



VOICE

Newsletter of Ethnic Schools Association of Queensland

SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR FESTIVAL

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UQ Taiko Japanese
Drumming Team



Brisbane Bangla Language
School

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From the President's Desk

Welcome to our third edition of Voice for 2016.

I can hardly believe the year has passed so fast and we are fast approaching Christmas again.

As I mentioned in our earlier edition, we hit the ground running this year and managed to keep Ilona very busy with all our school activities.

Firstly, we had the Final of our PD Sessions with Multicultural Language Teachers Association in March. Congratulations to all those who finished the course.

This was closely followed by our AGM in April. Once again this was a well-attended meeting and we welcomed in our new committee. The new members to join the team are Sandra Mach-Peck from the German Language School and Muguntharaj Subramanian from the Thaai Tamil.

In May we held the Train the Trainer Session with most of our PD session attendees completing this session. Hopefully you have all been able to put into practice what you have learned and feel confident in training your new assistants at your school.

More PD Sessions are in the planning with some workshops designed around the use of the Ipad in the classroom. We are planning to have these early in the new year, depending on availability of the trainer.

21st of August saw the Celebrating Languages and Cultures in Queensland event held at the Coorparoo Secondary College. Wow! This was the very first time that we have undertaken such an event and it was so successful. Of course it could not have been such a success without the team effort of everyone and of course you the schools who put so much time and effort into preparing your students. The stalls were very successful and the student performances were enjoyed by all attendees. Attending dignitaries included Mr & Mrs Serge Voloschenko Chair of ECCQ, Ms. Terri Butler MP Federal Member for Griffith and Mr Duncan Pegg MP State Member for Stretton.

Many thanks to Ilona, our very attentive contact and everything person who made sure the event went smoothly, and Rafiul Alam, who prepared the successful grant application. And for also providing his family for the MC duties. Since the day was such a success, he has applied on behalf of ESAQ for another grant, to produce a similar event in either June or July 2017.

Once again, a big thank you to all of you, as a committee we are so proud of you all.

This year you all had the opportunity to enter your students in two competitions. Firstly, the SBS National Competition

for three levels. Thank you for all those who took part as over 20,000 entries were received. (An article is included in the edition and you will see that Queensland took out the first prize in the junior section.) I was fortunate to be in attendance at the prize presentation in Sydney at the Community Languages National Conference for 2016 on 7th October. (Also an Article re this conference in this edition)

There was a second competition this year conducted by DET. This was the Global Schools Film Competition. It involved schools to make a 2 minute video. This competition was previously just for main stream schools, but this year the AHES were included in a separate section. Support for this competition was not as we expected and may not continue next year. However, we had several entries and hope that the winners will be announced before December.

I have also had the pleasure at being in attendance at several school concerts and I can tell you that the quality of performances is so good that they could compete on an International level. Congratulations to all the parents, teacher, students and friends for all the hard work you put in to make your school and your events so successful.

Once again I invite you to contribute articles for Voice as this is Your Newsletter and an opportunity for you to promote your school's activities.

Like us on Facebook, join us on twitter and watch our web page for other upcoming events. Enjoy this edition and happy 4th term.

Irene Bayldon



Benefits of multicultural celebration for ethnic school students

By Raful Alam

Member of Ethnic Schools Association of Queensland

Brisbane Bangla Language School

First published in the event brochure of Celebrating Languages and Cultures in Queensland. 21/09/2016

Multicultural celebrations provide opportunities for Australians of different backgrounds to come together and experience different cultural traditions, and facilitate greater respect and understanding of diversity.

After Hour Ethnic Schools (AHES) represent various languages and cultures, and the students of these schools are young Australians of many different backgrounds. AHES communities should try to participate in multicultural celebration for number of good reasons. By participating at multicultural event, the AHES students will have opportunity to

- Understand the significance of the day or celebration (e.g. Harmony Day, New Year's Day);
- Showcase their cultural heritage to others which in turn will increase awareness of their own background and others;
- Practise their native language in an enjoyable learning environment (e.g. singing, poem recitation, dancing etc.) while doing rehearsals and performing;
- Improve confidence due to the on-stage performance in front of audience of various backgrounds; and
- Improve personal quality by leading a group of performers or interacting closely with others in a group environment.

