

Joining our neighbourhood



*The Hon Virginia Judge MP, Minister for Citizenship with Pino Migliorino,
Managing Director Cultural Perspectives*

04

Awards Recognising the
Linguistic and Cultural Assets of
New South Wales

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The Community Relations Commission has led the way in ensuring that the significant contribution of successive groups of immigrants to the life and economy of New South Wales is acknowledged and celebrated.

As a result, there are now a number of well-established Awards presented and/or supported by New South Wales Government agencies and local councils which aim to **recognise the linguistic and cultural assets of our society and promote the benefits of our cultural diversity** (Principle 4, Principles of Multiculturalism, *Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000*).

An outline of the main Awards presented in 2008 follows. These Awards highlight some exceptional and inspiring contributions from our culturally diverse community to public life in New South Wales.

National Multicultural Marketing Awards

The National Multicultural Marketing Awards were established in 1990 by the then Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The Awards focus attention on the social and economic value of our multicultural society. They aim to promote among businesses targeted marketing to a culturally diverse clientele, promote a more equitable representation of the nation's diversity through the mass media, and facilitate their contribution to society.

The sponsors of the 2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards were: The Australian, Integral Energy, CMC Markets, Commonwealth Bank, Yellow Tail, The Westin Sydney, Microsoft, and Qantas.

- ▶ The **Grand Prize and Advertising Award** of the **2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** were jointly conferred to two Sydney-based marketing companies, **Cultural Perspectives** and **BMF (Brown Melhuish Fishlock) Sydney**, which undertook the advertising campaign for the 2007 Federal election. Each finalist effectively targeted diverse audiences, ensuring that all Australians were able to make informed choices based on accessible advice and information. As a result, their campaigns increased democratic participation across all ethnic communities, boosted enrolments and turn-out, lowered the informal vote, and stimulated debate in the ethnic media.
- ▶ The **Commercial Big Business** prize of the **2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** went to the international money transfer company **Western Union**, for the extraordinary results of its well targeted and culturally relevant Mother's Day promotion campaign. Western Union cleverly worked with the idea that many immigrants felt separated from their mothers,



The Hon Virginia Judge, Minister for Citizenship and Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairperson, Community Relations Commission with the winners of the National Multicultural Marketing Awards: (left to right) Rekha Sanghi, Senior Communications Consultant, Cultural Perspectives; Pino Migliorino, Managing Director, Cultural Perspectives; Faye Spiteri, Practice Manager, Melbourne; Andrew Champion, Communications Consultant; Kristine Giddy, Senior Research Consultant; Deanna Chapman, Business Manager; Natalie Jurisic, Senior Research Consultant.

who remained in their country of origin, and that Mothers' Day was the perfect occasion to electronically transfer money home. Western Union's business model was originally built on immigrants sending money back to their home countries, and this marketing campaign was targeted by language and culture.

- ▶ **The Integral Energy Community Award of the 2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was granted to the **Arab Film Festival** organised by Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) and held in Western Sydney. The festival was a runaway success on a tiny budget, assisted by clever dissemination techniques. The organising community arts group was amazed by its own success, based on the quality of the films and a creative, low-cost marketing campaign which spread the word through multi-media (newspapers, television and radio, both Arabic and mainstream), as well as meeting places and cafés.

- ▶ **The Export Prize of the 2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was won by the **Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA)** company, which is a subsidiary of the Queensland Government's Event Corporation. The recipient promotes excellence in film over the Asia Pacific region and honours film-makers across an area covering four billion people, one third of the earth's surface, and half the world's population. In this case, Australia has exported its prestige in the film industry, its position in Asia, its cultural diversity, and its language skills. Winners of the 2008 Screen Awards included films from Iran, India, Korea, Turkey, and Australia.

- ▶ The **Government Category** prize of the **2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was presented to the students of **South Strathfield High School** (82% of whom are from a non-English speaking background) for their 30-minute film – *we are all Australian* – shot in collaboration with Windsor High School (whose students are largely from an English-speaking background). The film records their interaction in relation to issues of religion, hairstyles, respect and disrespect, homosexuality, appearance, clothing, head scarves and accents. The film reveals the students' initial prejudices and fears about others who are different, and shows these perceptions change over the course of a year, as they realise how small their differences are.

