Something very big, colourful, noisy and exuberant went down at the Alice Springs Youth and Community Centre on December 13. It was **MCSCA’s End of Year Gathering**, and it was a gathering of mighty proportions. Around 300 people from the multicultural, indigenous and broader community assembled there in fellowship and friendship to celebrate another year of community and family life here in Alice Springs.

They came to enjoy an afternoon of great entertainment, great food and great fun. Filipino dancers, Filipino Choirs, the Zimbabwean Choir, Indian dancers from the Malayalee group, the Alice Springs Belly Dancers, and the Fijian Choir all sang and danced for a very appreciative audience, all contributing their unique colour, sound and movement to the spirit and vibe of the afternoon.

Emcee Meredith Campbell, a long-time supporter and member of MCSCA, kept the proceedings swinging along as she introduced the acts and chatted with the speakers and performers.

Of course, there was much more beside all that song and dance. The Door Prizes Diva, Ms Michele Castagna, kept folks hanging on her every word as she called the lucky numbers to win numerous high-quality gifts and oddments.

Two other important people addressed the revelers, delivering a message of fellowship and community unity at this important seasonal time: Alice Springs Mayor, Mr Damien Ryan, and NT Government Minister and local MLA, Ms Bess Price.

*Continued on pp 5...
Greetings!

2014 is truly behind us and we are now in the first quarter of 2015. MCSCA, as in the past, celebrated a successful End of Year Gathering with support from the members of our Multicultural, Indigenous and broader community. The event was full of good cheer, fellowship, and sharing.

Since the resumption of office on 7th January 2015 the new Management Committee have met for the essential orientation. Welcome to both our new and returning officers.

As we now prepare for the Harmony Day celebration to be held on the 9th May 2015 we once again look to our members and community groups for their invaluable contribution and participation.

We encourage everyone to be a part of this yearly event. The staging of the diverse cultural presence in Alice Springs through our art, music, and literature is central to a better understanding and coherence in our community, to live together in friendship and harmony.

Let us all work together and deliver a year full of fun and build long-lasting memories.

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**Harmony Day 2015**

This year’s Harmony Day Celebration is on Saturday, 9th May 2015 on the Council Lawn at 3pm—6pm. MCSCA invites all ethnic organisations to join together to celebrate Harmony Day 2015.

We would like to involve everyone in one big celebration, we need your input. Please contact Marguerite on 8952 8776 or email: margueritebr@outlook.com or info@mcsca.org.au regarding your group participation and what type of activities you would like to showcase at the Harmony celebration.

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER**

The Multicultural Affairs Sponsorship Program has had a name change. MASP will now be known as the Multicultural Grants Program (MGP). The process and guidelines, including the two grant rounds, remain the same. The only difference is the change in name.

MGP Round 1 2015-16 is now open so please check our website www.multicultural.nt.gov.au

Any queries, please call the Office of Multicultural Affairs on 8999 5192.
I'm **Dilushi Fonseka** from Sri-Lanka, completing my 4th year in this fantastic little town. I am a behaviour clinician, currently working in the sector of disability and mental health. I see myself as an extroverted person who enjoys meeting new people and creating meaningful connections. I believe in the “people spirit” and MSCSA provides me with a great arena to show the world the greatest things we could achieve as a vibrant group of people rich in culture and values. I look forward to another delightful year with MCSCA.

**Debbie Yared Cooke** was born in the Philippines, migrated to Australia in 1989, and has been a resident of Alice Springs in the last 22 years. An accountant by profession, she serves in various Boards and Committees such as the Mabuhay Multicultural Association Inc. as Treasurer and Public Officer, the Rotary Club of Alice Springs as Treasurer, and casa Central Australia Inc. as Treasurer.

Debbie values her involvement with MCSCA, and looks forward to achieving a productive second term of office.

**Precy Taylor** is serving as MCSCA’s Treasurer this year, continuing a 25-year long tradition of service to MCSCA and its predecessor in Alice Springs, the Migrant Resource Centre.

Formerly a tax accountant with Deloitte with 23 years service, she is currently a financial controller with the Lillis Group. Her financial expertise and background is a strong asset to MCSCA, particularly within its budget, accountability and financial management. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Alice Springs, Treasurer of the Rotary Club of A/ S Education Fund Inc as well as lifetime member of the YMCA Alice Springs. Precy is and always has been a team player.
Hilda Reeder was born in the Philippines, and has lived in Alice Springs for over 20 years. During that time, she has been heavily involved in the multicultural community, and especially the Filipino community, promoting their culture and integration into the Alice Springs community.

