters and transport services: A three-year action plan contains 62 initiatives, which include improving pathways to employment for migrants and refugees.

Other initiatives relate to crime prevention—focussing on new and emerging communities, international students and visitors; and improving interpreter services; providing easier access to transport services and driver education.

A new community education campaign is also proposed that promotes anti-racism, cultural awareness and positive community relations.

Among the initiatives is the establishment of a Queensland migration heritage partnership that will celebrate the migrants from many cultures who have helped build the State. Other important initiatives of the policy include measures to help people of all cultural backgrounds understand their rights and responsibilities in the residential tenancy market and recognition of entrepreneurs and companies who use their workforces' diversity to grow their business.



A Special Volunteer Farewelled

TMSG was deeply saddened to learn of Beth Bennett's death after a lengthy illness. Beth was a dedicated, generous volunteer for T.M.S.G. for some years. During that time she worked with clients in several capacities of responding to the many needs of settlement especially for refugees. Beth was instrumental in establishing a network with Soroptomists International Townsville, who continue to assist the work of T.M.S.G. May Beth rest in peace.

*Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-81)
From The Brothers Karamazov*

*Love all God's creation,
the whole and grain of sand in it.
love every leaf, every ray of god's light.
Love the animals, love the plants,
love everything.*

*If you love everything,
you will perceive
the divine mystery in things.*

*Once you perceive it,
you will begin to comprehend it better
every day.*

*And you will come at last to love the whole
World with an all-embracing love.*



Helping Afghan Women

Maria Aziz is one of the Chief Coordinators of the Women Economical and Educational Development Organisation in Afghanistan.

Maria lived in Townsville for some years. She Coordinated the TMSG Multicultural Women's Group for a year and was also a Case Manager in the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Services Programme at TMSG.

We wish Maria and her co-workers many blessings on their efforts for Afghanistan Women.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We were very pleased to welcome 76 people to our AGM on 16th September held in the Mundingburra State Primary School. It was especially pleasing to have eight (8) other service providers represented at the meeting.

As is customary at the AGM a number of newly arrived refugees from Bhutan, The Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia were introduced by Abdi Musse Shirwa and Teresa Phillips, Case Manager in the Humanitarian Settlement Services Programme, and welcomed to Townsville by Chairman, Len Horner, on behalf of TMSG.

Terry Ryan, Finance Administrator, presented the annual audited financial report, in the absence of Peter Dadic, our Auditor. Terry said that all the programmes were progressing satisfactorily from the money aspect as the auditor's affirmation report showed.

Discussion about TMSG's membership fee resulted in the following decision:

"\$2.00 per annum with donation to \$5.00 very welcome".

Multicultural Women's Group Activities

Since February we have had the opportunity to explore Townsville community interacting with other community groups and institutions. Those activities favour the contact with people and opportunities of work, volunteering and leisure. This empowers each one of us and builds a stronger social network.

Our meetings occur every fourth Friday of the month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and the 2011 activities attended included:

- ◆ The launch of the New Arrivals' Family Reading Packs at City Libraries, Aitkenvale
- ◆ Pandora Tour at Tropical Museum of Queensland with Vivienne Moran.
- ◆ Volunteering in your Community at Aitkenvale Library facilitated by Anita Berry
- ◆ Tour of the Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Centre with Trish Barnard.
- ◆ Connecting Culture through Story Time at Aitkenvale Library
- ◆ A visit to Umbrella Gallery and a Melbourne Cup Day Function at TMSG. A highlight of this activity was the very creative and colourful "Race Day Hats" made and worn by some participants.

For the next year the challenges will be to strengthen the group network, explore the group's diversity, share life experiences and cooperation. Some of the possible themes are Recycling, Breast Cancer, and much more. If you have any ideas please sharing them with us. This is an opportunity to learn more and be able to build better homes, neighbourhoods and stronger communities for our families.



Helga Wiederhecker
Coordinator
Ph: (07) 4775 1588



DIAC's REAL ESTATE AGENTS INTERPRETERS SERVICE; **PILOT PROJECT**

We are pleased to announce that some Real Estate Agents in Townsville have agreed to participate in DIAC's free interpreter service pilot project to assist Humanitarian Entrants and Migrants who have arrived in the last five years. The pilot project will run for approximately a year.

