Images on cover top left to right: Harmony Week launch event in Hobart; Harmony Week celebrations in Burnie; Refugee Week event Lanterns for Peace; a young Tasmanian with a member of the Tasmanian Police; FECCA Women’s Chair and Multicultural Council Board member Hina Durrani with Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian and CEO of Settlement Services International, Violet Roumeliotis at the National Multicultural Women’s Conference; Diwali celebrations in Hobart; Board member Yongbei Tang with an SBS radio anchor.

Published August 2017 by the Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc
About Us

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania’s vision is of a culturally and linguistically diverse and harmonious Tasmania that is just, fair and inclusive – where people with diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to Tasmanian society.

Our mission is to be a community based, member-driven organisation that empowers people from diverse and multicultural backgrounds to have a voice. We advocate and lobby for human rights, social justice, respect, equality and dignity for multicultural communities. We work to build an inclusive society by providing information and promoting cultures, languages and multicultural issues in the community and our members help to welcome new migrants and refugees to Tasmania.

Our values are of inclusiveness, respect, co-operation, equality, integrity and accountability.

We work with:

- Our member organisations
- Residents of Tasmania with a culturally and linguistically diverse background, including people with a refugee background, international students and migrants
- All levels of government and agencies that provide services
- The broader Tasmanian community, businesses and organisations that we partner with to achieve our goals.
Chairperson’s Report

The Multicultural Council of Tasmania has gone from strength to strength, and I am proud to present the Council’s 2016 – 17 Annual Report as a reflection of the dedication and commitment the Council has towards Tasmania’s multicultural communities.

This was my first year as chairperson of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, following the strong leadership of outgoing chairperson Alphonse Mulumba. Stepping into the role I was keen to ensure the Council remained an active and strong advocate for the many voices it represents.

Through policy forums, community meetings and events, educational opportunities and general support the Council has stayed true to this mission, and supported the growth of an inclusive Tasmania.

Particular highlights include the Stronger Communities project, funded by Skills Tasmania, and created specifically to build the capacity of individuals to support their communities. The training has already resulted in some exciting outcomes, including the creation of new organisations, and will have a lasting impact as the forty plus participants implement their new skills and share what they have learned.

Partnerships with the Asia Institute Tasmania and Scanlon Foundation enabled the Multicultural Council to hold two forums on multicultural policy and public attitudes toward immigration, discrimination and government respectively. These forums are part of a wider conversation on migration to Australia, and it is reaffirming as chairperson of the Multicultural Council to see the organisation leading the way on these topics in a Tasmanian context.

In 2017 the Multicultural Council of Tasmania also successfully coordinated Harmony Week events and activities, promoting and celebrating inclusiveness and diversity. This was carried through the support of the Tasmanian Government.

The next year will be an exciting one for the Multicultural Council. As we move into our 40th year the Council will take on new challenges and increase its scope. In 2017 – 18 the Council will begin coordinating a multicultural hub space (out of the Old Moonah Arts centre space in Moonah) and will partner with local government to make Tasmania a more migrant-friendly state, and will apply a Welcoming Cities approach for this undertaking.

As always, and with this change, our focus remains that of a diverse and harmonious Tasmania for new, old and future generations.

Thank you to our dedicated board members, staff, volunteers, and members who have created a highly transparent working environment and given countless hours of their time to supporting the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. Thanks also to the Department of Premier and Cabinet for enabling the Multicultural Council to continue its good work in the community through funding and advice. Without their support we would not have achieved all we have so far.

Yours sincerely,

Jafar Taheri

Chairperson of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania
# Our Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Chairperson</strong></th>
<th>Jafar Taheri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immediate Past Chairperson</strong></td>
<td>Alphonse Mulumba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vice Chair</strong></td>
<td>Sonia Parra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secretary</strong></td>
<td>Fred Pribac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treasurer</strong></td>
<td>Yongbei Tang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board Members</strong></td>
<td>Mithun Bacheval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hina Durrani</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waqas Durrani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reshma Dutta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Geng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mega Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vajra Hong Hao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rup Koirala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ivan Matas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alan Yu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vale Teodino Ottavi

In January, founding member of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania and respected member of the Italian community of Tasmania, Teodino Ottavi, passed peacefully at the age of 86 years old. Teodino was an active board member of the Multicultural Council up until his passing. He is greatly missed by the Multicultural Council staff and board members.

Teodino Ottavi was born on 22nd July 1930 in the province of Abbruzzo in Italy. Teodino's mother strongly encouraged him to attend college, and tried to pay his tuition fees. Ultimately the family was unable to afford his education, and Teodino worked as a labourer until he migrated to Australia in 1954.