Hilda has been teaching young Filipinos the art of dance, enabling them to showcase their performances at various community events, such as Harmony Day, and the Town Council’s Christmas Carnival. She is the current President of the Mabuhay Multicultural Association.

Ginesh Parackal was born in the southern part of India, in a small state called Kerala which is known as God’s own country. He has been a resident of Alice Springs for two years now, having come from Adelaide, and works as a Finance Officer at the Alice Springs Correctional Center. He has always been an active member of different social clubs and cultural associations. He get great pleasure in working with multicultural community through MCSCA.

Sophie Shiell was born in Fiji and has lived in Alice Springs for over 33 years. During that time she worked in the Supreme Court Library for about 20 years and retired 9 years ago.

During those 33 years, she has been involved in many multicultural community organisations, and service clubs, including Quota International, Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame and many other charitable organisations.

She has been involved with MRC now MCSCA in different roles such as Secretary and Public Officer for 20 years. After a long break she is back on board. And we’re glad she is!

Currently she is happily doing a fantastic job as a roving grand mother looking after the grandkids all over Australia.
**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Richard Brady, nee Tomasich, was born in Belgrade in 1950. He arrived in Australia at the age of four, is the father on one, and the step-father of two. As a younger man, he distinguished himself as a track and field athlete. These days, he leads a more sedate life in Alice Springs with his wife, Meredith Campbell, and two dogs. Richard, a multi-linguist, worked in Sydney as a young man at the then Yugoslav Consulate, and later developed his career in financial management. For his third year as a general committee member, he brings his characteristic energy and enthusiasm to MCSCA, as well as his skills in background in finance and governance. He is not averse to some heavy lifting as well!

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I am Flora Mpofu, born in Gweru Town, Zimbabwe, married with three children. I have been a nurse for 23 years. I am qualified as a General Nurse, Psychiatric Nurse, Critical Care Nurse and Community Coordinator, currently working at Hetti Perkins Home for the Aged as a Clinical Nurse Manager, managing clinical staff and coordinating care recipient services. I migrated to Australia in 2011, settling in Melbourne for 10 months working in ICU before taking my current post in October 2011. I am the Chairperson of Bambanani Burial Society (2014-2015 Zimbabwean Women Burial Society).

I am highly motivated with great interpersonal communication skills, compassionate, honest and a caring individual who believes that mutual respect and trust form the basis of any relationship. I live life to the fullest with enthusiasm and positivity, always seeking to put a smile on someone's face...as at any one moment someone has done that to me, and MCSCA does it to me every day. I love to be part of such an organisation.

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Deng Gatluak Omot from Sudan, arrived in Australia in 2001, settled in Alice Springs with his family, and later on moved to South Australia.

Deng became very active in the South Sudanese community in South Australia and was elected Vice President of South Sudan Community Association Inc. in South Australia. He is currently the Chairperson of the African Association of Central Australia.

He has completed a double degree in Social Work and Social Planning at Flinders University, Adelaide. Deng works at Anglicare NT as a Case Support Worker.
Ms Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke, MCSCA’s Coordinator, thanked Damien and Bess for their consistent support, both personally and publicly, of the multicultural presence and contribution to the Central Australian community. “You are both true friends of the multicultural community,” Marguerite said, before she and Bess shared a warm embrace.

Of course, a delicious smorgasbord was on hand from the start of proceedings, as it is well-known that people enjoy themselves so much more with full tummies.

Marguerite and her team of helpers would like to especially thank the outstanding efforts of Ms Marie Petery, the Youth Centre’s Director, who worked tirelessly throughout the afternoon to ensure that everyone had the best possible time at her place. Marie makes things happen!

The gathering was a wonderful, vibrant and relaxing afternoon for families and friends to celebrate and reflect on another year of peace and prosperity, as a community of many cultures and nations under the wide blue Centralian sky. See you all again at Harmony Day on May 9 on the Council Lawns!
More photos from the “End of Year Gathering”

Thank you all for your support during the “End of Year Event” and hope to see you again this year, 2015.
Multicultural Community Services invites young migrant boys & girls to "AFRICAN" Drumming lessons from "King Marong" renowned world class Artist.

