

In this issue:

MDAA AGM 2007

Information Days

International Day of People with Disability

TAFE Courses

**You can
contact us**

by phone:

(02) 9891 6400

or

1800 629 072

by fax:

(02) 9635 5355

by e-mail:

mdaa@mdaa.org.au

Website:

www.mdaa.org.au

by writing:

PO Box 9381

Harris Park

NSW 2150

by coming

to the office:

Monday -Friday

9.00am - 5.00pm

40 Albion Street,
Harris Park,
NSW 2150

MDAA AGM 2007



On 21 November MDAA held its 11th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and it was a great success. At the AGM a new Committee was elected with Milanka Zivanovic as the Chairperson, David Abello as the Vice-Chairperson, George Buxbaum as the Treasurer and Pushparanee MacIntosh as the Secretary. The Ordinary Committee members are Alberto Castillo, Anne Napoli, Athana Fan, Dulia Mandinic, Hannen Abdallah, Dulia Mandinic, Rachel Lazarov, Karee Orake & Tony Shoushani. A big congratulations to all of them.

MDAA would like to thank Clara Barton and Rajni Chandran who left the Committee this year for their contribution. We wish them well!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank once again the wonderful volunteers for their ongoing support to MDAA. Our consumers, their family members and our friends in the sector came to support us at the AGM and as usual people had lots of fun singing, dancing, reading poetry and eating (see more photos next page).

As it is the end of 2007, we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday! MDAA will also take a short break over Christmas and New Year. The office will be closed from 24 Dec to 1 Jan and reopen on 2 Jan 2008.

ENJOY the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all next year!

MDAA AGM 2007



UPDATE FROM SOUTHEAST ADVOCACY (by Danielle Neves)

The South East Advocacy (SEA), a new advocacy service for the Bega Shire, has been busy meeting service providers and providing advocacy support and advice to consumers. On election day SEA participated in the Independent Living Forum to explore options for young people with disability. SEA has also participated in several events to celebrate International Day for People with Disability including a Road Train, the Workability AGM and the Tulgeen Open Day.

UPDATE FROM MDAA WOLLONGONG (by Jim Clabour)

I have worked in collaboration with other ethnic and government services such as the Fernhill Place of Southeast Sydney Area Health, the Illawarra Multicultural Mental Health and Disability Network, Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council during the Mental Health Week in October where we organised a multicultural celebration with the theme "Relationships in the Community".

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

On 13 November 2007, MDAA and the Chinese Australian Services Society (CASS) organised an Information Day for the Chinese community in Campsie about programs and services available for children and young people with disability.

It was a great opportunity for young people with disability aged 5 to 25 and their families to learn how to maintain and develop life skills and increase independence through leisure, recreational, social and cultural activities.

Twelve parents of children and young people with disability heard from guest speakers from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Department of Education and Training about the Community Participation Program and other services available for children and young people with disability and their families. CASS and MDAA representatives also explained their services and discussed relevant Centrelink entitlements. MDAA was represented by Vanco who is one of our Individual Advocates and Luis and Nidhi from our Community Voices Project.

There were two other similar Information Days arranged by MDAA in partnership with other organisations; one on 1st November for the Vietnamese community and another one on 14 November for the Arabic community.



Sessions with the Vietnamese and Chinese communities



TAFE—OTEN COURSES

TAFE NSW – Open Training and Network (OTEN) offers Courses for people from a non English Speaking Background (NESB). The Multicultural Education Unit (MEU) provides information, advice, language and cultural support services and specific courses to people from a NESB who wishes to study by distance education with OTEN.

The MEU offers:

- Information to NESB communities nationally to improve their awareness of OTEN courses and services and increase their participation rates.
- English language and cultural support to NESB students who are enrolled in vocational courses if they have language difficulties. Students need to apply for this support when they enrol.
- Advice on Temporary Visa Holders and Temporary Protection Visa Holders (TPVH) policy for enrolling students
- Advice on qualifications and training gained overseas for recognition by TAFE NSW and for bridging courses, Interpreters and bilingual services and advice on the use of bilingual dictionaries and in exams

If you want to know what courses they offer by distance education ring OTEN on 9715 8000 or 1300 362346

Lebanese Maronite Church celebrates the International Day of People with Disability

On Sunday 2nd of December, the Lebanese Maronite Church held its annual celebration for the International Day of People with Disability at St John the Beloved Church, Mt Druitt. This annual event was held by the Maronite Diocesan and coordinated by the Faith & Light Committee within the Maronite community.

The aim of the day was to promote community awareness and acceptance of each other's differences. At this year's event we had many people from different cultures

and religions came to the celebration. The day began with a mass celebrated by the Australian Maronite Bishop, then we shared music, food, dancing as well as having the 1st Maronite Wheelchair Hockey competition. Over 700 people came to enjoy the day that was free to all including a huge traditional Lebanese BBQ.

We are all eagerly looking forward to the event for next year with St Joseph's church in Croydon as the host.

(George Ayoub).



Religious & Significant Days 2008

JANUARY

1	Mary, Mother of God	<i>Catholic Christian</i>
	Feast of St Basil	<i>Orthodox Christian</i>
	Gantan- sai (New Year)	<i>Shinto</i>
5	Twelfth Night	<i>Christian</i>
	Birthday of Guru	
	Gobindh Singh Sahib	<i>Sikh</i>
6	Epiphany	<i>Christian</i>
	Christmas	<i>Armenian Christian</i>
7	Nativity of Christ	<i>Orthodox Christian</i>
10	Al-Hijira – Islamic New Year*	<i>Islam</i>
13	Baptism of the Lord Jesus	<i>Christian</i>
	Maghi	<i>Sikh</i>
19	Ashura*	<i>Islam</i>
20	World Religion Day	<i>Baha'i</i>
22	Tu B'shvat*	<i>Jewish</i>
22 - 25	Mahayana Buddhist New Year**	<i>Buddhist</i>

FEBRUARY

2	Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Candlemas)	<i>Christian</i>
5	Shrove Tuesday	<i>Christian</i>
6	Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	<i>Christian</i>
7	Chinese New Year	<i>Confucian/Daoist/ Buddhist</i>
11	Vasant Panchami **	<i>Hindu</i>
15	Nirvana Day**	<i>(Mahayana) Buddhist</i>

Note: * Usually begins sunset the day before; ** local customs may vary this date.

Dates and information largely obtained from the Interfaith Calendar

(www.interfaithcalendar.org/2008.htm).

Detailed explanations about each holy day can be found on MDAA's website on the Frequently Asked Questions page (www.mdaa.org.au)