



Accents

Multicultural Community
Services of Central Australia

Quarterly Newsletter

**Diversity
In action**

Volume 1, 2009 March

Akzente - accenten - accenti - उच्चारण - アクセント - akcentami - τονισμός - 악센트 - 口音 - naglasno - akcenty - acentos - accente - акценты - اللغات



**Multicultural Community
Services of Central
Australia Inc.**

2/20 Parsons Street
PO Box 1160 Alice Springs NT
Tel: (08) 89528776
Fax: (08) 89525176
Email: info@mcscsa.org.au
ABN: 90 639 917 989

**Accents
Quarterly Newsletter**

Editor:
Oscar Arango
multic@mcscsa.org.au

**Management Committee
2008 - 2009**

Office bearers
Chairperson: Eva Sarr
Dep. Chair: Michele Castagna
Secretary: Paul Gatwetch
Treasurer: Patricia D'aranjo

Committee Members

Anna Kenny
Kamile Georgious
Teodora Yaneva
Carolyn lopes
Sally Hodson
Isam Khalid Elhasen
Lindsay Wright



Say NO to DISCRIMINATION

Harmony Day falls on 21 March to coincide with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The aim of Harmony Day is to provide an opportunity for all Territorians to celebrate our cultural diversity and harmony through events that promote cultural awareness. If you are interested in taking part of the celebration please don't hesitate and come to MCSCA office and take part of the entourage. Everybody is welcome!

In this issue...

- ✓ From the chair...
- ✓ Welcome to Marguerite & Good-bye to Leony
- ✓ Harmony Day, Together in the Diversity...
- ✓ Differences between races?
- ✓ Photos Susu Mama X'mas party
- ✓ Poetry
- ✓ 2009, Year of the ox
- ✓ Free Bus Travel for Students, Seniors, Pensioners and Carers
- ✓ A Philippine autumn recipe
- ✓ A call for the African Community

From the Chair...

Well, it's already March 2009. How time flies...!

Many of you would know that this year marks the 10th anniversary of a celebration called Harmony Day which is an event held across Australia on the 21st of March each year. It coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and therefore aims to reduce racial prejudice and intolerance.

Harmony Day provides communities with the opportunity to set an example to children and adults of our common future on how to live in harmony and make the most of our racial, cultural, social and religious diversity. By celebrating this day we not only acknowledge our Indigenous heritage, but also our more than 200 ancestries and religious practices.

Come and celebrate with us. Wear an orange ribbon to symbolize your commitment to reducing racism in Australia and help us put into

practice the best of traditional Australian values - justice, equality, fairness and friendship.

So far, we have come up with ideas such as exhibition stands, poetry, dancing, singing and more, but we are open to suggestion, support and ideas.

If you would like to participate in Harmony Day today, please contact Oscar Arango at the Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (MCSCA) or on 89528776. For more information on the other projects, such as Susu Mamma, the Men's skills project and Growing up in Alice see our website: www.mcsc.org.au



Sincerely,
Eva Sarr - Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eva Sarr', written in a cursive style.

Welcome to Marguerite & Goodbye to Leony

It has been an interesting experience to be back at the Multicultural Community Services Office (MCSCA) after 5 years or so. I was asked to relieve Marguerite while she was on a long service leave; the 3 months became 4 months and now it is time to go.

Thanks to everyone who made my 4 months' work enjoyable; the Management Committee and staff, Jenny, Oscar, Arleen, and also Criste who is on short term relief work at MCSCA.

As some friends and clients say, it's nice to hear the good old voices of previous staff of MRC, now MCS.

Thanks to Marguerite, Michele and the rest of the Management Committee for giving me this opportunity.

I wish everyone well for 2009 and hope that MCSCA will be successful in its funding submissions to continue on with the very important role that it plays in the settlement of newly-arrived migrants and



Leony Bowey



Marguerite B-R

refugees.

Best wishes to all our supporters and friends!

Leony Bowey
Acting Settlement Support Worker.

