

Smaller organisations to benefit from Community Relations grants

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson,

today announced the funding of 56 grants to promote stronger community relations. "For the first time, a total of more than \$260 000 in funding for small grants has been awarded under the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Community Relations program," said Mr Ferguson.

"This is a considerable increase from the \$100 000 as originally planned. We received a large number of quality applications, all demonstrating a strong interest in strengthening social cohesion in their communities.

"The additional funding will assist a greater number of smaller organisations to deliver projects

promoting respect, fairness, inclusion and a sense of belonging for everyone.

"Projects range from mentor support programs to workshops on Australian social norms and laws.

Cultural festivals and events which bring a broad range of people together to celebrate the diversity of local communities have also been funded.

"A Brisbane project will develop peer support networks to encourage newly arrived young people from Sudan to participate in the local community and give them a sense of belonging in their new home.

"In Whyalla, South Australia, a football club has been awarded funding to enable the local

Indigenous community to participate in the life of the club, not only as players, but also in management

and as committee members. This project will also involve cultural awareness training for the club's non-Indigenous members," the Parliamentary Secretary said.

Mr Ferguson said that all projects were a great opportunity for people to become more involved in their local communities and discover the benefits of cultural diversity. Successful applicants will receive between \$1 300 and \$5 000 in funding, depending on the scope of the project. Priority was given to projects working with new and emerging communities, youth and those involving Indigenous Australians.

A full list of the successful 2008 Community Relations Small Grants funded projects can be found at <http://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Wild about Waratahs!



Designed to celebrate our State's floral emblem and inspire a love of Waratahs in the wild, this annual festival has a vibrant program running from Saturday 20 September to Sunday 5 October 2008.

Opening at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden on Bells Line of Road on the Saturday, the festival begins with a magnificent display of Waratah competition blooms – including the rare whites – from commercial growers across New South Wales. Highly contested, visitors can view the pick of the crop as growers vie for the title of Champion

Bloom. The visitor centre is set to be transformed as the display of competition blooms are set against the backdrop of the artwork of local school children participating in the Wild Waratah Woodland art competition. With the addition of Waratah inspired ceramic works and jewellery by professional artists, information panels and with expert growing advice on offer, visitors can immerse themselves in the world of the Waratah.

There's also plenty of off-site action. Join the free 'Wonderful Wild Waratah Discovery Walk' led by a National Parks and Wildlife Discovery Ranger on Sunday 27 September. This easy-medium grade walk takes you into the eastern side of the Wollemi National Park to search for Waratahs in the wild. You will hear fascinating dreamtime legends focusing on the relationship between Waratahs and other native plants and animals. Bookings are essential and can be secured by calling the National Parks and Wildlife Service on (02) 4787 8877 (then press 1).

Want to learn the tricks to growing commercial grade waratahs? Hosts Frank and Ros Allatt will be opening their local property Gadara Wildflowers to the public on Sunday 28 September. Enjoy a tour of the plantation and the opportunity to hear secrets to successfully growing waratahs. The track to the plantation is fairly steep so good walking shoes

are recommended.

The ancient Waratah will be joined by the dinosaurs this spring with the commencement of the Devouring Dinosaurs and Monstrous Muttaborrasaurus Adventure Quest. Visitors can find out about Australian dinosaurs and mega fauna during this self-guided family activity. The quest takes about an hour to complete and each quest wins a small prize.

Children also have the opportunity to join the school holiday activity Dinosaur Dioramas and Gumnut Monster Worlds. With sessions scheduled for Thursday 2 October and Wednesday 8 October, visitors can create their own plant monster-piece out of a diverse array of plant materials from the Garden. Places are limited and bookings are essential.



Media Alert

Youth to pave the way against music piracy

Crime Stoppers Australia is empowering 9 to 15 year olds to create a solution to combat music piracy. According to industry research, close to 70 per cent of Australians agree illegal file sharing is stealing, but only half of all 14 to 24 year olds agree with this statement.

For the first time, Crime Stoppers Austrorussian Government.com.au also available at the lia is engaging youth to design their own music piracy awareness campaign through a school competition. The campaign aims to raise awareness and educate young people on the ethical implications of music piracy, and the detrimental effects it has on the Australian music industry. Attorney-General Robert McClelland says, "This school competition will help educate young people about the impact music piracy has on the Australian music industry. It encourages children to engage in a creative activity and thereby gain an appreciation of the creative process and its value."

Frank Hardcase has been created as an animated investigative journalist on a campaign to bust the myth that music piracy is a victimless crime. Nine to 15 year olds are asked to submit a creative piece of work in response to Frank Hardcase's report. This could be a short story, TV news script, poster or short film. The prizes for the winning submission in each of the three categories include a \$1000 grant for the school and a \$500 Ticketek voucher for the student/s behind the winning submission. Host of Video Hits on Channel 10, Faustina Agolley (otherwise known as "Fuzzy"), will be one of the judges for the competition. "If you want to continue to enjoy great music, you can do your bit by spreading the word that illegally downloaded music is not on. I would like to encourage everyone to enter the competition and by doing so, gain a better understanding of what creative people do and the effects of music piracy," Fuzzy said.

"I am looking forward to seeing some great creative talent from our schools and will enjoy the opportunity to judge this worthwhile competition," said Fuzzy. Research in the United States of America suggests at least 20 per cent of illegal downloads would have otherwise been purchased legitimately. In Australia, this suggests that illegal file-sharing causes lost sales of at least 200 million digital tracks per annum, compared with growth in the legitimate market of only 19 million tracks in 2007.

