

Issue 2

June 2006

Multicultural Life



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**Multicultural
Festivals**



Government
of South Australia

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New SAMEAC Members (L-R) Subha Mameledzija, Gala Mustafa and Branka King.



Schoolchildren perform at the Blue Lake Festival in Mount Gambier.

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Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson with Hungarian community members at the 2006 Australia Day Parade.

Cover: Shilpa Mohan, 15, from the Indian Adelaide Dance Troupe at the 2006 Mela Indian Festival.

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs
Commission (SAMEAC)
24 Flinders Street Adelaide South Australia 5000

Mr Hieu Van Le, Chairman
Mr Peter Ppiros, Deputy Chairman
Dr Tilahun Mengesha Afrassa
Ms Marie Alvino
Mr Archie Kwesi Andrews
Ms Maria Barredo
Ms Branka King
Ms Subha Mameledzija
Ms Vahedeh Mansoury
Ms Gala Mustafa
Mr Norman Schueler
Ms Malgorzata (Gosia) Skalban
Mr Teodoro (Teo) Spiniello
Mr Petar Zdravkovski

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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Festivals showcase diversity

Welcome to this Multicultural Festival edition of *Multicultural Life*.

As this is the first issue of *Multicultural Life* since the appointments of new SAMEAC Chairman, Mr Hieu Van Le, and new Deputy Chairman, Mr Peter Ppiros, I would like to congratulate them on their achievements.

I would also like to extend my special thanks to SAMEAC's hard working former Chairman, Mr John Kiosoglous, who brought so much energy and commitment during his time in the role.

South Australia is rich with communities, and it is when they celebrate their heritage through festivals and other occasions that this diversity becomes evident in all its colours.

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I am often invited to attend these events and to meet people from all walks of life.

In the past few months I have officiated or attended most of the festivals highlighted in the special feature in this issue of *Multicultural Life*.

I have also had the pleasure of opening the Sierra Leonean Festival; the 12th National Ukrainian Festival of Song and Dance; the Zhu-Lin Buddhist Vesak Festival and the Ottoway Theatrical Ensemble Polish Festival.

Festivals showcase the achievements and recognise the contributions of the many thousands of families who have come to Australia under challenging conditions and built new lives.

Festivals illustrate South Australia's multicultural success story and each community's hopes for a bright, prosperous future.

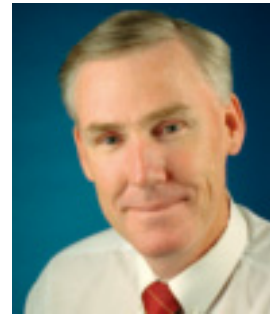
Government support for festivals has grown substantially in the past year, as part of its unprecedented support of multicultural arts, festivals, cultural heritage and media.

Festivals have been a major beneficiary of the record multicultural funding introduced last year, including a 300 per cent increase to the Multicultural Grants Scheme and creation of the Land Tax Relief Grant Scheme.

The Government will build on these initiatives with new measures such as the development of a model of multicultural arts participation, funding and support.



Multicultural Affairs Minister Michael Atkinson makes pizza at Carnevale 2006.



MICHAEL ATKINSON M.P.

We will encourage the development of cultural activities, especially cross-cultural projects, that promote arts and the cultural heritage of many groups.

We will ensure that information about Government services is accessible and distributed in community languages, and that the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission co-ordinates the provision of this information.

Community capacity building programs will be boosted with an extra \$100,000 over four years each to the Multicultural Communities Council of S.A. and the Migrant Resource Centre of S.A.

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“FESTIVALS showcase the achievements and recognise the contributions of the many thousands of families who have come to Australia under challenging conditions and built new lives.”

(continued from page 3)

Many other initiatives will help older and new migrants, such as updating and strengthening legislation on multiculturalism to ensure that laws keep pace with, and meet the needs of, the changing dynamics of our culturally diverse society.

We also will be:

- Developing the necessary services and support to make South Australia a destination of choice for migrants;
- Providing settlement assistance to all new arrivals, including humanitarian and skilled migrants with low English proficiency;
- Continuing to support the New Arrivals Program operating in Government schools;
- Encouraging proficiency in English and promoting the benefits of learning a second language, especially in State schools;
- Ensuring minorities in rural and regional areas receive appropriate support and access to important culturally and linguistically appropriate services; and



Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Carmel Zollo (second right) and SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le with Caterina Andreacchio and Maria Naso at the joint parallelo-Italian Chamber of Commerce 'Back to Business' event.

- Improving access to interpreting and translating services by continuing to add new languages to those already available.
Through these and many other initiatives, we are endeavouring to make South Australia the destination of choice for all migrants.

New Parliamentary appointments

I welcome the appointments of two Parliamentary colleagues to assist with multicultural affairs.

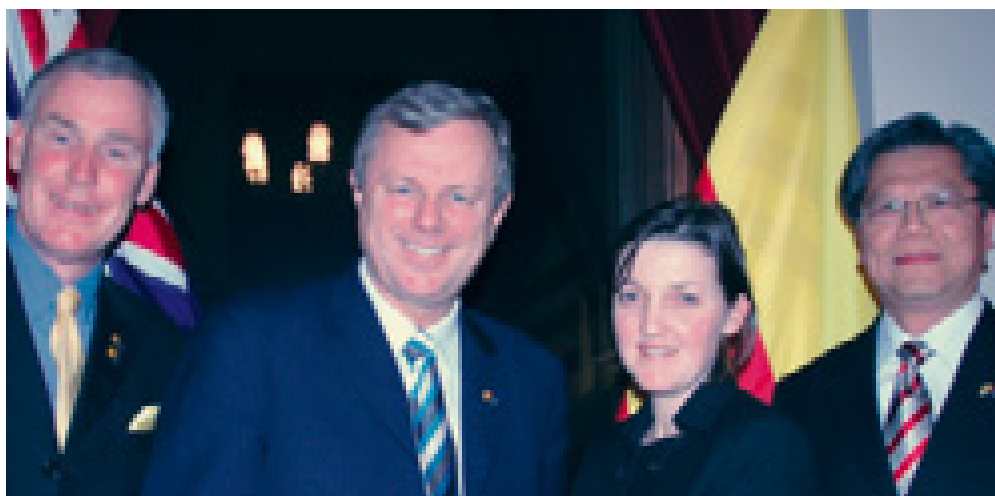
The Hon. Carmel Zollo M.L.C. has been appointed Minister Assisting the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

The Member for Hartley, Grace Portolesi M.P., has been appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Ms Zollo and Ms Portolesi bring considerable experience and expertise to the Multicultural Affairs portfolio and I look forward to working with them to ensure that the needs of new and established communities are met. ○

MICHAEL ATKINSON M.P.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Minister Atkinson, Premier Mike Rann, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Grace Portolesi and SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le at the Premier's reception celebrating 30 years of Vietnamese settlement in South Australia.