Consequently, the AHES students will be more encouraged to learn their languages and cultures, and will learn to respect others' languages and cultures from their young age.

UPDATE: **GLOBAL SCHOOLS FILM COMPETITION**

The following schools have entered this year competition:

Australian Filipino Language and Culture Association

Brisbane Hungarian School

Brisbane Sinhala School

Thank you for your efforts and keep shooting films anyway.

Update in next VOICE about the winner team.

SBS National Languages Competition



Nearly 20,000 students nationwide, aged 4 to 18 years, entered the inaugural SBS National Languages Competition which aims to encourage and celebrate a love of learning languages in Australia. The theme for the 2016 SBS National Languages Competition is 'what does learning language mean to you?' 72 national finalists from across the country were announced on 30 August and one winner from each of the three categories was selected by an SBS judging panel including Director of Audio and Language Content, Mandi Wicks, SBS Arabic24 presenter Heba Kassoua and TV screenwriter, columnist and author Benjamin Law. Community Languages Australia selected 24 entries from the 72 national finalists, who were eligible for the People's Choice Competition. One winner per category was voted by the public between 30 August and 9 September.

Congratulations to the following schools who have entered the competition from Queensland: Australian Filipino Language and Culture Association, Brisbane German Language School, Brisbane Hungarian School, Brisbane Sinhala school, Brisbane Tamil School, Hoa Binh

Vietnamese School, La Chong Vietnamese School, Queensland Association of Hindustani Language school, Rainbow Gold Coast Hungarian School, Sacred Heart Chinese School, Sanatan School of Hindi Language and Culture.

And congratulations to the nine Queensland finalists: Natalie Chung (Sacred Heart Chinese School), Oneth Sugathadasa (Brisbane Sinhala School), Jaanvi Prakash (Sanatan School of Hindi Language and Culture), Fanni Furst (Brisbane Hungarian School), Barnabas Berezvay (Rainbow Hungarian School), Asha Silvester (Australian Filipino Language and Culture Association), Rucith Tameera (Brisbane Sinhala School), Daniella Pham (Hoa Binh Vietnamese School), Serena Yim (Sacred Heart Chinese School)

You can check out all the entries on the SBS website:
<http://www.sbs.com.au/radio/nlc-peoples-choice>

What does learning a language mean to you?

Please complete your drawing in the space provided below.

Which language are you learning? Chinese (Cantonese)



Nathalie Chung (Sacred Heart Chinese School) and her drawing about learning Cantonese. She has received her prize from SBS in Sydney on the 8th October.



Celebrating Languages and Cultures in Queensland



Pegg MP for Stretton representing The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland and Honourable Grace Grace MP Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Multicultural AffairsAnd Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Both politicians emphasised the world changing significance of multiculturalism, especially on the apropos of World Humanitarian Day. A member of the Queensland Rohingya Community shared his experience of arriving to Australia as a refugee and now a university student in Queensland. The Ethnic Communities Council were not only represented by Garry Page, CEO, as well as by Serge Voloschenko, Chairperson of the ECCQ.

The show has started with the UQ Taiko Japanese Drumming Team, and they have created an intense atmosphere where all the audience resonated together. They were followed by a Persian Music Group who have entertained the spectators with traditional Persian love songs. The schools' performances commenced with several productions of the Brisbane Bangla Language Schools, where many ex-students of the school involved in the dances. *Lac Hong Vietnamese School* introduced Vietnamese traditions for the audience with their Drum Dance and Melodies from a Flute.

ESAQ's first festival of that kind was held on the 21 August in the Auditorium of Coorparoo Secondary College. Dr. Raful Alam, the event's main organizer, pulled together a very diverse and entertaining show, where Queensland After Hours Ethnic Schools could showcase their knowledge of their culture and language.