- ▶ The **Small Business Category** prize of the **2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was won by **Multicultural Arts Victoria** for its music festival **Mix It Up** which celebrated Victoria's cultural diversity. The festival was cleverly marketed and attracted 47,000 people to watch 800 artists from 23 ethnic backgrounds in nearly one hundred events. **Mix It Up** achieved the goal of moving music and performances brought to Australia by immigrants into the main arts agenda. It also changed attitudes towards multicultural performances away from the stereotypical image of folkloric dancing, and into the mainstream performing arts.

- ▶ The **Microsoft Information Technology Category** prize of the **2008 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was granted to an internet portal which delivers in any language. This is an easily accessible internet solution, collectively devised by Australia's State and Territory major libraries and information services to meet the ever increasing demand for multilingual information. The project uses clever marketing techniques, as well as tapping into culturally and linguistically diverse resources, such as Australian native speakers of numerous languages.

Community Relations Commission's Volunteer Awards

The annual Volunteer Awards of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW publicly acknowledge and reward, on behalf of the State Government, beneficial voluntary work rendered by individuals, which enhances the well-being of our diverse society and improves appreciation of our heritage and the culture of others. These Awards also recognise the achievements of individuals whose voluntary contributions have been directed towards welfare and settlement services, community language schools, and the promotion of greater cross-cultural understanding through the hosting of ethno-specific events and celebrations.

Community Relations Commission Lifetime Achievement in Community Service Award 2008

- ▶ **Mr Pavlo Czudakewycz**, a post-war immigrant who has given 60 years of dedicated service to the Ukrainian and wider communities in New South Wales, was presented with the **Community Relations Commission Lifetime Achievement in Community Services Award 2008**. Mr Czudakewycz has served in nearly all aspects of Ukrainian community life, from school, church,



The Hon Virginia Judge, Minister for Citizenship and Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chairperson, Community Relations Commission with the winners and highly commended volunteers at the Awards: (left to right) Vandana Ram (representing her father Kalayan Ram), Shula Endre-Walder, Ken Habak, Sam Almaliki, Samah Hadid, Minoo Batiwalla (representing Dr Ervad Peshotan Katrak), Mr Pavlo Czudakewycz.

youth, sport, community credit, and aged care, to being the director of the Ukrainian Studies Foundation, actively raising funds for numerous causes, and singing in the Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir for six decades.

Community Relations Commission Volunteer of the Year Award 2008

- ▶ **Mr Ken Habak** was presented with the **Community Relations Commission Volunteer of the Year Award 2008** for his outstanding contribution in the community sector within the Illawarra area for over 35 years. Mr Habak is one of the founding members of the Australian Lebanese Association of New South Wales and has assisted in the settlement of families into the Illawarra since the 1970s. An active member and chairperson of the Illawarra Ethnic Communities' Council for more than eight years, Mr Habak has worked tirelessly to establish strong foundations and negotiate partnerships in order to attract culturally appropriate aged care, arts and youth funding to benefit culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the region.

Community Relations Commission Community Service Award 2008

- ▶ **Mrs Shula Endre-Walder** was named the winner of the **Community Relations Commission Community Service Award 2008**. Mrs Endre-Walder arrived in Australia in 1957 and, from her teenage years, volunteered as a youth leader, coaching immigrant children in maths, science and Hebrew. She became known as the Pink Lady of the Prince of Wales Hospital, reading stories and distributing toys to young patients of its oncology and leukaemia wards. Mrs Endre-Walder also established a Bone Marrow Donor Registry for ethnic communities and, in conjunction with the Red Cross, set up School Blood Collection Centres for students over the age of 16.

Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2008

- ▶ **Ms Samah Hadid** was the winner of the **Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2008**, for her dedication to improving services for young people at local, national and international levels. Her community work has evolved from her membership of the Muslim Women's Association from the age of 15. Ms Samah Hadid is a powerful public speaker and writer, who works to improve youth and multicultural policy at all levels of government, including as a delegate to the Prime Minister's 2020 Summit.

Premier's Chinese Community Service Awards

The Premier's Chinese Community Service Awards were established by the New South Wales Premier in 2005 for the purpose of publicly recognising the significant community and philanthropic drive prevailing among members of the Chinese-Australian community, and their valuable contribution to the State.

Victor Chang Community Service Award 2008

Award presented in honour of Dr Victor Chang, a pioneer of modern heart transplantation in Australia and founder of the National Heart Transplant Unit at the St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. The Award is conferred upon individuals who demonstrate exemplary dedication to addressing particular needs in the Chinese-Australian community.