Approachable and accessible – my vision for the future

I am honoured and humbled to be appointed SAMEAC Chairman.

One of the major roles of the Commission is to act as the main advisory body to the Government on multicultural and ethnic affairs in South Australia.

As Chairman, one of my key functions is to ensure that we can provide the Government with timely advice or recommendations addressing any concerns.

We need to listen and be close to the community to effectively do that.

We need strategies to develop and nurture communication channels between culturally and linguistically

diverse communities and SAMEAC, and to be approachable and accessible.

SAMEAC has been organising what I call 'consultative receptions' after its meetings where leaders from culturally and linguistically diverse communities are invited to attend.

The aim is to sit down with them face-to-face, and listen to their views, their concerns and suggestions.

There is always a variety of views, but there is also a lot of commonality between different communities.

Additionally, each member of SAMEAC undertakes to act as a



HIEU VAN LE

'contact point' with a number of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and their role is to ensure that communications flow effectively.

Since I started as Chairman, I have been attempting to attend as many as possible of the functions organised by the culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

In the past few months, I have attended many of the festivals highlighted in the special feature in this issue of *Multicultural Life*.

I have also had the pleasure of opening the Pistang Pilipino NG Filipino Festival and the Bangla New Year Festival and officiating at Festival Hellenika.

It is a particular privilege to attend these many festivals and functions.

Each festival is a flower with a different fragrance with many different colours, unique characters and charm.

Each is an opportunity to meet more people, to listen to their interesting stories and, at the same time, their concerns.

There are always many interesting stories behind the journey of migration and settlement of all immigrants to this country.

(continued next page)



Hieu Van Le with award winners and Vietnamese Community in Australia (SA Chapter) President Mr Loc Doan at the 2006 Tet Festival.

(continued from page 5)

When I attend festivals as a guest, I become a 'first-class' traveller on a cultural tour, and I find myself deep in appreciation and enjoyment of another culture.

South Australia is the cradle of multiculturalism, starting from the days of Don Dunstan.

He saw how wonderful our society could become through multiculturalism, and indeed, that has happened.

I believe that multiculturalism has been one of the successful social policies in our contemporary history.

It creates a society enriched by so many cultures from all corners of the world.

Australians are enjoying the many benefits of multiculturalism, even though some people may not be aware of this.

We need to create and maintain an environment where everyone, regardless of ethnicity or cultural background, is free and encouraged to contribute to this society we all call home.

We must work hard to focus on the many priorities for the whole State – population growth, immigration to South Australia, economic development, and social inclusion – just to name a few.

I believe South Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse community backgrounds can play a major part in this.

In Australia, there are deep-rooted values of a 'fair go' for everybody and mateship.

Ignorance is one of the major causes of prejudice, racism and fear.



Adelaide Lord Mayor Michael Harbison, Member for Norwood Vini Ciccarello and Hieu Van Le at the 2006 Mela Indian Festival.

In embracing multiculturalism we can break through the barriers of xenophobia and narrow-mindedness and see that there is indeed harmony in diversity.

It's a positive and a good thing.

Diversity makes life much more interesting.

It enhances social, economic and political aspects.

The Commission has an important role to play in maintaining multiculturalism, as do all South Australians. ○

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



SAMEAC Member Tilahun Afrassa and his baby son Samuel with Hieu Van Le at the 2006 African Festival.

Celebrating communities

One of the duties I have as Executive Director is to attend festivals and what a pleasant duty that is.

Festivals are one of the quickest and easiest ways to be introduced to different cultures through food, drink, music, dance, arts, crafts, photo displays and information booths.

They give all South Australians the chance to literally taste, hear and see examples of the cultural traditions, customs, heritage and history that migrants have brought with them from so many different places.

Festivals also give us the chance to meet and get to know a little about some of the individuals and families that make up all these fascinating cultural groups.

This avenue of contact, where community representatives are more than happy to teach us more about their cultures and help develop understanding and respect, is vital to the continued success of multiculturalism in this State.

It is particularly rewarding to meet the hard-working volunteers without whom none of these festivals, big or small, would happen.

Multicultural SA is proud to have helped many of the older, and some new, festivals, become and remain viable through grants and in-kind support.

We have also provided support through training and workshops on how to run a festival.

This issue of *Multicultural Life* features some of the dozens of festivals now held in South Australia each year.

Limited space means we are not able to feature every festival, but I am happy

to receive information and pictures for consideration for forthcoming issues and for other publications such as the Multicultural Calendar, government information brochures, annual reports and websites.

Please address your enquiries to Sabina Delalic on 8226 1971.

As our State's cultural diversity continues to grow through increased migration, Multicultural SA looks forward to fostering and promoting a wide range of cultural festivals in South Australia.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of these success stories in this special edition of *Multicultural Life*. ◊

SIMON FORREST
*Executive Director
Multicultural SA*



SIMON FORREST

“FESTIVALS are one of the quickest and easiest ways to be introduced to different cultures through food, drink, music, dance, arts, crafts, photo displays and information booths.”



Simon Forrest with (from left) SAMEAC Member Gosia Skalban, former Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs Joan Hall and George Demetriou, President of the Order of Australasian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) at the Festival Hellenika Launch.