"It's Free"

Classes start on 24 April 2015 at MCSCA Hub 1/20 Parsons St. Contact Criste on (08) 89528776 to book your spots.

Proudly sponsored by Northern Territory Government
**MCSCA STAFF**

**Coordinator, 4 days per week**

*Marguerite Baptiste –Rooke* has management and community development qualifications and over 25 years experience in dealing with migrants and refugees in Central Australia.

The Coordinator is responsible for the coordination and delivery of services that cover a range of CALD client needs:

- Early settlement needs for refugees and migrants from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background (CALD) in the first 5 years of arrival in Australia.
- Providing ongoing assistance and support for CALD clients who have been in Australia for longer than 5 years.
- Assisting multicultural community groups in forming associations/governance etc.
- And also responsible for the day to day running of the office.

**Administration Officer/Bookkeeper, 4 days per week**

- Has bookkeeping qualifications and over 15 years experience in working in the sector.
- Is responsible for reception tasks, administrative and secretarial duties.
- Maintain the financial books at MCSCA.

**Migrant Community Outreach Officer, 2 days per week**

*John Paul Sirus*  
The Outreach officer is a leader of his ethnic community group and has Legal training and 3 years experience in this sector.

He is responsible for the following:

- Collect information on new and emerging migrant communities
- Provide assistance to new migrants
- Provide regular feedback from the migrants on MCSCA services to the Coordinator
- Promote MCSCA services
All mothers to be, mothers with babies & young children are invited to join in a weekly get together, exchanging stories, information and share fun and food.

Fridays
9.30 am – 11.30 am
Alice Springs Youth Centre,
5 Wills Tce, Alice Springs
NT 0870

Email Jess on jessmalick@yahoo.com.au

This program is non-religious/ non-denominational. All welcome.
Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia (MCSCA) support and assist the CALD community by providing the following services, programs and facilities from our office and Hub meeting space at 20 Parsons Street, opposite Supercuts. We are open office hours Monday through Thursday. Please phone Criste to make a confidential appointment with our settlement coordinator or outreach officer on 8952 8776.

**SETTLEMENT SERVICES: Federal Government Funding**

We provide confidential casework services, referral and information sessions on a range of topics to newly-arrived migrants. We aim to encourage and nurture self-reliance and confidence, promoting community access and participation in mainstream society and services. This program aims to help newly-arrived migrants get to know their local community and to access the range of services on offer.

**EMERGENCY RELIEF: Federal Government Funding**

MCSCA maintains a small emergency relief fund for families experiencing short-term financial stress. Information and eligibility is available on application.

**Funding for operational, staff and projects providing services to Multicultural Community: NT Government Funding**

This program is designed to assist CALD communities participate more fully in the cultural life of their new country and community. We can assist the formation and incorporation of social and cultural organisations for ethnic communities. This program also enables MCSCA to organise community events to promote and celebrate multiculturalism, for example, the annual Harmony Day celebrations and End of Year Get Together, thus raising community awareness of the richness and diversity of our Central Australian ethnic cultures.

**SUSU MAMA: Playgroup: Federal Government Funding**

This long-running and much-loved multicultural playgroup, facilitated by MCSCA, enables parents and children to meet weekly in a convenient and comfortable CBD location. This program helps families to make friends and have fun, enjoying various hands-on activities organised by our enthusiastic and welcoming playgroup coordinator. Susu Mama meets every Friday at the Alice Springs Youth Community Centre—Wills Terrace, Alice Springs from 9.30 to 11.30 am.

**COMMUNITY HUB: NT Government Funding**

Our community hub space just in front of our office premises on Parsons Street is available for hire and use by not-for-profit organisations individuals and other groups. (No charge for community groups). Visit our website at www.mcsca.org.au for applications and conditions of use.

Please call in and say hello! We welcome the opportunity to support you and your family as you get to know your new community and make new friends. We like to think of ourselves as a one-stop-shop for information
Multicultural Community Services of Central Australia invites you to:

Computer

If you are interested please call Marguerite on 8952 8776 to arrange the days and times of the sessions.

Email any enquiries to info@mcsca.org.au

English Conversation

Practise your English

For more information please call MCSCA on 8952 8776

“DIGITIZING YOURSELF INTO THE INTERNET COMMUNITY”