Harmony Day

Together in the Diversity...

MCSCA, Alice Springs Town Council, Volunteering SA & NT Inc, 8 CCC Radio and Incite Youth Arts are planning to celebrate Harmony Day 2009 in Alice Springs with a variety of activities to encourage the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community to share memories and custom about their countries of origin among themselves and with the mainstream community.

On Sunday March 22 at the Todd Mall, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., we will be programming a special celebration for the harmony Day 2009. The following activities will be presented:

Cultural Singing and Dancing. Ethnic groups will be invited and encouraged to participate. They will present songs in their various languages and folkloric dancers.

Photographic and Cultural Memorabilia Exhibition. Collection of photos of the CALD community will be placed along side the stage. The photo-

graphs will be located in different stands and people will be able meet the CALD community and talk about the photos exhibited. After the event this exhibition will be transferred to the Public Library and/or the Foyer of the Town Council.



Story Telling. With the support of the Red Hot Art Centre, the Language Centre, AMEP and among MCSCA membership, there will be a session of reading poetry in many different languages such as Chinese, Italian, French, Tagalo-Philippino, Greek. The aim of the activity is to enjoy the way how words flies in each language and to give a space to the CALD community to share they oral culture.

Evening meeting and cultural mix. Come and let us know your stories, your memories, your customs your believes... On Saturday March 28 from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. It will be a fantastic opportunity to learn about our differences and have fun.

If you ant to participate please contact Christy at 8952 8776

2009 PROJECTS... Enrol now!

Are you taking classes but wanting to practice more to improve your English? Or do you just want to have a great time, talking and sharing stories with other people from overseas? If this is you, you must come to our new **CONVERSATIONAL GROUP**.

The group get together on Saturdays from 4- 5 Pm.

Boys and girls between 13 and 17 year old are invited to participate in the new project **GROWING UP IN ALICE**.

This a project to provide young people from overseas with a meeting space and a place where they can share their stories, get to know each other, learn about their new country and think about themselves.

MEN'S SKILLS PROJECT is about to start in a few weeks.

You can join the group and have your say helping us to make the program for the workshop. All man interested are welcomed.

If you are interested in any of the projects please contact Christy at MCSCA office at 8952 8776 or multic@mcsca.org.au

Differences between the races?*

The main thing that the evolution of the race shows is that there are no biological races of human beings! What we call "races" are human categories defined for historical reasons, social and cultural rights, but these categories do not correspond to "natural" divisions of the human species.

The social concept of "race" is still important in human life, for example, can be an important form of cultural identification for oppressors and oppressed social groups (in a positive social effect, like the movement of black pride or in a negative sense, including the KKK and other white supremacists). Most importantly, it is still used to oppress and discriminate economic, social and cultural groups. Therefore the fight against racism and national oppression continues, and we must continue to struggle for the implementation of "racial equality" and the emancipation of oppressed peoples. It is incorrect to say that "race no longer matters".

But this is due to the social reality of race. From a biological point of view, the concept of different races of humans is meaningless.

This may surprise some readers because we are socially conditioned to think that every person belongs to a race for superficial differences such as skin colour and texture or the type of hair. Many people know that there is no higher or lower "race", many people also know that all human beings belong to one species (all human populations around the globe can be crossed and reproduced).

But despite that, many believe that "races" are natural biological categories, or that they are like



breeds of dogs! That is completely incorrect.

The scientific evidence indicates that our species has had no significant biological changes in the last 100,000 years. What has changed a lot is human culture and our ability to develop, transmit and expand the flow of knowledge and experience handed down from generation to generation through cultural resources; this made us the first species on the planet capable of changing the world around us (quickly and dramatically) for cultural reasons, going above and beyond the much more limited and slow biological evolution.

The shameful and ignorant attempt to preserve the alleged "racial purity" of a "race" (which promote the Nazis, the Aryan Na-

tion, the KKK and other racial supremacists) is also absurd and without any scientific basis! Biology is clear that there are not groups or "races" innately "superior" or "inferior". We are and have always been a single species worldwide, but biologically indivisible.