SAMEAC appointments 2006

Hieu Van Le	Branka King	Gala Mustafa	Peter Ppiros	Subha (Buba) Mameledzija
<p>Hieu Van Le has been appointed SAMEAC Chairman, following three years as Deputy.</p> <p>Hieu Le has a long history of community service and activity, and is a member of the Australia Day Council's South Australia Board, the SA Police Multicultural Advisory Board and the North West Adelaide Senior Officers Group.</p> <p>He is also an Honorary Adviser to a number of Vietnamese community organisations, many of which he was instrumental in establishing.</p> <p>Hieu graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Degree in Economics and Accountancy, and a Masters Degree of Business Administration.</p> <p>He is a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants, a Fellow Member of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FinSIA), and a FinSIA lecturer.</p> <p>Hieu is a senior manager in the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), responsible for financial services regulation in South Australia.</p>	<p>Branka King has worked with the Serbian community in South Australia for many years.</p> <p>Branka worked for 16 years with TAFE, in the Adult Migrant Education Service and in a range of roles contributing to the Serbian and local community.</p> <p>Those roles have included teacher, Serbian Ethnic School at Hindmarsh; president, Serbian Women's Association; committee member, Beograd Woodville Soccer Club; member of western suburbs women's social issues Healthwise Group; and president of the Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia.</p> <p>In the past 20 years, she has also been on kindergarten and school committees; Neighbourhood Watch committees; and Scouts and Guides groups.</p> <p>Apart from assisting Serbian families with interpreting and translating, Branka has helped marginalised groups and individuals, through the courts and prison systems.</p> <p>A Justice of the Peace, Branka is a Duty Justice at Port Adelaide Court and a Visiting Inspector for the Department of Correctional Services.</p>	<p>Gala Mustafa, who lives in Mount Gambier, was born in Kifri, Kurdistan, Iraq, in 1956.</p> <p>She emigrated to Australia in 1996, first living in Newcastle, New South Wales, and became an Australian citizen three years later.</p> <p>Gala has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Baghdad University and a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Science, from Newcastle University.</p> <p>She also completed an interpreter course and studies in office communication at Newcastle TAFE, two levels of study on medical terminology at Newcastle Hospital and a course on teaching for ethnic groups at Newcastle University.</p> <p>While living in Newcastle, she was much involved in community work, including special education teacher and interpreter with the Department of Education; and interpreter with Migrant Health Services and Centrelink.</p> <p>In 2001, Gala moved to Mount Gambier, where she continues her strong involvement in community work in a range of volunteer positions, and as a member of a number of health advisory and community service bodies.</p>	<p>Peter Ppiros, who has been a member of the Commission since January 2003, has been appointed Deputy Chairman.</p> <p>Peter is a strong advocate for regional South Australia and an ardent promoter of multiculturalism.</p> <p>A refugee from Cyprus, he lives in Renmark and is the editor of the <i>Greek Community Tribune</i>, a national Greek-language newspaper published in South Australia.</p> <p>He is also the founder and co-ordinator of the annual Riverland Greek Festival that attracts thousands of people from across Australia and includes Greek-Australian and Aboriginal children in cross-cultural projects.</p> <p>He is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for service to the community through the advancement of multiculturalism.</p> <p>"I am honoured to be appointed to this position and will continue to strive to strengthen values of respect, understanding and a fair go for all that underpin our multicultural society," Peter said.</p>	<p>Subha (Buba) Mameledzija, who lives in Adelaide, was born in Bosnia Hercegovina, a republic of former Yugoslavia.</p> <p>She first came to Australia in 1968, then went back to Yugoslavia, married, and returned with her husband in 1973.</p> <p>Subha's community history reflects a strong link with South Australians who emigrated from her corner of the world.</p> <p>She was an active member of Adelaide United Club (YASC), which eventually merged with the Yugoslav Centre, where she continued to be involved in the many programs and activities.</p> <p>"Most of my contribution has been associated with language activities (ethnic school), culture and history of our people," she said.</p> <p>Subha has held various executive roles within the club. She is a member of the Bosansko Hercegovacke community and for six years she was an interpreter for Bosnian and Serbo-Croatian languages.</p> <p>"My sense of belonging in Australia has been made easier because Australia is also a multicultural country with many nationalities and cultures inter-twining in everyday life," Subha said.</p>



SPECIAL FEATURE

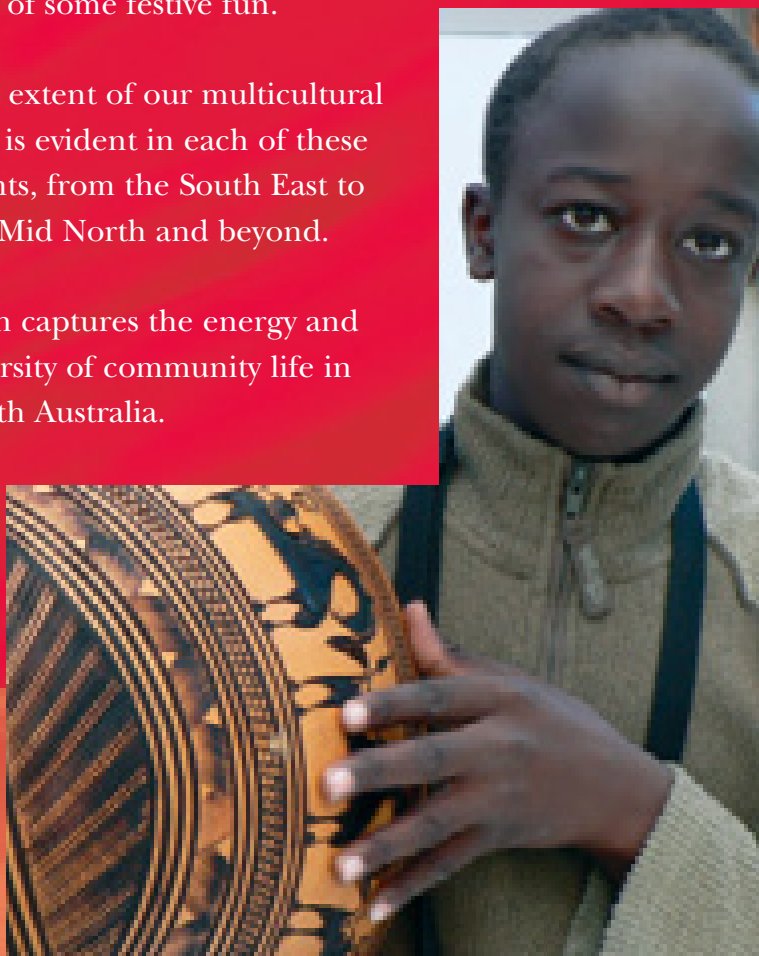
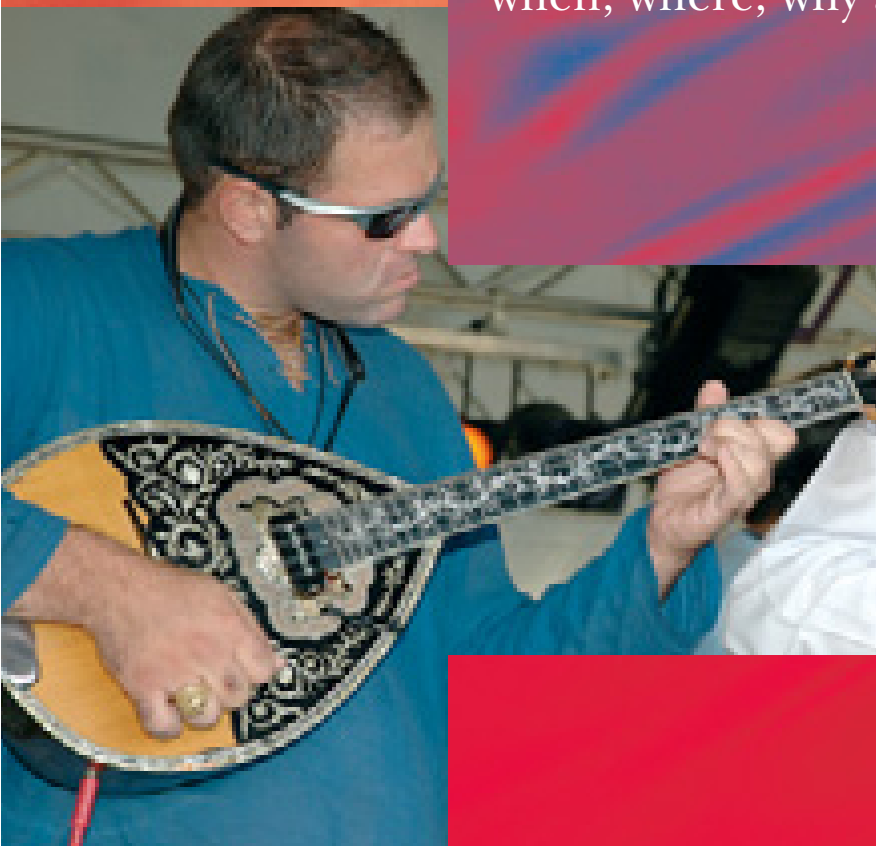
Multicultural Festivals

South Australia's diverse communities have many reasons to celebrate, and this edition illustrates when, where, why and how they do it.