The importance of the event was underlined by the presence of Terri Butler, MP, Federal Member for Griffith (Shadow Assistant Minister for Family Violence and Child Safety, Shadow Assistant Minister for Universities, Shadow Assistant Minister for Equality) and Duncan



The students of the Brisbane German Language School displayed their knowledge of German traditional dances as well as sang about the colours of the rainbow. The entire auditorium gave respect by standing for the national anthem of India which was sung by the students of the Hindustani Language School. It was followed by a scene from Buddha's life acted by the students of *Soma Memorial Damma School*.



Chinese School showcased songs in Chinese. The Brisbane Sinhala School has prepared more dance performances, while the Brisbane Bosnian School performed traditional songs and recited poems in Serbian. The choreography of the Queensland Miao Miao Chinese School was memorable while they have performed a song for the audience.

The day was closed by the interactive show of the Australian Filipino Language and Culture association, where bystanders from the audience were asked to try the challenging folk dance.

In the lunchbreak the audience could enjoy the displays of the Brisbane Sinhala School and the Queensland Miao Miao Chinese School, tasty meals and desserts from the Brisbane Sinhala School. and the Hindustani Language School. The children were also entertained by a **face painter artist** in the break.

After the break the crowd could enjoy the fierce Hungarian dances from the **Tulip Hungarian Dance Group**, daring Tamil martial art, *Silambam*, from the Thaai Tamil School, Tamil folk dance and songs from the Brisbane Tamil School. The Brisbane



Finally, I have to mention the two wonderful MC's of the event **Nushin and Shamaul Alam**, who guided the audience and performers through this action packed few hours without any real disturbances. Thanks to all the performers, it tuned out a professional and entertaining day with your help. Hope to see everyone at ESAQ's next festival!

Ilona Fekete (Photos by Bappi Hussain)

Unity is Strength - III. Conference of Hungarian Teachers Association of Australia

The Hungarian Teachers Association of Australia had its third conference in Melbourne from 23 to 24 September. The Hungarian Teachers Association of Australia was founded in 2013. The Hungarian Teachers Association of Australia (AMPE) is committed to support the professional development of its members, promote Hungarian language learning in Australia. Also committed to support children to learn, taste and live our rich Hungarian culture.



At the conference the association could step ahead in the following areas: preparing a curriculum for Hungarian teachers based on the new Australian Curriculum 8.2. **Maria Dikaiou, Program Manager of Languages**

Curriculum Unit at the Department of Education in Victoria, introduced the new aspects of the language curriculum in Australia, and how these scopes were reflected in the Victorian Curriculum for Roman Alphabet Languages like Hungarian. The other most important agreement was the future extension towards combined and face-to-face language teaching.

Agnes Farkas, Principal of Nebulo Hungarian School in Perth, showed

how their project for bi-weekly online learning had gained support from Office of Multicultural Interests, WA. The online learning program has raised the urgency of a platform, where teachers can share and edit their materials with each other.

Every school had the opportunity to show their "best practice", the methods that have been working in this demanding environment. The biggest problem is differentiating in the ethnic school classroom, so there were some ideas concerning that problem. Krisztina Bartos, who is a teacher of Hungarian as a Foreign Language, shared her experience how bingo game could be used in grammar teaching. It was also shown to the participants of the conference how drama and sound making can help learning and understanding in Hungarian.



As a small community and an even smaller language like the Hungarian, networking and sharing knowledge and teaching techniques are very important to keep the educators' motivation going. All of us were inspired by each other's work and collected new ideas and direction to teach our mother language.

Ilona Fekete (Photos by Balazs Mariczky)



Community Languages Australia National Conference 2016

CLA / AFESA Management committee at their quarterly meeting held in Sydney prior to the National Conference that was hosted by the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools at the Camperdown University of Sydney on the 8th October.