It is clear that we all belong to the same species, *Homo sapiens*. Those who hold otherwise would be contributing to the foundation of a new variety, "*Homo estúpido*".

* The text above is an excerpt from the article "What does science tells us about the evolution of 'human race'?" by Ardea Skybreak.

The text was originally written in Spanish and the translation was made by **Accents**.

Originally Published in www.sindioces.org

When I born, I black

When I born, I black
When I grow up, I black
When I go in sun, I black
When I scared, I black
When I sick, I black
And when I die, I still black

And you white fellow

When you born, you pink
When you grow up, you white
When you go in sun, you red
When you cold, you blue
When you scared, you yellow
When you sick, you green
And when you die, you grey
And you calling me colored?



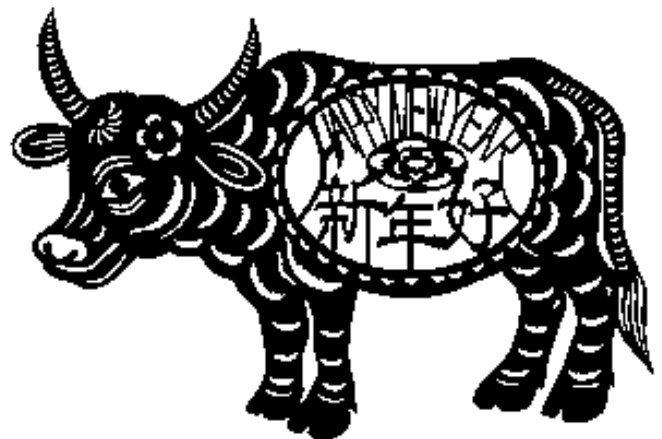
This poem, which was written by an African child, was nominated by the UN as the best poem of 2006.

2009, YEAR OF THE OX

Chinese New Year or Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It is often called the Lunar New Year, especially by people in mainland China and Taiwan. The festival traditionally begins on the first day of the first lunar month (Chinese: 正月; pinyin: zhēng yuè) in the Chinese calendar and ends on the 15th; this day is called Lantern Festival. Chinese New Year's Eve is known as Chùxī. It literally means "Year-pass Eve". Celebrated in areas with large populations of ethnic Chinese, Chinese New Year is considered a major holiday for the Chinese and has had influence on the

new year celebrations of its geographic neighbours, as well as cultures with whom the Chinese have had extensive interaction. These include Koreans, Mongolians, Nepalese, Bhutanese, Vietnamese, and formerly the Japanese before 1873. In Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and other countries or regions with significant

Han Chinese populations, Chinese New Year is also celebrated, and has, to varying degrees, become part of the traditional culture of these countries.



Susu Mama X'mas Party



FREE Bus Travel for Students, Seniors, Pensioners

The Northern Territory Government's FREE Bus Travel Package is providing free bus travel for Territory students.

All Territory (and visiting Australian students) will travel for free on the Territory's school and public bus network from Tuesday 27 January 2009.

The Northern Territory is the first in Australia to provide full free public bus travel for students, from primary school students through to University students.

- Primary school students do not need to provide ID
- Middle School students should present their Student ID Card to the driver if available

- Senior School students MUST present their Student ID Card to the driver
- University students MUST present their Student ID Card (part-time and full-time) to the driver
- International Student Cards are not accepted.



Philippine Autumn Recipes

(By Jovi Price)

Pork Adobado

Ingredients:

- 1 lb of pork
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 6 cloves of garlic
- 2 medium potatoes
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 cup of soy sauce
- 2 tbsp of brown sugar
- 1/2 tbsp of black pepper
- 1/4 lb of chicken liver (optional)
- 1 bay leaf



Preparation

Slice pork 1/2 inch thickness. Mix soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, black pepper, minced garlic (first 3 cloves) and crushed bay leaf.

Marinate pork in this mixture for 3-4 hours or overnight (optional if you are not in a hurry).