When the sun starts shining and the weather warms, there's rarely a weekend in our calendar free of some festive fun.

The extent of our multicultural mix is evident in each of these events, from the South East to the Mid North and beyond.

Each captures the energy and diversity of community life in South Australia.



Carnevale in Adelaide



EACH February, for two exciting days, the Carnevale features music, entertainment, an extensive schools' participation program, performances by interstate and overseas artists, and ends in a fireworks display.

Carnevale is based on a Christian tradition going back many hundreds of years and the final celebration before Ash Wednesday and the 40 days of Lent.

Initially known as the Italian Festival in Adelaide, 'Carnevale in Adelaide' celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

Organised by the Coordinating Italian Committee (CIC) or Comitato Italiano di Co-ordinamento, a major purpose is to raise funds for its welfare activities, but it also celebrates South Australia's Italian community.

In recent years, Carnevale in Adelaide has won a number of awards.

"Carnevale celebrates South Australia's Italian community."

PAUL GODOWSKI, COORDINATOR

On Australia Day 2003, the Adelaide City Council announced it as the winner of the Australia Day Community Event of the Year 2002.

It was also highly commended under the 2002 National Australia Bank Community Link Volunteer Award.

In 2005, it received the SafeWork Award for the best public event in South Australia.

The 2006 Carnevale included a photographic exhibition illustrating places at which it had been held over 30 years, including Rundle Mall, Elder Park, Norwood Oval, Adelaide Oval and Rymill Park.

The exhibition also featured photographs of various official openings and launch events, including one of the inaugural festival in 1976 showing Premier Mike Rann, with then Premier Don Dunstan, the 'father' of multiculturalism Al Grassby, and then Mayor of Norwood, Vini Ciccarello.

Premier Rann spoke in Italian when he formally opened the 2006 Carnevale at Rymill Park.

He presented the Year 12 Matriculation Award to Ivan Vantagiato and the Best Club in Carnevale Award to the Campania Club.

The Premier also announced that certificates of achievement were to go to volunteers Teresa Antoniadis and Gina Perrotta in recognition of their work in promoting Italian language and culture in South Australia through the Schools in Community Festivals participation program.

The schools participation program is funded by the Multicultural Education Committee. 🌐

Vietnamese Tet Festival



SOUTH AUSTRALIANS celebrate a ‘second new year’ each year when they join with the Vietnamese community at their most important annual festival.

The Tet (New Year) Spring Festival is the most important event on the Vietnamese calendar and has been celebrated in South Australia for more than 30 years.

It also known as the Lunar New Year and celebrated by Chinese and other Asian cultures.

“The Tet festival has been celebrated in SA for more than 30 years.”

LOC DOAN, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA (SA) CHAPTER

In 2006, the main ceremony was held at Regency Park Reserve, Regency Park where the Vietnamese Community in Australia (SA Chapter) hosted the Young Vietnamese-Australian of the Year Award.

In Vietnam, the festival also heralds the beginning of spring.

People hope and pray that the new year will bring good health, good fortune, and a longer life.

All of the rituals and celebrations are centred on these three concepts.

In South Australia, preparations begin a month before the date of the Vietnamese New Year (similar to a western Christmas),

when people start buying presents, decoration materials, food and clothing.

A huge clean-up commences days before the new year, when Vietnamese houses are cleaned from top to bottom, to sweep away any traces of bad luck.

Doors and windows are given a new coat of paint, usually red.

They are then decorated with paper on which messages record a desire for happiness, wealth and longevity.

Traditions and rituals are very carefully observed in everything from food to clothing.

Year 2006 is the year 4703 by the Vietnamese-Chinese calendar and is the ‘Year of the Fire Dog’ – also referred to as Year of the Red Dog (Fire and Metal Dog). 🐕

Glendi Festival



THE Greek community has contributed much to South Australian life and the annual Glendi festival in March is a firm fixture on our calendar.

The Glendi began in 1978 as a joint venture between the Lions Club of Adelaide Hellenic and the West Torrens Football Club.

Today, it is claimed to be one of the largest cultural ethnic festivals in the southern hemisphere.

“The festival attracts more than 50,000 people each year.”

MANUEL CHRISAN, FESTIVAL ORGANISER

‘Glendi’ in Greek means merry making, having a good time, wining and dining, enjoying and partying.

Twenty-eight years ago, in a much smaller celebration, Greek South Australians gathered to enjoy the culture, food, music and dances of Greece.

Over the years, Glendi has expanded considerably as non-Greek South Australians join in the fun.

Organisers say the festival attracts more than 50,000 people of diverse backgrounds.

The Glendi Cultural Exhibition also has progressively evolved, and each year, displays of Greek culture and crafts grow more extensive.

Funds raised from the Glendi are donated to the Australian Greek Society of the Elderly, formed by Lions Club of Adelaide Hellenic members.

Other funds have been made available to help build the Ridleyton Home for the Aged.

A wing at the Home is named after the Glendi in recognition of this support.

The Glendi Greek Festival 2006 received \$22,000 from the Multicultural Grants Scheme – the largest amount that the South Australian Government has contributed to the Glendi Festival. 🌟

Middle Eastern Cultural Festival



FOOD, music, dance and exhibitions of Middle Eastern arts and crafts are features of a relatively new festival in South Australia.

The Middle Eastern Cultural Festival, held annually in April, highlights community unity and cooperation and promotes the cultural heritage of the Middle East.

Each year, its aim is to reflect culturally and linguistically diverse aspects of community life among families from the Afghan, Kurdish, Iraqi, Iranian, Turkish and Turkmen communities.

At this year's event, the third staged, cultural performances were presented by the Islamic College of South Australia, a Turkish folk dance group, and the Lebanese Charley Music Band.

Live music and a belly dancing demonstration also featured.

The festival is organised by the Middle Eastern Communities Council of South Australia (MECCSA), an umbrella organisation with member groups including the Afghan United Association of SA; Afghan Women's Federation; Hussainie Muslim Association of SA; Iranian Association of SA; Iraqi Community Cultural Association; Kurdish Australian Association of SA; Persian Cultural Association; Persian Cultural Group; Turkish Association of SA; Baba Gur Gur Community Australian Turkman Association of SA; and Islamic Society of South Australia.

