Join Harmony Day celebrations

CELEBRATE the rich and diverse community of Alice Springs at Big Day Out for Harmony Day on Saturday, May 14.

The theme for Harmony Day is “everyone belongs” and this celebration is a chance for the whole community to come together as one.

It is a joint project of the Alice Springs Town Council and the Multicultural Community Service Central Australia, which is sponsored by the NT Government.

MCSA co-ordinator Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke said the event is a gathering of all the cultures of Alice Springs.

“There are 65 countries represented in the Alice Springs community,” she said.

“Our Harmony Day will be a celebration of this diversity.

“The majority are from India and the Philippines while the community of Sudanese, Zimbabwean and Kenyan communities are growing.

“There will be something for the whole family, everyone is invited to join in.

“We will have a Welcome to Country by a traditional owner.

“The Harmony Day event has performances from communities such as the Filipino, Indian, Fijian and Nepalese communities plus King Marong playing his African drums.

“King Marong will have children from 10 countries playing with him.

“Other performances will be belly dancing and Drum Atwerme.

“Among the food stalls will be Vietnamese and Indian cuisine plus a traditional Aussie sausage sizzle.

“A popular attraction will be the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony.

“There will be plenty of activities for children supported by Anglicare Community for Children program and the Alice Springs Town Council Library.

“These will include an interactive musical playzone, a jumping castle, hair braiding, henna hand painting and balloon twisting.

“The whole afternoon will be a coming together to celebrate all the good things about the vast cultural diversity of Alice Springs.”

The day will be broadcast by 8CCC and will feature GMan as the master of ceremonies.

The day of celebration in Alice Springs was brought back from the international Harmony Day of March 21 to May in the Territory because of prevailing weather conditions.

The 16th Harmony Day celebration will be held on the Civic Centre lawns from 1.30pm to 5pm on Saturday, May 14.

Multicultural Community Service Central Australia staff member Criste Evangelista and co-ordinator Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke discuss plans for Harmony Day’s Big Day Out on Saturday, May 14.

Picture: REX NICHOLSON