



Earth Day

The Ethnic Communities Sustainable Living Project (ECSLP) is supporting a variety of Earth Hour events to encourage Sydney's diverse communities to "Go Beyond the Hour". The aim of project to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of ways to live more sustainably.

A work shop was conducted with the Greek Liverpool Mature Aged Group, in Greek, on 16/03/2011 by Antonia Kapsalis, Bilingual Community Educator.

The aim for this workshop was, to create awareness and understanding in the Greek Community for Energy Conservation & opportunity to share ideas.

Also, included in the workshop was an activity facilitated by educator Antonia, which was (Candle making) "Participants said, they will use their candles for their family's candle light dinner on "Earth Hour" 26/03/11 at 8.30-9.30pm as a token to show their respect for the environment.

'DRIVE LONGER, DRIVE SAFELY WORKSHOP'

Helping Seniors Refresh Their On-Road Skills

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Cr Robert Furolo MP, is encouraging seniors to freshen up their on-road skills and knowledge of road safety at the Drive Longer, Drive Safely Workshop on Thursday 31 March. "With the proportion of our ageing population increasing, it is important that during Seniors Week, we encourage them to freshen up their knowledge of road skills and road safety," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

"The Bureau of Statistics projects that by 2036, the number of people in NSW aged 85 or over will have rocketed from 1.6 per cent to 3.9 per cent and one in four people will be aged 65 or over.

"These statistics are reflected on our roads, with the number of drivers aged 65 or over expected to double by 2030. "Whilst most seniors were safe drivers, RTA statistics indicate that the number of older drivers dying on the roads is increasing.

"For drivers aged 80 and over, the most common crashes are intersection crashes, where the older driver is turning right across the traffic, and crashes where the vehicle drives off the road.

"The theme of Seniors Week is Live Life, and whilst the focus has been to live life to its fullest, it is also important to live a healthy and safe life.

"This Drive Longer, Drive Safely Workshop is designed to inform older drivers with latest changes to the road rules, and improve their thinking, on-road skills and knowledge of road and pedestrian safety.

"This is an important initiative in building and maintaining safety awareness among our older road users and essential to ensure they remain active and independent," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

More Information

The Drive Longer, Drive Safely Workshop will be held at Ashbury Senior Citizens Centre, 66 Princess Street Ashbury from 10.00am – 12.00 Noon on Thursday 31 March. Places are strictly limited and bookings are essential. For more information or to book, contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 9789 9571.

Australia Celebrated Harmony Day 2011

Australia's cultural diversity has been celebrated across the nation yesterday as a record number of Harmony Day events were staged in local areas in every state and territory.

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen, said Harmony Day is a day for all Australians to come together and reflect on what makes our nation great.

"Harmony Day is a time to celebrate our nation's diversity and share what we have in common," Mr Bowen said.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Senator Kate Lundy, said Harmony Day celebrations have increased in popu-

larity since the first Harmony Day in 1999 and communities have continued to make the day their own.

"This year's celebration has been the biggest and best yet, with a record number of people getting behind Harmony Day and embracing the annual event.

"Hundreds and thousands of Australians will show their support for the diversity of our nation and with more than 6100 events staged by community groups, businesses, schools, government agencies and councils throughout Australia.

"One of the wonderful aspects of Harmony Day is that communities themselves decide on how they would like to mark the occasion, showing their support for

the diversity of our nation and the strength of our communities."

On 16 February, the Minister announced Australia's new multicultural policy, The People of Australia. The policy makes a clear, strong and positive statement about the Government's aim to ensure Australia values the benefits of cultural diversity, national unity, and community harmony.

"Australia's successful multicultural society and our democracy are built around shared rights and responsibilities that are fundamental to living in Australia and that's what Harmony Day is all about," Mr Bowen said. For more information on Harmony Day visit:

www.harmony.gov.au

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

New Cultural Burial Grounds and Free Office Space for Community Groups

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will release 90 new hectares of cultural burial grounds and provide free office space for multicultural community groups – as part of the Celebrating Our Diversity package.

This follows last week's announcement that a re-elected Labor Government will build a \$17 million Museum of Immigration and Multiculturalism to promote cultural diversity and solidarity.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will:

- Release 90 hectares of cultural burial grounds to allow families to observe their cultural and religious beliefs;

- Provide free shared office space at Parramatta for community groups with no regular working or meeting place; and

- Continue \$1.7 million funding each year for the Community Relations Commission, community organisations and events.

The new and expanded burial grounds will be located at Castlereagh, Appin, Rookwood Cemetery, Kemps Creek and Mona Vale cemetery.

"A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will release 90 hectares of land across Sydney to ensure suitable burial grounds are available to people of all faiths when a loved one passes away," Ms Keneally said.

"This will allow families to observe their religious and cultural beliefs during the difficult time of the passing of a loved one."

In addition, a re-elected Keneally Government will provide free shared office space in Parramatta for community groups with no regular working or meeting place.

"Labor understands that community organisations, especially those that rely on volunteers and fundraising, experience difficulties with the cost of office rent and maintenance," Ms Keneally said.

"If re-elected, we will provide more than 170 square metres of shared community office space in Parramatta for community groups to use – so they can provide even better services to the communities they represent."

Celebrating Our Diversity builds on the Keneally Government initiatives to support culturally diverse communities, including:

- Doubling the funding for Community Language Schools by \$8.1 million – to help children retain the language of their parents and grandparents;



- Increasing the number of migrants nominated to live and work in NSW each year, attracting the world's best and brightest;

- Increasing the number of Commissioners on the Community Relations Commission, giving more communities a voice in Government;

- Funding and supporting key community groups, festivals and events so multicultural communities can celebrate their culture and heritage; and

- Supporting the Federal Ethnic Communities Council of Australia's Reclaim Multiculturalism campaign.

"The Keneally Labor Government believes NSW is a more prosperous and a more successful society because of our diversity," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"Labor was one of the first political parties in Australia to refuse preferences to One Nation in 1998 and we will continue that principled stand and refuse to give preferences or do a deal in the upper house with Pauline Hanson.

"On the other hand, Barry O'Farrell has pre-selected former One Nation member Chris Spence as the Liberal candidate for The Entrance.

"It is shameful Barry O'Farrell has welcomed Mr Spence into the Liberal party.

"The NSW Labor Government has a proud history of working with and supporting the culturally diverse communities in NSW – a Liberal Government will put all of this excellent work at risk."