The South Australia Government supports MECCSA through the Multicultural Grants Scheme.

The annual festival complements MECCSA's aims of providing information on topics of interest and concern, celebrating Middle Eastern cultural diversity, forming links with other community organisations and service providers, and establishing community support networks.

Since its establishment in 1999, MECCSA has held more than five celebratory activities for Middle Eastern communities. 🌟

"Participants celebrate and establish community support networks."

DR KEMAL TURKER, CHAIRMAN, MECCSA

African Festival



THE FIFTH annual African Festival attracted more than 1,000 people to its new venue, the Festival Theatre Terrace.

Festival goers enjoyed traditional foods and delicacies, crafts, tea and coffee making ceremonies or henna painting while listening to loud, joyful music or watching spectacular dancing.

They may also have heard a range of languages being spoken, including Arabic, Swahili, Dinka and Kirundi.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson said that in the past few years, South Australia had become home to more than 3,000 Africans from a non-English speaking background.

There had been a significant increase in refugees, predominantly from Sudan, Liberia, the Congo, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Eritrea.

Most have experienced human and natural calamities including war and famine.

The African Festival is organised by the African Communities Council of South Australia (ACCSA) in association with the Migrant Resource Centre of S.A.

The festival is an opportunity for people from African communities to come together to celebrate and showcase their cultural diversity, and also raise awareness and understanding of African culture in the broader South Australian community.

ACCSA assists in the settlement of individuals and families of African communities in South Australia.

“It’s a showcase for African communities to come together.”

DR JOSEPH MASIKA, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

It aims to promote cultural diversity through linkages and cooperation between the member organisations and with other organisations, groups and communities in South Australia.

It also assists the social and cultural settlement of the families of member organisations, and promotes harmony, peace and cooperation among all groups. 🌍

Lions Multicultural Festival

THE Lions Multicultural Festival celebrates our city's colourful diversity.

First held in 2002 in partnership with the Adelaide City Council, it was most recently held at the St Clair Recreation Centre, Woodville.

It features a variety of authentic foods from many cultures and entertainment by numerous artists.

It also includes stalls operated by government and non-government agencies including Multicultural S.A., Department of

Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Amnesty International and various Lions clubs, as well as community groups.

Proceeds benefit projects of Lions International and the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia. 🌐



Adelaide Multicultural Festival

A NORTH-EASTERN suburbs festival in October will bring together Australians of many ethnic backgrounds to present their cultures in a day of family fun, feasting and entertainment.

Previous events have been popular, attracting thousands to eight festivals in the southern suburbs, then in 2004 to the Thorndon Park Reserve, Paradise.

More than 57 diverse cultural communities co-exist in the northern area.

Although many have their own clubs and societies, this occasion brings them together in one major event.

Coordinated by the Multicultural Association North And South (MANAS), a not-for-profit association staffed entirely by volunteers, the festival is for metropolitan and regional people.

The festival aims to promote multiculturalism, unite different cultures by sharing ideas and beliefs, encourage people to share their cultures, and promote tolerance, acceptance, respect and harmony.

Entry is free and professional and community organisations will perform on the day.

Proceeds will go to the Cancer Council of S.A. to support research. 🌐

“The festival aims to unite different cultures by sharing ideas and benefits.”

STEVE LIAPIS, PRESIDENT, MANAS

Dożynki

AUTUMN festival follows the harvest

The Dożynki Festival reflects a centuries-old tradition of dancing, feasting and music.

The ceremony takes place every autumn in Poland after the harvest is gathered and stored for the coming winter.

At the beginning of the festival, a ceremonial presentation of gifts takes place, in which the harvesters, dressed in colourful national costume, present bread and salt to the elders of the region.



The bread and salt symbolise the hope that there will always be a good harvest with sufficient food for all.

The Dożynki festival in Adelaide began in 1980 as a 'Polish Open Day'.

In 1999, a Folkloric Competition was introduced, with the world-famous Polish Folklore Ensemble Tatrza regular competitor.

Former Polish President Lech Walesa was a special guest at the 2003 Dożynki. 🌟

Schützenfest

PERFORMANCES by Cook Islanders and Portuguese and Scottish groups, a shooting competition and demonstrations of Japanese swordsmanship were features of this year's Schützenfest.

Held every January in the Adelaide Park Lands and organised by the South Australian German Association, it is one of the State's oldest festivals.

SAGA President, Dr Ian Harmstorf OAM, said that it has been celebrated in South Australia since 1861.

"It's one of SA's oldest festivals, celebrated since 1861."

DR IAN HARMSTORF OAM,
PRESIDENT, S.A. GERMAN ASSOCIATION

The Schützenfest (shooting festival) is a 700-year-old German tradition that grew out of the need for citizens to defend themselves against invading forces.

Shooters from all over Australia come to compete in a traditional shooting competition.

It is also a popular tourist attraction.

Strong-arm beer-stein-lifting competitions entertain visitors, and German music soon gets couples dancing.



The South Australian German Association was founded in March 1886, the result of the amalgamation of the Progress Association, the Low German Association, the Adelaide Quartet Association and the Adelaide Singing Circle. 🌟

Riverland Greek Multicultural Festival

THE 2006 Riverland Greek Festival featured a family fun day, soccer match, art and craft exhibitions, dance workshops, displays, and food and wine stall.

Held annually in February, this year's festival was the eighth held on the riverfront, at Renmark.

Founded and sponsored by the *Greek Community Tribune* monthly newspaper, it aims to promote Greek culture in a multicultural society and bring city and country people together.

The festival not only celebrates Riverland community life, but also acknowledges the unique position of the only Greek-language newspaper published in South Australia.

Readers and supporters, as well as members of many community organisations, came from Adelaide, Mildura, Melbourne and Sydney.

While not a fundraising event – admission is free – proceeds from a special raffle go to the Renmark-Paringa District Hospital. 🌟



The Coober Pedy Glendi

THE COOBER PEDY Glendi Festival, held annually in July, is one of South Australia's regional winter celebrations that is almost guaranteed ideal weather.

It is held in July when the Coober Pedy population is at its annual peak, capitalising on milder weather, and because of the school holidays.

“Our Glendi celebrates traditional music, dance and food.”

NICK MOULAS, COORDINATOR

The festival has been staged every year since 1974 to celebrate Greek culture through traditional music, dance and food.

Backed by music from a Greek band from Adelaide, performances of traditional Greek dances are provided by the Coober Pedy Greek Orthodox Community's Dance Group, as well as by the Greek Community School and the Coober Pedy Area School.

Children of non-Greek backgrounds thus have an opportunity to participate.

About 500 people are expected at this year's festival.

Coober Pedy today is a cosmopolitan town with a population of 3,500 comprising more than 45 different nationalities.