The Conference was attended by over 561 attendees consisting of teachers, teacher's aids, volunteers and school management members. (In the Pictures: left: **AFESA Council members** and right: **International Choir**)



There was a choice from over 37 workshops to choose from. The workshops covered everything from Governance, Technology in the classroom, Behavior management, Creating effective class lessons, Fun language games and activities, How to manage parents, plus we had an opportunity to network with like-minded people.



Congratulations to the Hosts NSW Federation of Community Languages for another successful Conference, maybe next year we will have to look at an even bigger venue if our numbers keep increasing as they did this year.(In the Picture: **Albert Velor, President of NSW Federation of CLS**)

Also this year was the inaugural SBS Languages Competition. The competition aims to encourage and celebrate a love of learning languages in Australia.

SBS and Community Languages Australia (CLA) awarded six national winners across three age categories at the National Conference. Qld had one winner from the Sacred Heart Chinese School. Congratulations to our junior age winner, Natalie Chung.

Irene Bayldon

31 Years Serving the Tamil Language



Umesh and Usha Chandra Publishers of Brisbane Indian Times. Usha is also President GOPIO and Umesh founder and Past President also Myself President of ESAQ and Ramanalingam Nagalingam, Principal of Brisbane Tamil School

Congratulations to everyone involved in this very professional production, compared and delivered by the students from all age groups. And in the background supporting them the teachers and parents with all the things that happen behind the scenes with sound lighting props, costumes and moral support.

All in language and all the drama's scripted by the students. Some old stories brought to life with a modern perspective, plus Cultural dances choreographed by teachers from all three campuses.

This Concert should be put on the Must Attend list as even if you do not understand the language, you enjoy every aspect of the evening. Thank you for inviting ESAQ to attend, as the whole program was excellent. Our Future Leaders are being groomed here.

Irene Bayldon

Brisbane Tamil School has celebrated its 31st Annual Cultural Concert on 10th September 2016 at Indooroopilly State High School.

Brisbane Tamil School was established in 1986 and continues to be Tamil language and cultural learning centre for students from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia & Singapore. Brisbane Tamil School thrive to give highest level of education along with our cultural values to students.

Brisbane Tamil School operates at 3 different locations, namely Holland Park High School, South Port State High School and Darling height State School and currently more than 100 students learning Tamil language from these teaching centres.





SPOTLIGHT

Chanuli Gunasekera

Brisbane Sinhala School

How old are you?

14 in a couple of days.

Since when have you been attending the Brisbane Sinhala School?

Since I was 6 and I am in grade 6 out of the 7 years level there are.

What do you like the most about the classes?

I like that they are interactive and that we are looking at books of the Sinhala language, as well as videos that help to learn.

Are there any other community event when you can meet your class mates and friends?

Yes there are many religious functions, such as Salalanga, which is the biggest Sri Lankan cultural event in Queensland. As well as Buddha's Birthday, and the New Year's Festival.

Is it hard to find books or films in Sinhala for your age?

Not at all. We have a small mobile library that has been organised by our teachers for us at the Sinhala School. We can also find books at the Brisbane city council libraries. Our teachers also give us references for books around that we can buy at the bookshops. There are many films for my age and they are quite entertaining and easy to find.

What had the biggest impact on your knowledge: visiting family, language competitions, and so on?

The biggest impact was to visit my family but competitions helps a lot as well. Also just learning with other peers , and I can help them and learning things from each other. We help students of lower grades and sometimes we read books together or watch videos and talk about their meaning afterwards. I can visit my family once every one or two years, but my family is very diverse so I cannot see much of them. But when I do visit them it is a great way to use the language and new words, to extend my knowledge in the Sinhala language.

Were you involved in any of the films for the Global Schools Film competitions?

I was not participating but I was involved in filming and editing one film. It was great fun, because beside learning new skills in filmmaking, I have learnt about other religions, what people believe in. Also I spent time with other students from my school. I would definitely make another film.

Do you think you will continue your studies at Brisbane Sinhala Schools in the next few years?