- ▶ **Mrs Sylvia Sau Yung Tinyow** was the winner of this Award for her work with the Chinese Parents Association – Children with Disabilities Inc for the past 19 years. As a co-founder of the Association in 1988, Mrs Tinyow has assisted children and adults with disabilities to realise their full potential. As president and vice-president of the organisation for several years, she has worked for the needs and well-being of people with disabilities and their families.

Jack Wong Sue Award for Voluntary Service Beyond the Chinese Community 2008

Award instituted as a tribute to the World War II hero Jack Wong Sue, from the joint British, Australian and New Zealand commando 'Z Special Unit', and is presented to individuals for their outstanding community service in the wider Australian community.

- ▶ This Award was granted to the **Hon Helen Sham-Ho** for her longstanding advocacy in the areas of education, youth issues, and social justice. Mrs Sham-Ho was Australia's first China-born parliamentarian in New South Wales and has gone on to use her considerable knowledge

and experience to directly benefit the wider Australian community. Mrs Sham-Ho graduated in Social Work and in Law, and has worked in both professions. In 1990 she was appointed to the Inaugural Board of Governors of the University of Western Sydney as a representative of the Legislative Council of New South Wales. She was also a member of the Councils of both Macquarie University and the University of Technology, Sydney.

Quong Tart Lifetime Achievement in Community Service Award 2008

Awarded in memory of Mr Quong Tart, a Chinese-Australian businessman acknowledged for his many philanthropic endeavours in the Ashfield and broader Sydney areas in the 19th century. The Award is conferred upon individuals who have worked for social causes both within and outside the Chinese-Australian community, and have had significant impact on the public and cultural life of our State.

- ▶ **Mr Frank Chou** was granted this Award for his 20 years' service to the community as founding President of the Teo Chew Association. The Association was established in 1988 as a charity to provide a range of settlement services to new immigrants. Mr Chou has served eight terms as President of the Association, which has grown to several thousand members participating in two clubs and eight community groups. Mr Chou has been directly involved in the placing of the returned servicemen's monument at Darling Harbour and the Chinese New Year Cultural Parade. He was made Honorary Citizen of Cabramatta in 1990, awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1999 as well as the Community Charity Services Award from the New South Wales Premier in 2003.

Young Chinese Volunteer Award 2008

Awarded to individuals under 25 years of age to publicly acknowledge the essential role played by young people as volunteers in the community and their influence in enhancing the well-being of others.

- ▶ This Award was conferred upon **Ms Yee-Ting Michelle Chan** for her active participation in a range of community projects as President of the Oatley Leo Club since 2005, including the Oatley Lions Festival and Music in the Park, the Lions Deaf and Diabetes Camp for Children, and regular entertainment activities in the local nursing home. The Oatley Leo Club has supported fundraising activities such as Jeans for Genes Day and the Red Shield Appeal, in addition to regular Lions Club fundraising barbeques. Whilst under Ms Chan's leadership, the Oatley Leo Club received the Leo Club Excellence Award 2005–06 which recognises outstanding achievement in humanitarian service, fundraising and leadership.

Poetry, Literature and Film Awards

The Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW Poetry Award 2008

The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Award is one of the oldest national competitions for children and young people in Australia, and is presented in memory of the famous poet to the most inspiring and imaginative poetic works submitted. The award is associated with National Literacy and Numeracy Week and is sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Education and State agencies.

- ▶ The 2008 **Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW** prize was awarded to eight year old **Rory Burg**, from Kingswood College of Box Hill in Victoria, for his poem titled “**A Painting of the Universe**”.

Community Relations Commission New South Wales Premier’s Literary Award 2008

This Award is conferred upon writers who have made noteworthy contributions to Australian literature, theatre, film, radio or television in representing either the settlement experience or the interweaving of cultures in Australia’s culturally diverse society.

- ▶ **The Community Relations Commission New South Wales Premier’s Literary Award 2008** was granted to **Mr Jacob G. Rosenberg** for his work *Sunrise West*, a harrowing account of life in Nazi concentration camps and an uplifting narrative about migration and the difficult journey to survive, rebuild a life and even flourish. The work reflects the hope which refugees bring to Australia, and the opportunity Australia offers for a life of peace, harmony and fulfilment. Mr Rosenberg’s *Sunrise West* adds a valuable contribution to Australian written history.

Community Relations Commission’s Dendy Short Film Award 2008

Forming part of the annual Sydney Film Festival Dendy Short Film Awards, the Community Relations Commission Award recognises films which reflect the multicultural experience of Australia, by dealing with the immigration and settlement process, cultural and linguistic diversity, or cross-cultural settings. The Award has been part of the Dendy Short Film competition since 1992 and has attracted outstanding examples of social history.