The relaxed and friendly lifestyle of the town has made it a breeding ground for cultural tolerance, diversity and acceptance. 🌟

Blue Lake Multicultural Festival

MOUNT GAMBIER erupted into a frenetic, pulsating, gyrating, creative festival of multicultural tastes, performances and workshops during the inaugural Blue Lake Festival in March.

Striking street banners adorned light poles and a visual feast of cultures hit the shop windows of Mount Gambier in the lead up to the festival with shops displaying national costumes, artifacts, posters and food from Papua New Guinea, Croatia, Bosnia, Italy, Germany, Greece, Australia and Argentina.

“It was a visual feast of cultures with displays in many shop windows.”

ROWENA FOX,
CHAIRMAN, STEERING COMMITTEE

The street banners were the result of a project organised by the South East Multicultural Network, with a local artist helping ethnic groups design their own banners.

About 5,000 people attended the two-day festival, which included a celebratory dinner, a street parade of schoolchildren led by African drummers and a Welcome to Our World gathering.

Events included cooking demonstrations and local produce stalls; workshops on belly dancing and arts for children; the unveiling of a large limestone sculpture

created by local community members; and stalls showcasing the ethnic cuisines of Mount Gambier families.

Performances were provided by belly dancer Yasmina Hage; the local Caledonian Society, Latin American dance band Fiesta and MJ Dance Studio students and local schoolchildren who performed dances they learned from African dance group AGORO and Sam Oshodi. 🌟



Romeria del Rocio Spanish Festival

THE CLARE VALLEY may be famous for its wine, but a unique annual Spanish festival also puts it on the map to a wider audience for a different reason.

The Romeria del Rocio de Australia, held since 1991 and the only one of its type in Australia, follows an old Spanish tradition, celebrated in Almonte (Andalusia, Spain) since the 15th century.

Romeria means ‘pilgrimage’ and del Rocio refers to a place of that name in Andalusia.

It is a pilgrimage in honour of the Lady (or Virgin) of Rocio.

The Clare festival brings together people from Spanish and Latin American

communities including Uruguay, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Cuba, Bolivia, Paraguay, Ecuador, Honduras and Puerto Rico.

It is organised by the Hermandad de la Tierra del Espiritu Santo (Brotherhood of the Land of the Holy Spirit) and is the second biggest Rocio in the world, after the festival in Almonte, and the biggest Hispanic festival in Australia. 🌟

Latvian Australian Festival of Arts

A DECEMBER 2006 festival aims to highlight the many fascinating aspects of Latvian culture, particularly to South Australians unfamiliar with it.

Organising committee chairperson Ms Dace Darzins OAM, said that there would be emphasis on welcoming people from non-Latvian backgrounds.

"We want to show Latvian culture and traditions to mainstream Australians, so we will endeavour to have programs written in English as well as in Latvian and to have English explanations alongside Latvian writings," she said.

"But, of course, everyone is welcome."

This year is an excellent opportunity for South Australians, because the festival is not always held in Adelaide.

Festivals rotate between Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Launceston, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

One also has been held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

This year's festival is the 51st since its inception in 1951 in Sydney.

"We want to show Latvian culture and traditions to mainstream Australians."

DACE DARZINS OAM, CHAIRPERSON,
ORGANISING COMMITTEE

It will run from 26 to 31 December and include a concert at the Latvian Hall in Wayville on 27 December.

Other events include a drama performance; a youth concert; an evening of song and dance; an art and photography exhibition; an exhibition of Latvian folk art; a children's festival; a concert of combined choirs; and a folk dancing performance. 🌟



National Festival of Ukrainian Arts

UKRAINIAN song, dance and the arts were features of a festival highlighting Ukrainian culture in Adelaide in May.

Guests came from around Australia for the weekend event.

On the Saturday night, Festival Zabava allowed dancers to get into a celebratory mood and on the Sunday, at the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Wayville, an uplifting mass preceded events.

Later, at the Ukrainian Centre, Hindmarsh, the festival proper commenced, featuring song, dance and the best of Ukrainian culture in Australia.

Between sessions there were many opportunities to sample extensive displays of Ukrainian art, craft, books and coins or indulge in a variety of food and drink. 🌟

"The festival featured song, dance, art and the best of Ukrainian culture."

IRENE WASYLUK, CO-ORDINATOR

Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations

THE simple lighting of an oil lamp begins a special day for the Sri Lankan community of South Australia each year.

This year's Sri Lankan New Year festival was organised by the Sinhala Buddhist School and the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara, and held at Linden Park Primary School in April.

The program included the singing of national anthems of Australia and Sri Lanka; a welcome address by the Venerable U Samedha Thero; and two welcome speeches by school children in Sinhala and English.

Many dances followed, including a flower dance by small children; another by students of the New Era Persian School; a dance depicting tea plucking; a Kandyan dance and a Tamil dance.

South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Chairman Hieu Van Le, Multicultural S.A. Executive Director Simon Forrest and Ethnic Schools Board executive officer Ekaterina Briffa were among special guests.

Many of the South Australian Sri Lankans at the festival were migrants who arrived in the mid-1960s, including Burghers (mainly of non-Dutch origin), Sinhalese and Tamil Christians.

Other Sri Lankans who have arrived since the mid-1970s include Sinhalese Buddhists or Tamil Hindus, strongly guided by the indigenous cultures of Sri Lanka. 🌏



Mela Indian Festival

THE MUSIC of Bollywood, the popular Mumbai-based Hindi language film industry, was a special feature at this year's Mela festival at Elder Park in April.

Showcasing Indian culture, highlights included a recital of semi-classical North Indian music and a classical Indian dance performance.

“Our festival helps provide an in-depth understanding of Indian culture.”

SAPNA DOGRA, CULTURAL ITEMS
CO-ORDINATOR

The festival was organised by the Indian Australian Association and opened by Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson on behalf of the Premier.

Bollywood music is gaining increasing popularity in the western world, mainly due to Indian films such as *Monsoon Wedding* and *Bride and Prejudice* (based on English author Jane Austen's classic novel *Pride and Prejudice*) with their stunning costumes and large casts.

The Indian Australian Association of SA (IAASA) was formed in the late 1960s.

Association President, Dr Vittal Shettigara, said the festival reflected a number of the Association's aims, including:

- Teaching aspects of Indian arts, dance, music, languages and philosophies with a view to developing better understanding of Indian culture and cooperation of the people of Australia with Australians of Indian origin.
- Spreading the knowledge of Indian philosophies, arts, dances and music in Australia.
- Providing an in-depth understanding of Indian culture. 🌏

Clubs survive and thrive on tax relief

An important scheme that lifts the burden of land tax from community clubs is bringing positive benefits across South Australia.

The Ethnic Community Organisations Land Tax Relief Grant Scheme ensures that ethnic community organisations are reimbursed for the full cost of their land tax.

Over the 2005-06 financial year, the scheme has relieved not-for-profit community ethnic organisations of the burden of fundraising to pay land tax.