In 1956 Teodino was joined by his wife Eulalia in Hobart. The young couple managed a delicatessen-style shop in North Hobart and later Harrington Street. During his working years Teodino worked in the Hydro camps, and as a teacher, electrician assistant, tiler, Italian gourmet cook, a multicultural aged care worker, and ultimately dedicated himself to community work; building the profile and strength of the Tasmanian Italian community throughout his life. Teodino held several executive committee positions in the Australian Italian Club, in the Juventus Soccer Club, the Alpini Association, and the Italian Cultural and Welfare Association, where he was president for over 20 years.

Teodino was heavily involved with the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. He was passionate about language education and the continued celebration of Italian culture in younger generations. His community work was recognised in 1999 when Teodino won International Year of the Older Persons, Tasmanian Older Person of the Year Award.

Teodino’s desire to finish his studies was fulfilled when he completed a Diploma of Modern Languages and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Tasmania.

Teodino and Eulalia Ottavi outside of their chicken coop in North Hobart. Photo credit: Domas Rukas
Highlights of 2016/17

Policy and Advocacy

The major issues of note this year related to proposed changes to both the Federal Racial Discrimination Act and Tasmania’s Anti-Discrimination Act. In response to concern about the impact of these changes the Council undertook a range of advocacy interventions including:

- Organisation of a ‘Listening Forum’ for members to provide feedback to decision-makers about their concerns
- A submission and presentation to the Inquiry into the proposed state law changes being held by the Tasmanian Legislative Council.
- Joint letters with FECCA and MCOT to Tasmanian MPs about the changes to both federal and state laws
- Media to raise awareness and provide perspectives on the issues around freedom of speech and freedom from discrimination, which were central to both proposals.

The changes to the federal law failed to pass the Senate in early 2017 and at the time of writing, the proposed changes to the Tasmanian law seemed unlikely to pass.

Another big issue of major concern this year has been the proposed changes to the Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Requirements for Australian Citizenship and other Measures) Bill 2017. These proposed changes run counter to Australia’s long-standing immigration policy, which has worked to create the current successful and harmonious Australian multicultural community. In response the Council has undertaken a number of interventions including:

- Organising a breakfast briefing for members to meet with Dr Emma Campbell, Director of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council to learn more about the proposed changes
- Making a submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry
- Board Members undertook lobbying meeting with Dr Campbell from FECCA, meeting with Senators Brown, Singh and McKim.
This year we also organised a number of proactive policy events including:

- In September 2016 the Council partnered with the national Scanlon Foundation to launch and present key findings from their landmark research project, Australians Today which captured attitudes on immigration, discrimination and confidence in government.
- The Tasmanian launch event held in Parliament House brought together a diverse range of stakeholders to learn about the findings and provide ideas on strategies to increase the participation of culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse Tasmanians. The report from the workshop with recommendations can be read on our website.
- In 2017 we worked with the UTAS Asia Institute to organise a Multicultural Policy Forum to discuss multiculturalism in Tasmania and the future opportunities available at the state government level. With a looming state election the goal of the forum was to get the parties thinking about future policy ideas.
- The keynote speaker for the Forum was Hakan Akyol, Director of Community Participation the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion who provided a detailed and engaging talk about the success of Victoria’s multicultural policy initiatives. The forum was attended by more than 160 migrant community organisations, service providers, policy experts, decision-makers, students. Also attending were the Multicultural Affairs spokespeople from the Tasmanian Liberals, Labor and the Greens who participated in a panel discussion and Q&A following the keynote address.

Board members and staff attended the first ever National Multicultural Womens Conference in Sydney in late 2016. It was a great opportunity for engagement with national issues and networks.

We assisted member organisations with advice about how to access services and lobby for change needed in their community. Some of the issues we have assisted members with this year include:

- advocating for access to spaces for celebrations
- assisting with funding applications
- advocating for education and training courses to meet skill migration requirements
- advocating on complaints about the quality and accessibility of settlement services
- correcting misconceptions of religious traditions that led to discrimination
- assisting with planning law problems around community facilities
- legal and victims of crime referrals
The Multicultural Council takes a lead role in liaison and discussion with all levels of government, on major policy issues of interest to communities. This year we have had meetings with key decision makers, including with:

- Premier Will Hodgman
- Minister Mathew Groom
- Madam Speaker Elise Archer
- Guy Barnet MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
- Sarah Courtney MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier
- Cassy O’Connor, MLA, Multicultural Affairs spokesperson, Tasmanian Greens
- Madeleine Ogilvie, MLA, Multicultural Affairs spokesperson, Labor Party
- Andrea Dawkins MLA, Member for Bass
- Lara Giddings, MLA, Member for Franklin
- Andrew Wilkie, Federal Member for Denison
- Senator Nick McKim
- Senator Carol Brown
- Senator Peter Whish-Wilson
- Senator Eric Abetz
- Senator Lisa Singh
- Rob Valentine, MLC
Membership and Community Engagement

Our member groups

Members are the backbone of Multicultural Council of Tasmania and in 2016 – 17 we assisted members with event planning; advocated on members behalf; provided access to educational opportunities; and access to meeting spaces.