Brown remaining garlic and set aside. Remove pork from marinade.

Pre heat pot and sear meat, excluding liver.

After searing add quartered potatoes, liver browned garlic and onion rings. Add marinade and cook for 30 minutes. For gravy crush liver and mix into dripping

Serve on top of hot steamy rice with slices of tomato.

Pansit (with fresh noodles or rice stick)

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb pork loin cut thinly
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1/2 cup of onion quartered
- 1 cup of fresh peeled prawns
- 1 cup of sliced carrots
- 1 cup of snow peas
- 1 cup cabbage
- 1 cup green beans
- Soy sauce to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1Kg fresh egg noodles

Preparation

Brown garlic and onions in a preheated wok. Brown pork and peeled prawns, mix well and season with salt, pepper and soy sauce. Cover for five minutes. Add all remaining ingredients, cover and cook for another five minutes.

Add the fresh noodles and mix well with all the ingredients.

Serve with fresh chopped spring onion. Enjoy.

You can squeeze kumquat, calamansi and fish sauce to taste

If you use rice stick noodles you need to soak in hot water until they are soft and drain.



and Carers

From January 1, 2009 seniors, pensioners and carers will travel for FREE on all scheduled services on the Territory's public bus network.

This initiative is part of the Northern Territory Government's plan to extend the bus network and increase public transport use.

This is the first free transport initiative for this group in Australia. Increasing public transport use aims to reduce carbon emissions and help Green the Territory.

To travel free present one of the following cards to the bus driver:

- Australian Government Pensioner Concession Card (Centrelink)

- NT Government Pensioner & Carer Concession Card
- NT Government Seniors Card
- Other State or Territory Government Seniors Card



Are you from **AFRICA?** This is for you!



Hello everyone!

Ladies and gentlemen, let's welcome a new organisation to Central Australia and Alice Springs.

First and foremost, African Community Council was formed in Darwin in 2006, the organisation was formed to include all the African nationalities who live in the Northern Territory.

Last year in 2008 the Chairperson of the Darwin branch, Edward Solo, came to Alice Springs to meet with the African community here and open another chapter in Central Australia, the meeting was held at MCSCA on the 13/12/08. Everyone was excited to participate in the formation of this organisation because this is how people identify us Africans, as we live in this diverse nation, Australia. At the end of the meeting we made the decision to select an interim committee to represent the branch of Alice Springs. The selected committee are as follows; Temba (Chairperson), Christine Keji (Deputy), Charles Mehlagoe (Secretary), Jarrad Menge (Treasurer), Verham Dolla (Information Officer) and Isaac Moses (Committee Advisor).

These people were nominated to lead us for the meantime until the election. The aims of the organisation is to promote and foster our cultural diversity and transform our cultural diversity into a unique instrument that will help

the needy and provide better work and living conditions for members of the emerging African communities and nationalities and for Indigenous Australians and the wider diverse NT ethnic community in general. Unite ourselves as one family and share our problem together, and educate our Children about our cultures and to help our newly arrived to integrate in to the Australian way of life.

Before we had this organisation, we accessed MCSCA and they supported us tirelessly with different things, including settlement. It's a tremendous job and we really appreciated their cooperation, I think we are going to work closely with MCSCA and their support will make our organisation progress.

On the 15/12/08, the Chairperson of Darwin Mr. Edward and the Alice Springs executive committee had a meeting with the Alice Springs Town Council Mayor, Damien Ryan. The community was formally introduced to the mayor and it was really a brilliant response from him and he welcomed the African Community Council to Central Australia and

he is looking forward to working with us and making Alice Springs a smiling place.

On behalf of African Community we would like to introduce our organisation to all the Alice Springs Migrant communities to work together with us and share our cultural and other activities that will make our communities progress.

So, everyone interested in being a part of the African Community Council of NT, can get in touch with Temba (Chairperson) on 0439863949 or Charles (Secretary) on 0448451876.

Kind regards,
Isaac Thok Moses
Committee Advisor