By helping community clubs with land tax payments, the South Australian Government encourages them to continue their valuable work in:

- providing social and cultural support to their communities;
- increasing understanding of the culturally diverse community we live in;
- working with service providers to improve access and equity in service provision;
- increasing public participation by South Australians of all backgrounds in our community; and
- celebrating and valuing multiculturalism.

The Government is giving clubs a grant to cover their land tax bills, which means that the money they would have used to pay land tax can now be used improving services and programs.

Croatian Club President Kruno Batrac said his club was now able to

provide more social and cultural support to members at its Brompton centre.

Italian regional club Fogolar Furlan will be able to provide improved services to members at its clubrooms in Felixstow.

It would especially enable the club to provide improved programs for the elderly, frail and people with a disability.

Fogolar Furlan President Renzo Savio said the Land Tax Relief Grant Scheme was a boost for the club.

Mr Savio said the club had a new lease on life and the improved social and cultural support would attract more members, including younger people.

The Hungarian Club will be able to provide better services and programs for members and guests using its clubrooms at Norwood.

President Laszlo Lado said the club would be able to continue its valuable work supporting members as well as promoting multiculturalism. ○



Hungarian Club members prepare a meal in the kitchen of their Norwood clubrooms, one of the many facilities operated by ethnic clubs to provide social and cultural support to members.

ELIGIBLE organisations can apply for a land tax relief grant by calling Multicultural S.A. on 8226 1974 or 8226 1968.

Skilled migrants welcomed

New visa arrangements are making it easier for skilled migrants to come to South Australia.

In the six months to December 2005, 4,396 migrants chose to make their home here – 6.7 per cent of the national migration intake.

This compares to 2,699, 4.5 per cent of the national intake, for the same period in 2004.

Of the 4,396, most came from the UK (1547), followed by China (408), India (342), NZ (181), Afghanistan (167), Philippines (133), South Africa (118) and Sudan (111).

Of these, 2,827 arrived as skilled migrants, 799 arrived under the family program and 510 as migrants under humanitarian programs.

Our cultural and linguistic diversity and cosmopolitan outlook is one of our greatest assets, and a strong attraction to potential migrants.

High demand exists in South Australia for electricians, boilermakers, fitters, nurses, refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics and automotive mechanics, among other trades and professions.

Overseas students studying in South Australia also receive bonus

points toward their visa applications if they choose to live and work here.

A high and growing proportion of skilled migrants and permanent residents was once international students.

About 39,600 people applied for permanent residency from within Australia in 2004–05, of which 16,485 (or 41.6 per cent) were former international students.

SA is also attracting many overseas students. In 2005, 17,943 international

students arrived, an increase of 16.9 per cent over 2004 and more than double the national average increase of seven per cent.

Many will go on to live and work in South Australia and help address skills shortages in the professions and contribute to population growth.

While attracting more migrants is a good start, the real challenge lies in keeping them here for the long-term.

In this, our cultural and linguistic diversity and cosmopolitan outlook is one of the State's greatest assets.

Further information is available from Immigration S.A. on 8204 9250 or go to www.immigration.sa.gov.au

OUR cultural and linguistic diversity and cosmopolitan outlook is one of our greatest assets, and a strong attraction to potential migrants.



Aiwen Ma, his wife Fengbin Su and their son Mark Xiaosu Ma, 11, from the Fujian province in China are among the hundreds of new migrants to settle in Murray Bridge in the past few months.

Chinatown New Year draws crowd

A big street party in Chinatown marked the arrival of the 2006 Lunar New Year of the Dog.

Honoured guests included the Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, Premier Mike Rann and Adelaide Lord Mayor Michael Harbison.

The opening formalities were followed by excited and – typically – noisy New Year celebrations.

The February event took place at the Gouger Street end of Moonta Street, Chinatown.

The Chinese new year is very similar to the western one, characterised by many traditions and rituals.

It is popularly recognised as the ‘Spring Festival’ and celebrations last 15 days.



Adelaide's Chinatown Gateway in Gouger Street.



Abraham Mamer from Sudan, Ruben Galarita from the Philippines and Shengxing Huang and Xuezhen Qiu from China are a few of the hundreds of migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East now settling in the Murraylands.

Murray Bridge makes new arrivals feel at home

More than 300 people attended a welcome reception for new arrivals in Murray Bridge in late April.

Rural City of Murray Bridge Mayor Allan Arbon hosted the reception at the Town Hall complex.

Mr Arbon said the recent influx of migrants from Afghanistan, Africa, China, Vietnam and the Philippines had been a great boon to the region.

He said Murray Bridge welcomed people from all backgrounds and recognised that there were great economic, social and cultural benefits from increased diversity.



Above: Marta Gruszka and Adam Munk from the Polish community were among dozens from different ethnic backgrounds who took part in the 2006 ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil.

Right: Morphet Vale vigil participants included (L-R) Ala Debicki from the Polish community, Katherine Wallace, Scottish community, Deborah Murphy, Irish community, Georgina Wallace, Scottish community, and Conrad Skibinski, Polish community.



ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil

Young Australians remember ANZACS

Thirty young South Australians from diverse backgrounds took part in the ANZAC Day Eve Youth Vigil this year.

The vigil is organised by the Returned and Services League of Australia Inc (RSL) to remember and acknowledge Australian and other soldiers who died in war.

The South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and the RSL organised for young community representatives to lay remembrance tokens at war memorials on the evening of 24 April 2006.

This year, the second year multicultural groups have participated in this way, young people came from the American, Dutch, Scottish, French, Greek, Italian, Maltese, Polish, Serbian and Irish communities.

Ceremonies were held at Adelaide, Morphet Vale and Blackwood.

Australia Day Grand Parade 2006

Big rise in parade numbers sign of optimism and pride.

The high number of ethnic communities in this year's Australia Day Grand Parade has affirmed their commitment to Australia, and to South Australia in particular.

It has also reflected their pride in their ethnic origins.

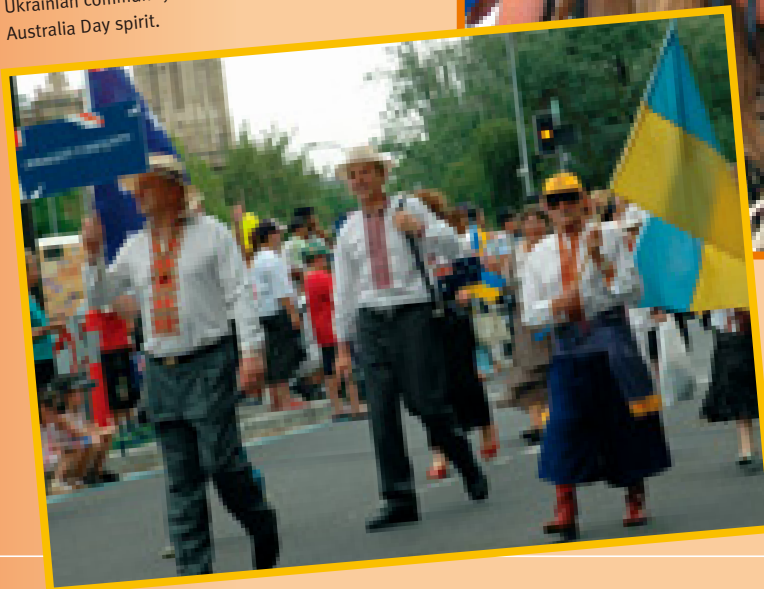
More than 1500 people representing over 40 ethnic groups and 90 community organisations participated.