In addition to 60 member groups, the following groups became members of the Multicultural Council:

- South Sudanese Community Launceston
- Australian Red Cross - Hobart Branch
- Baseball Tasmania Baseball Tasmania
- Indian Cultural Society Launceston
- Vietnamese Student Association of Tas
- Asia Institute Tasmania
- Afgan / Hazara Community of Northern Tas
- Religions for Peace
- Turbans for Australia

The Council auspiced a number of projects, including Hobart Language Day, the Latin American Film Festival, Diwali and saw through the completion of two auspiced projects in the north.

Public Education and Profile

In 2016 – 17 the Multicultural Council’s public profile continued to grow in a positive direction. The Council had coverage in newspapers, radio, and television for all public events coordinated by the Council, and on issues affecting communities.

An additional 499 people liked the Council Facebook page during 2016 - 17, and our monthly e-newsletter retained a readership of over 1,000 people.

Building capacity – Stronger Communities Project

This year the Multicultural Council of Tasmania received a Skills Tasmania grant to run a project to help build the capacity of our members. The Stronger Communities Project has provided training to leaders of existing and newly formed community organisations in three nationally recognised units of the Certificate
IV in Governance – covering Board member responsibilities, managing meetings and organisational planning.

In Hobart and Launceston more than 40 people from a wide range of groups attended the training and the feedback was extremely positive. The Project Officer, Raj Chopra worked with trainees after the formal training to see how the learnings were applied in practise and also assist some groups to run strategic planning sessions for their organisations.

Out of this project, three new organisations have been created in Hobart and Launceston. The Multicultural Council of Tasmania will provide ongoing support to participants to achieve the goals they established during training.

*Educating the community to remove barriers - Diverse Faiths of Tasmania publication*

Diverse Faiths of Tasmania is a resource created to educate and dispel myths about faiths practised in Tasmania.

The booklet provides a broad overview of major religious groups and their key denominations, and has been used as an educational tool by schools and organisations, as well as individuals.

While the Multicultural Council of Tasmania is not a religious organisation, and not all of our members subscribe to a faith, the Council has many members who are of religiously diverse backgrounds. It was created in response to a reported rise in misunderstandings about faiths.

This resource is available through the Council website.

*Events*

The Council participated in events held across Tasmania, meeting with school groups, organisations and the community with the aim of reaching new audiences and to provide opportunities for the community and Council members to meet with staff.

In 2016 – 17 the Multicultural Council of Tasmania held information stalls at the following events:

- Moonah Taste of the World
- Hobart Language Day
- World Games Day
- Harmony Day celebrations
- Kingston Diversity Expo
- Huonville P.S Diversity Expo

Right: CEO of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, Anna Reynolds, and staff member Lucille Cutting.
The Council also attended community events, including Bhutanese celebrations in Launceston, women’s gatherings, the African-Australian awards, Hazara Cultural Day in Hobart, Fusion Film Festival and many others.

**Community Diwali celebrations a first in Hobart**

Diwali is a major event acknowledged by millions of people around the world. The celebration acknowledges new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil.

In October 2016 the Multicultural Council of Tasmania partnered with eight community groups to hold Tasmania’s first ever public Diwali celebrations. The event attracted hundreds of attendees who were treated to a program of traditional and contemporary performance, sweet treats, and food from the many communities living in Hobart who celebrate Diwali.

Thank you to the Hobart Twilight Market for hosting the event and for the Tasmanian Government for supporting it.

Thank you also to our partners; the Indian Cultural Society, Guru Nanak Society of Tasmania, Hobart Malayali Association, Hindu Society of Tasmania, Tasmania Kannada Sangha, Nepali Association of Tasmania, Hobart’s Bhutanese community and the Fiji Australia Association of Tasmania.
Harmony Week in 2017

Following a hugely successful Harmony Week in 2016, the Multicultural Council worked hard to ensure the Harmony Week message ‘diversity is our strength’ was spread even further in 2017.

45 official Harmony Week events were registered on the Harmony Week Tasmania website, taking place in Smithton, Burnie, Devonport, Deloraine, Launceston, Scottsdale, multiple locations around Hobart and a number of other regional locations.

The Multicultural Council supported events in Smithton, Burnie, Scottsdale, Deloraine and Launceston through the Harmony Week Small Grants scheme. Events included food, music, dance and a multitude of speakers and performers, all celebrating the positive aspects of diversity in Tasmania.