Participating Agents:

Ray White Helen Munro Hermit Park
 John Gribbin Realty Aitkenvale
 Page and Pearce Hermit Park
 Saputo Realty Kirwan
 Rapid Realty South Townsville
 DM Realty Hermit Park
 LJ Hooker Annandale
 Ray White Riverside Annandale

Activities for 2011

Sewing and Craft Classes	10.00 am - 12.00 noon	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Friday
English language Classes	11.00 am - 12.00 noon	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Friday
Multicultural Women's Group	10.00 am - 12.00 noon	25th November 2011
End of Year Celebration - Open House at TMSG	8.00 am - 4.00 pm	14th December 2011

Everyone is welcomed to all activities

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TMSG Inc

63 Ross River Road, Mundingburra, Townsville

Or PO Box 1801, AITKENVALE QLD 4814

TO:

TMSG's Management Committee 2011 - 12

President Sheila Hawthorn
Vice president
Secretary
Treasurer Marivel Dayday
Members: Amanda Smith Aida David
 Dianne Innes Linda Davis
 Mick McCabe Damien Holmes

Women's Group Coordinator: Helga Wiederhecker

Newsletter Editor:

Sheila Hawthorn and Meg Davis

Please Note:

TMSG yearly membership is now due!! Please see form enclosed.

**SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IF YOU WISH
TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY
EMAIL**

The contents, information, advice and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of TMSG and not the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

Townsville Multicultural Support Group Inc

Invites you to



OPEN HOUSE

To Celebrate 2011

WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER

Join us for Breakfast (8:00 - 8:30am) or any other time that Day until 4.00pm

- ◆ Stories of 2011
- ◆ Meet Recent Refugee Arrivals
- ◆ Sharing food



ALL WELCOME

At TMSG, 63 Ross River Road, Mundingburra

For more information please contact TMSG at 4775 1588.

**COME:
ENJOY WITH FRIENDS OR ON YOUR OWN
School Vacation Program**

At the Strand Park, Townsville

➔ **Learn African Drumming:**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 9th December 2011
- ◆ \$2.00 booking fee

**At the City Library, 4 Petunia Street,
Aitkenvale**

➔ **Origami toy making:**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 9th January 2012
- ◆ Booking free

➔ **Jewellery Making & Cultural Stories**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 10th January 2012
- ◆ Booking free

➔ **Learn African Drumming:**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon (1/2 Hr sessions)
- ◆ 12th January 2012
- ◆ \$2.00 booking fee

➔ **Zumba dancing:**

- ◆ 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- ◆ 12th January 2012
- ◆ \$2.50 booking fee

**At the City Library, 86 Thuringowa Drive,
Kirwan**

➔ **Learn African Drumming :**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 12th December, 3rd & 12th January
- ◆ \$2.00 booking fee.

➔ **Origami Toy Making:**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 6th January 2012
- ◆ Booking free

➔ **Jewellery Making:**

- ◆ 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
- ◆ 17th January 2012
- ◆ Booking free

All enquiries and further information to:

Geri Crouch
Ph: 4775 1588
Email: cop@tmsg.org.au or

Hello, my name is Kerry Mitton, I am Continence Nurse Advisor and am working as a Clinical Nurse with the Continence Advisory Service , Vincent Campus. This is a branch of Queensland Health, and associated with the Townsville Health Service.

(Some of you may remember me from the 'Health Promotion Program' run by Blue Care, in the past).

I am at it again! This time, though, I am concentrating on promoting the prevention of Incontinence.

Incontinence is one of Australia's biggest health issues and affects over 4.8 million of us of all ages, (that we are aware of) and cost our country \$42.9 billion in 2010.

Statistics tell us that 1 in 3 women who have ever had a baby will develop some form of incontinence and that the incidence, in both men and women, increases significantly with age.

While, in the majority of older adults, the incontinence can be improved and often cured – irrespective of the underlying cause, isn't it better to try to prevent it completely, or at the very worst, delay the onset considerably. After all—"Prevention is better than cure".

I want to commence a two-part monthly education program called "B&B" Workshop (Bladder and Bowel, that is).

Please get involved with this initiative, and help me shape a very positive program that I am hoping will develop into a permanent rung on the Health Promotion ladder.

Dates: 22/11/2011 & 29/11/11

None in December

24/01/2012 & 31/01/2012

Continuing monthly dates to be advised

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

Address: Vincent Campus (of Qld Health)

59 Cambridge Street

Vincent Qld 4814

Phone: **4775 8370**