This is nearly double the number in 2005, when 900 people from 20 groups took part for the first time as a result of the partnership between Multicultural S.A., the Australia Day Council of South Australia and the Adelaide City Council.

Multicultural S.A. manages the invitations to communities and arranges information sessions.

Communities represented in 2006 included Afghan, Asian, Bangladeshi, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Burundian, Cambodian, Chinese, Cook Islanders, Dutch, East Timorese, Eastern Turkistan, Ethiopian, Filipino, German, Ghanaian, Greek, Hungarian, Indian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Kenyan, Khmer Krom, Korean, Lebanese, Nepalese, Pacific Islands, Samoan, Pakistani, Polish, Rwandan, Scottish, Sikh, South Pacific, Sudanese, Tanzanian, Tongan, Turkish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.

Ukrainian community members get into the Australia Day spirit.



Lebanese community members marched with the slogan *We All One* on their T-shirts.



Young girl on the Cook Islands float in the Australia Day Parade 2006.

Al-Khalil Mosque Harmony Day

An open day was held at the Al-Khalil Mosque in Woodville North in March to celebrate the values of respect and goodwill towards all Australians.

The event was held on 21 March, the United Nations International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, also known as Harmony Day.

It was organised by the Muslim Women's Association (MWA) of South Australia.

The MWA says Harmony Day is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate social successes, re-commit to common values, and say 'no' to racism.



Visitors to the Al-Khalil Mosque during the Harmony Day event.



Polish South Australians proudly celebrated 150 years of settlement in the 2006 Australia Day Parade.

Premier praises Polish community

At an anniversary celebration in February, Premier Mike Rann congratulated the Polish community on 150 years of settlement in South Australia.

He praised the community's contribution to the visual arts and noted that since 2001, the South Australian Government has given grants totalling more than \$304,000 to various Polish community organisations.

At the 150th anniversary gala reception at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the Premier was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland by the Polish Ambassador, Mr Jerzy Wieclaw.

Through the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, the Government will support other anniversary activities including a major Polish Community Achievement Dinner being organised by the 150th Anniversary of Polish Settlement Committee.

SAMEAC Member Gala Mustafa (front, in white headscarf) and other members of Mount Gambier's Muslim community celebrated Eid-al-Adha at the end of the Hajj in January.

Eid-al-Adha commemorates the obedience of the prophet Ibrahim when he was called upon to sacrifice his son Ismail, and his triumph over the temptation of the devil.



HomeStart's migrant traineeship

Sudanese migrant completes his year of training

Sudanese migrant Arkanjelo Ring Mayol has completed a year of training under a State Government HomeStart strategy to provide job skills in return for better links with migrant communities.

HomeStart's migrant traineeship role was developed in February 2005.

It was designed to assist migrants with their employment skills for the Australian market, and at the same time provide HomeStart with closer links to their community groups using the power of word-of-mouth.

Arkanjelo came to South Australia on a humanitarian visa in 2003, having fled persecution and severe hardship in Sudan to equally difficult conditions in an Ethiopian refugee camp.



Arkanjelo Ring Mayol

He lives in Adelaide with his wife and young daughter.

For the first six months at HomeStart, Arkanjelo worked within the Customer Relations Group and was trained in a range of administrative duties, such as call centre skills, sales support fulfilment, HomeStart legacy systems and standard PC programs.

HomeStart benefited from his insights into the

housing issues facing migrants, as well as enjoying his positive attitude and bright humour.

As a result of Arkanjelo's links, HomeStart was able to present an information seminar to over 50 members of the Sudanese community.

Arkanjelo also helped Sudanese elders to explain at community meetings what HomeStart Finance does.

Police Multicultural Action Plan

Plan improves police services to culturally diverse groups

Working together and developing partnerships to enhance services to the community is a priority for South Australia Police.

An example of this has been the establishment of the Police Multicultural Advisory Group (PMAG), an advisory group consisting of representatives of peak multicultural communities that was established to provide recommendations to the Commissioner of Police for improved delivery of police services to cultural and linguistically diverse groups.

Over the past year, PMAG has developed a Police Multicultural Action Plan, which identifies key priority areas, strategies, and actions for delivering

culturally responsive police services.

Commissioner Mal Hyde recently endorsed this plan, which is now rolling out across South Australia Police.

It was launched at a ceremony on 24 March, 2006.

At the same time, the Australasian Police Multicultural Advisory Bureau awards for contribution and advancement of partnerships and relations between police and Australia's culturally diverse communities were awarded to two SAPOL officers, Detective Sergeant Robert Arbon and Senior Constable Kym Catford for their work with the Vietnamese community.

Chair of PMAG, Assistant Commissioner Bryan Fahy, said that the launch of the plan and presentation of awards were great examples of engaging and working together.

An opportunity to contribute through local government

Becoming a councillor – you could do it

South Australians over 18 can nominate to become a councillor in local government – and an opportunity is looming.

Local government elections are to be held in November 2006 and occur every four years.

The next term will run from November 2006 until November 2010.

Now is the time to

begin planning.

However, you must first be enrolled to vote.

If you are on the State electoral roll, you will automatically be entitled to vote at council elections.

You can check to ensure that you are enrolled up to Friday 11 August, 2006.

Nominations for councillor positions open on 5 September, 2006 and close at noon on 19 September, 2006.

Most ethnic organisations wishing to

organise local events first approach their local councillors for assistance.

In turn, the details are passed to the council for approval.

For further information about local government council elections and voting, please contact your local council office, or the Local Government Association of SA on 8224 2000.

Alternatively, you can visit the website: Local Government Association of SA – www.lga.sa.gov.au



Award winners Detective Sergeant Robert Arbon and Senior Constable Kym Catford are congratulated by Vietnamese community representative Hoa Nguyen and South Australian Police Multicultural Advisory Group members (from left) Multicultural S.A. Executive Director Simon Forrest, Senior Sergeant Ken Jaensch, Senior Aboriginal and Multicultural Project Officer Robyn Gillies, Multicultural Communities Council Executive Officer Vivien Hope, Senior Constable Kevin McNamara, International Education Association President Hedley Reberger, Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Assistant Director Glenda Lodge and Assistant Commissioner Bryan Fahy.



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