



Patron
Mrs Ellnor Grassby

Patron
HE Mrs Karin Ehnbohm-Palmquist
Dean of Diplomatic Corps
and Ambassador of Sweden

Chair
Sam Wong AM

March 2008 Harmony Day



On 29 March 2008, CMCF provided Canberrans with the opportunity to experience a multicultural journey, thanks to support from the Commonwealth Government, the ACT Government, and private sponsors.

All those involved agreed that the day was a fantastic experience and an acknowledgment of the success of multiculturalism in Canberra. CMCF members, bus passengers, performers, spectators and volunteers have all expressed their support for future events of this type.

Over 250 people enjoyed the food and entertainment at the Theo Notaras Centre and two orange ACTION buses filled with passengers visited sites of cultural significance around Canberra.

In particular, spectators and guests at the Centre, experienced Aboriginal music, Chinese opera, African drummers, Chilean dance, classic Italian mandolin music, and traditional lion dancers. The skilled comperes on the day were able to guide the audience through this diverse multicultural journey and include instructive speakers from relevant multicultural community groups, such as the Migrant Resource Centre, ACT Ethnic Schools Association and Carers Act.

Passengers on the buses had the chance to experience a diversity of food, exhibits, cultural talks, music and dancing and received a Harmony Day Passport and show bag. With over 40 people on most of the six bus trips, live musicians on board, and entertaining tour guides, passengers on the buses were treated to the warm hospitality of seven venues around Canberra.

The Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre in Florey provided visitors with an insight into the history and philosophy of Hinduism and offered welcome refreshments.

The Vietnamese Sakyamuni Buddhist Centre in Lyneham treated their guests to delicious vegetarian food, provided passengers with armloads of reading material, and offered a unique opportunity for passengers to ask questions of Buddhist Abbot, the Venerable Tich Quang Ba.

To provide a viewpoint on Australian culture, Major General Bill Crews AO (Retd), welcomed bus passengers to the RSL Headquarters in Reid and presented information about the significance, purpose, role, and activities of the RSL.

The Reverend Professor James Haire, at the Centre for Christianity and Culture in Barton, provided travellers with an overview of the Centre, established by the National Council of Churches to celebrate and nourish the spiritual journey of Australians, and chance to take a stroll along the Centre's Pilgrim Walk.

The ACT Jewish Community Centre provided refreshments and a unique chance to tour the Centre and ask questions about the foundations and practices of Judaism.

The Canberra Islamic Centre in Monash also provided visitors with some wonderful food, the chance to tour the Centre, and an opportunity to discuss the Islamic faith with some of its learned practitioners.

The food at the Hellenic Club of Canberra was both plentiful and outstanding. The tour and talk by the Club's cultural advisor, Mr Michael Kazan was a unique insight into the establishment of the Club and the development of the Greek community in Canberra.

One of the bus trip passengers said "the new experiences we had today plus learning from each other and having fun is surely what harmony is all about".

CMCF would like to thank all of the sponsors, performers and volunteers involved in the day. In particular we would like to thank the twenty two groups for their contribution to activities at the Multicultural Centre. CMCF would also like to extend a special thanks to the following groups for hosting wonderful focal points for visitors:

- the Returned & Services League (RSL) of Australia Ltd, Constitution Ave
- Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) 15 Blackall Street Barton
- National Jewish Memorial Centre, Canberra Ave, Forrest
- Hellenic Club of Canberra Limited, Phillip Woden
- Canberra Islamic Centre, 221 Clive-Steele Ave, Monash
- Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre of the ACT Inc. 81 Ratcliffe Crescent, Florey ACT 2615;
and
- Vietnamese Temple, Lyneham.

Rest assured that this is not the end of CMCFs Harmony Day activities. Our next event is a Reconciliation Celebration event jointly hosted by CMCF and the University of Canberra Ngunnawal Centre on Saturday 28 June 2008 from 2pm at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to secretary@cmcf.org.au to assist us with numbers for catering. For further information please contact Sam Wong on 0433 947 888.

"Living in Harmony" Proudly sponsored by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship
Australian Government

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