Metro Tasmania partnership

Metro Tasmania teamed up with the Multicultural Council of Tasmania to promote the message of Harmony Week this year, with a poster campaign that was run in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. The partnership was launched on March 1st, at Burnie City Council, with Mayor Anita Dowe and Filipino Dance group, Mariposa. The posters featured everyday Tasmanians from many backgrounds with the message ‘I Am Tasmanian’. The posters were displayed on 115 buses for a one month period across Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. This represents 52% of the entire bus fleet, reaching approximately 350,000 journeys.

Harmony Week Ambassador programme

In 2017, the Multicultural Council launched the Harmony Week Ambassador programme, which allowed for the development of a pool of individuals who would be available to speak to groups and media about Harmony Week, and share the importance of diversity in Tasmania. The nine individuals, representing seven nationalities, were based in Launceston and Hobart, and attended Harmony Week events, as well as speaking to various media outlets.
Refugee Week event a community effort

For the second year running the Multicultural Council of Tasmania acknowledged Refugee Week by hosting Lanterns for Peace. The Council called upon the assistance of community members to create and float five large lanterns on the theme of peace and welcome.

On the night hundreds of visitors shared messages of peace and welcome on noticeboards around the event, watched performances by Drum Up Big and the Karen Choir, and shared in a free community BBQ.

- Roaring 40s Kayaking
- Hobart City Council
- Roaring 40s Kayaking
- Australian Red Cross Hobart branch
- Gurdwara Nanak Darbar Hobart,
- Jaycar
- Officeworks
- Migrant Resource Centre Southern Tasmania

Thank you also to Naomi Marantelli, volunteers and community members who assisted in the creation of five floating lanterns.
2016 – 17 was another strong year for the Multicultural Council of Tasmania, both financially and as a community focused organisation.

The Council continued to support Tasmanian multicultural communities through various initiatives including the provision of four small grants supporting events in Hobart and Launceston; project auspicing; and capacity building workshops designed to better equip groups with management and planning skills.

Due to the generous support of community members and individuals, the Council received just over $4,500 in donations in 2016 - 17. These funds were in support of two board members and a staff member attending the inaugural National Multicultural Women’s Conference held in Sydney in November 2016, this professional development opportunity would not have been possible without the communities support.

Membership to the Council increased by just over 16%, this increase has allowed the Council to better advocate for Tasmania’s culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities.

Total income this financial year was $82,579. This is a significantly smaller amount than the previous financial year due to the timing of the Council’s core funding, which was mostly distributed in 2015 – 16. It is also reflective of a changed approach to financial management and organisation of grants received by the Council. In 2016 – 17 the Council worked to ensure our financial reports properly reflected the Council’s income and excluded auspiced grants received by small community groups and grants received for specific projects, which are now managed separate to our core funding.

As such, the Council experienced a net income loss of $3,001. Though I am confident the Council is in a strong financial position and will continue its good work in advocacy and promoting multiculturalism.

Following this report is the 2016 – 17 financial statement for the Multicultural Council of Tasmania. The Council’s finances have been audited and verified by registered company auditor Rendell W. Ridge. A copy of the auditors report has been included in this annual report.

Thank you to the board of management and Multicultural Council staff for their continued hard work, and tireless promotion of multiculturalism.

Our Harmony Week slogan is ‘our diversity is our strength’ and in relation to Multicultural Council of Tasmania’s growth these past few years, and bright future as the organisation moves into a new phase of community engagement and advocacy – I would definitely say that is the case.

Sincerely,

Yongbei Tang

Treasurer

Multicultural Council of Tasmania
### Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc.
#### Income & Expenditure Statement
for year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017</th>
<th>1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Funds Brought Forward from previous year</td>
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<td><strong>Net Income (- Loss)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-$3,001</td>
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## Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc.

**Balance sheet as at 30 June 2017**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>30 June 2017</th>
<th>30 June 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank, on hand</td>
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<tr>
<td>GST Receivable from ATO</td>
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**Deduct Current Liabilities**

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<td>Unspent Grant/Auspiced Funds</td>
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<td>Annual leave</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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**Net Assets**

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<td>$44,262</td>
<td>$47,263</td>
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**Equity**

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<th>30 June 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings prior years</td>
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<td>Current year earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td>$47,263</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Annual Financial Audit and Reports

Independent auditor’s report to members of Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc.
I have audited the special purpose financial report of Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Management Committee’s Responsibility for the Financial Report
The Management Committee is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the special purpose financial report and information contained therein. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility
My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting amounts and other disclosures in the accounts, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) (where applicable), and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association’s financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence
To the best of my knowledge and belief, there has been no contravention of auditor independence and any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Audit Opinion
In my opinion, the special purpose financial report of Multicultural Council of Tasmania Inc. presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

MAX PECK & ASSOCIATES

Rendell W. RIDGE
3rd August 2017
The Multicultural Council of Tasmania

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