

Father of multicultural communications honoured in Queen's Birthday list

The pioneer of multicultural communications in Australia has been recognised in the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Joseph Assaf has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to multiculturalism, to business in the field of marketing and communications, and the community as a supporter of a range of charitable organisations.

In many ways, Joseph's story echoes the experience of all migrants who come to Australia seeking a brighter future.

He uttered his first words in Arabic, undertook his schooling in French, migrated to an English speaking country, and married an Italian.

This Lebanese immigrant writes about his experiences in the book, *In Someone Else's Shoes*, launched by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008.

After working long hard hours in factories, in 1977 Joseph established Ethnic Communications, the world's first integrated multi-lingual communications agency.

A decade later, he founded the prestigious Ethnic Business Awards which celebrates its 22nd year in 2010.

The awards will be telecast on SBS, the Australian Network and Aurora channel on November 7.



Joseph Assaf

His hugely successful concept of how to communicate with, and manage, culturally and linguistically diverse audiences led him to establish companies which provide services to clients trying to reach people for whom English is a second language.

"It is a tremendous honour to receive this award", Mr Assaf said.

"To me, it is recognition of the important role all migrants have played in building this great nation".



Child Care Week celebrated across NSW

Child Care Week has been celebrated across NSW from the 22nd – 29th May 2010. (with an extension to 11.6.10 due to the wet weather experienced). The purpose was to recognise the importance of early learning and acknowledges the professionals who dedicate their time for the benefit of children.

At Aero Kids Early Learning Centre a variety of experiences were available throughout the week.

Joanne Buckley, Director of the centre said;

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life and Child Care Week is the time for our local community to recognise that early years are learning years for all young children."

Parents depend on high-quality education and care to give their young children a better start in life, and it is early learning centres that can bring these lasting benefits to children of the local community.

Early learning centres around the state contributed to Child Care Week by presenting a variety of experiences. Aero Kids Early Learning Centre held a family BBQ on Sunday 23rd and hosted an "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" at the centre; launched its 2010 Family Cookbook autographed by Neil Perry; and had Aaron Jeffrey at the centre doing story telling and planting a tree.

Other activities across the week included an excursion for children in the Whales room to the Mascot Child Dental Clinic; an African drumming session; a cooking session with "Athena" and special guest chief, Katrina Hollis; and educational workshops with the children on specialty areas such as worm farming, water safety, first aid and emergency services - including Mascot Police, the Fire Brigade and NSW Ambulance. The week wrapped up with a visit from Sunny from The Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick to be presented with a cheque for \$1000 for monies raised during Child Care Week through children's art sales and raffles.

Aero Kids Early Learning Centre provides high-quality early learning and care for children between the ages of 6 weeks and 6 years. They provide a range of experiences and learning opportunities in a safe and educational home-like environment.

For further information about Aero Kids please call centre Director Joanne Buckley or Enrolment Co-Ordinator Poppy Tsounias on 9693 2243.

UN pushes for progress in Cyprus talks

The Security Council pressed Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders on Tuesday to speed up reunification talks and renewed the mandate of the UN force on the divided island for another six months.

Fourteen of the council's 15 members backed a resolution urging the two sides to take advantage of recent progress "by intensifying the momentum of negotiations, preserving the current atmosphere of trust and goodwill and engaging in the process in a constructive and open manner."

The lone vote against came from Turkey, with its ambassador Ertugrul Apakan objecting that some of the language in the text was formulated as if there were "only one side in the dispute."

The resolution, sponsored by Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, also extended the mandate of the UN peace-keeping force (UNFICYP), which expired on Tuesday, until next December 15.

UNFICYP has been patrolling the Mediterranean island's ceasefire line since 1964. UN envoy Alexander Downer voiced hope early this month that the inter-communal talks could be concluded by year's end.

And UN chief Ban Ki-moon has warned Cypriot leaders that time is running out for a peace deal, but expressed confidence an agreement can be reached in coming months.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded the northern third in response to an Athens-engineered Greek Cypriot coup aimed at union with Greece.

A UN-backed reunification plan in 2004 was scrapped after being rejected by Greek Cypriots but backed by Turkish Cypriots.

The breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is only recognised by Turkey, which maintains troops on the Turkish Cypriot side.

AFP

Modern Greek Studies Association, Australia and N. Zealand (MGSAANZ) 10th Biennial Conference

Over thousands of years Greek culture has spread to many foreign peoples – through language, medicine and sciences, philosophy, art and culture, archaeology, architecture and politics which Greek civilization has given to the world.

Greek culture has survived from the 3rd millennium BC., when the original Hellenes first arrived in the area now known as Greece. Despite many wars, foreign occupations and other threats to its culture, Hellenism has survived. Today, however, we question its future. How will Hellenism survive in a globalised



world? The paramount question is: What do we mean by the concept of Hellenism?

This will be discussed by academics in the field of Greek Studies as well as members of

the wider academic community at the biennial conference of the Modern Greek Studies Association, Australia and New Zealand, to be held in December 2010. You can play an important role in this debate and help to develop an understanding of what the future holds for Hellenism in tomorrow's world. These discussions will help decision makers shape successful policies and programs to ensure Hellenism prospers in the future.

For more information visit <http://www.eurolang.mq.edu.au/conferences/Greek/index.html>.