- ▶ **The Community Relations Commission’s Dendy Short Film Award 2008** was granted to **296 Smith Street**, a film directed by John Evagora and produced by Jorge Tsadilas. It has been described as a sample of life in a suburban shopping street, which reflects the day-to-day reality of cultural diversity. The film ignores stereotypical attitudes towards races, and portrays positive human qualities, demonstrating that both the good and bad in people transcend cultural difference. The film provides valuable insights into intra-community relations.

The Inaugural Young Women of the West Award

This inaugural Award is an initiative of the **University of Western Sydney** in partnership with the **Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils** to specifically recognise the leadership qualities of young women aged 18–28.



The 2008 Inaugural Young Women of the West Award winner, Lavinia Vaifo'ou with Professor Janice Reid, Vice-Chancellor University of Western Sydney (left) and Barbara Gapps, Vice-President WSROC (right)

- ▶ The **2008 Inaugural Young Women of the West Award** was conferred upon **Lavinia Vaifo'ou** for her advocacy of the needs and rights of young people, particularly those of Pacific heritage, from the young age of 14. Her vision was first recognised when she was named as Blacktown's Young Citizen of the Year in 2006. Currently 18 years old and working as a teacher's aide at Bidwill Primary School, Ms Vaifo'ou was chosen for the Award in recognition of her leadership abilities.

The NSW Sports Safety Awards

On behalf of the State Government, the **NSW Sporting Injuries Committee** coordinates the annual **NSW Sports Safety Awards** which publicly recognise and reward outstanding achievements in the research and prevention of sports injuries, as well as in the adoption of safe sport practices by sporting organisations and schools.

The following awards were granted in 2008 to New South Wales sporting organisations for their safe sport projects with a multicultural impact:

2008 Gold Award in the State Category for Outstanding Education and Promotion of Safe Sports Practices

- ▶ Conferred upon **Surf Life Saving NSW** for its *On the Same Wave Program*, which was established after the events of December 2005 at Cronulla to work with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and promote safety amidst diversity on beaches across Australia.

Given the success of this program in 2007, a resource kit was developed in 2008 to assist surf clubs to deliver the surf safety message to the general multicultural community, and to make it easier to respond to the needs of particular ethnic groups.

The resource kit consists of two CDs, which include tips on lesson plans and risk assessments. It also includes surf safety brochures translated into 18 languages, as well as surf safety posters and recruitment material in Chinese and Arabic. The program is now being implemented nationwide.

2008 Silver Award in the State Category for Outstanding Education and Promotion of Safe Sports Practices

- ▶ Won by **The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia – NSW Branch** for its *Grey Medallion Course – Never too young to learn. Never too old to start*, which addresses the risk of drowning among the older population in response to projections that, by 2020, there will be seven million people in Australia aged over 55 years.

The Grey Medallion program was launched in April 2008 and courses have been running throughout metropolitan and regional New South Wales, consisting of four components: Water Safety Knowledge, Resuscitation and Emergency Care, Aquatic Exercise, and Personal Survival and Lifesaving Skills.

An Arabic Course was conducted at Condell Park Pool and a Greek Course at Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. Chinese and Italian Medallion Courses are planned for Sydney.

New South Wales Volunteer of the Year Award 2008

The New South Wales Volunteer of the Year Award was developed in 2007 by the Centre for Volunteering with the support of the Government of New South Wales. Both the State Award and its regional awards recognise and publicly acknowledge on an annual basis the invaluable work contributed to the community by hundreds of thousands of volunteer workers.

- ▶ **Ms Shu Fen Wang** was named as the **2008 New South Wales Volunteer of the Year**, and the 2008 Sydney Inner West Volunteer of the Year, for her decade of work with the West Region Chinese Association. Ms Wang has organised multicultural, social and educational activities, formed a successful choir, and promoted immigrants' participation in environmental protection. Ms Wang has also helped the elderly of Asian background, particularly in the inner-west of Sydney. Her significant contribution to multiculturalism in New South Wales is likewise acknowledged.

New South Wales Government Heritage Volunteer Awards 2008

The **Heritage Volunteer Awards** are run by the **Heritage Branch** of the NSW Department of Planning to publicly acknowledge exceptional volunteer services of individuals or community groups in protecting, managing and promoting the heritage of New South Wales as a State. There were 23 recipients of the Award in 2008 from across the State.