Definitely, until I finish high school. It helps me with my schoolwork that I speak another language, it expands my knowledge to think in another language.

Ilona Fekete



Brisbane Sinhala School was founded in 1991 with 26 students at the migrant resource centre in Brisbane and moved to Yungaba at Kangaroo Point shortly after. Mrs Chandra Abeydeera was the first coordinator of the school. The aim of the school is to educate children about the Sri Lankan culture and to develop the Sinhala language skills (speaking, reading and writing).

Currently, the school operates from Dutton park state school premises with around 37 students studying in five levels of classes from preschool to year 7. There are six voluntary teachers including a Sri Lankan music teacher. Brisbane Sinhala School is sponsored by Sinhala Association of Queensland (SAQ).

Building Stronger Communities Grants Program

The Building Stronger Communities Grants Program will provide funding to community-based, not-for-profit organisations to deliver projects that develop or improve their facilities, or improve their governance and long term organisational sustainability. The program provides funds to incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and networks, or unincorporated groups under the auspices of an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.

A community facility is a facility that supports community sport, recreational, cultural and social activities and in doing so, helps provide for the physical, cultural, mental and social wellbeing of the community.

By undertaking a project suitable for the Program, your organisation is helping to achieve the Brisbane Vision 2031 for a friendly and safe, active and healthy, and vibrant and creative city.

There are three categories for funding, with Category One and Two focusing on facility development and maintenance. Category Three focuses on improving organisational development, particularly in the area of effective committee management.

Funding available

Funding is available for up to \$7,500 for Organisational Development grants and up to \$100,000 for Community Facility Maintenance or Development grants.

Funding round dates

Applications for this grant will open on **Monday 10 October 2016** and will

close at midnight on **Monday 6 February 2017**. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by late May 2017.

Eligibility

An applicant should be an incorporated not-for-profit organisation.

An unincorporated not-for-profit organisation may also apply, under the auspices of an incorporated not-for-profit organisation able to accept legal and financial responsibility for the applicant's project.

Applicants must operate within the Brisbane Local Government Area (LGA). Applicants must not have any overdue Council grant acquittals or outstanding debts with Council.

How to apply

Please read the grant guidelines prior to preparing your application. All applications are submitted online. The online application system allows you to save, develop and print out applications before you submit them. If you have any enquiries about your proposal, phone Council on 07 3403 8888 and ask to speak with a Program Officer from the Community Facilities Operations Team.

See more:

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/community-safety/grants-awards/community-grants/building-stronger-communities-grants-program>

AVAILABLE GRANTS For your school and community



WHO ARE WE?

The Ethnic Schools Association of Queensland (ESAQ) Inc is a non-profit, community-based, public organisation whose members provide after-hours language and cultural education for all students, irrespective of their ethnic background. ESAQ has members from different language groups, and liaises with Community Languages Australia (CLA) on behalf of the After Hours Ethnic Schooling Program (AHES).

WHAT IS VOICE?

ESAQ is now offering the opportunity to advertise in our VOICE publication. Your advertising will support the production and distribution of our impressive VOICE newsletter and see your organisation's advertisement reach many target community groups in Queensland. ESAQ also invites every AHES schools to contribute to VOICE and our Facebook sites with articles, photos, events or program suggestions.

Please, like our Facebook page to be in the loop and up-to-date about grants, events, meetings or just share your ideas with fellow teachers.



WHAT ARE ESAQ INC SERVICES AND SUPPORT?

- Promoting activities for the development and benefit of ethnic schools
- Providing help with becoming incorporated
- Information on accessing grants
- Lobbying for recognition and funding
- Promoting the importance of mutual respect for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Coordinating and promoting inter-ethnic school social and cultural activities

ESAQ Inc.

LOCATION:

Queensland LOTE Library

Brisbane School of Distance Education

4 Cavendish Rd, Corner Stanley Street

Coorparoo Qld 4151

PHONE: during office hours (Thursdays 11-16h)

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#ESAQ2016