- ▶ **Mr Jan Mees and Ms Ankie Dupree** won one of the New South Wales Government Heritage Volunteer Awards 2008 for their volunteer services to the State's Dutch-Australian community. Jan's late partner for 30 years, Ankie, became a pillar of the Dutch-Australian community, serving her local community and promoting Australia's multicultural heritage. Jan has been a popular, hard-working volunteer, serving his community with dedication in numerous roles, both in Sydney and Newcastle, for decades.

Department of Education and Training – Multicultural Awards

The Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Languages School Students of the Year 2008

These awards are presented annually by the **Department of Education and Training's Community Languages Program**, and recognise students' proficiency in a community language, intercultural understanding, contributions to the school community, and leadership in the community.

In 2008, a total of 305 nominations were received from 49 different language groups ranging from Arabic to Vietnamese. This year's winners of the **Minister's Award** were:

▶ **Senior Section**

Huy Gia Chu	Vietnamese
Alex Park	Korean
Vasan Sivaanandah	Tamil
Erica Tsang	Chinese – Cantonese
Alan Yeung	Chinese – Cantonese and Mandarin

▶ **Junior Section**

Chantal Dalger	Arabic
Phoebe Claire Lavan	Chinese – Mandarin
Vicky Panayidis	Greek
Dragoljub Paunovic	Serbian
Sonia Alexandra Szarycz	Polish

Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition

The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition aims to increase awareness of Australia's cultural diversity among primary school students in New South Wales, while developing their interest and skills in public speaking. Through research and class based activities, students in New South Wales public schools are provided with opportunities to explore complex issues related to multiculturalism, and to express their ideas to wider audiences.

*The competition requires each participant to deliver both an impromptu and a prepared speech, at the local and regional level, on topics related to cultural diversity and community harmony. The program is coordinated by **the Arts Unit and the Multicultural Programs Unit** of the Department of Education and Training.*

The winners in 2008 were:

- ▶ Years 3 and 4 – **Angus Macdonald**, from **Ironbark Ridge Public School**
(A total of 1,053 public school students took part in the competition at this level)
- ▶ Years 5 and 6 – **Jayden Moynahan**, from **Ironbark Ridge Public School**
(A total of 1,116 public school students participated in this category)

Cohesive Community School Award 2008

The Cohesive Community School Award recognises outstanding achievement and contribution by a school or a group of schools in promoting a cohesive community. It rewards schools that have made a significant difference in promoting social harmony and unity.

- ▶ **Sarah Redfern High School** of Minto was granted the **Cohesive Community School Award 2008** for providing outstanding leadership to its local community and becoming a calming influence and a centre of community pride and reconstruction at a challenging time. Sarah Redfern High School has given its community not only direction, but also an appreciation of its rich and culturally and linguistically diverse population. It has established itself as a central agency in the Minto community.

The establishment of a Garden of Healing in the school grounds for students and members of the local community has provided a place of peace and quiet reflection. The joint development of programs, such as sports traineeships for Year 11 and 12 students, musical tuition for students from disadvantaged families, community breakfasts, and a used computer distribution program has fostered positive relationships and trust between the school and its community.

Connected Learning Awards

*The Connected Learning Awards, introduced in 2007 by the **Department of Education and Training**, provide students with opportunities to engage with real life situations, so they can develop skills in communication, self-directed learning, problem-solving, researching and publishing their findings.*

- ▶ The **Primary Section Winner** of the **Digital Arts Award 2008**, a category of the **Connected Learning Awards**, was student Oliver Green, from Jerrabomberra Public School, for his artwork entitled *My best friend*. This is a computer-based depiction of a 10 year old friend named Kurran, whose personal qualities include being hardworking, always up to the challenge, good at public speaking, and a role model. This best friend is said to have two religions, because one of his parents is a Sikh and the other a Christian.

Local Government Multicultural Awards

Local Government Multicultural Health Award 2008

*Introduced in 2006 as a joint venture of the **Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW**, the **Multicultural Health Communication Unit**, and the **NSW Department of Health**, this award showcases, encourages and publicly recognises best practice in New South Wales councils which work on health issues with culturally diverse communities.*

- ▶ The winner of the **Local Government Multicultural Health Award 2008** was **Parramatta City Council**, in recognition of its **Community Health Promotion Project for the Chinese Community**.

The project conducted a range of community-based health promotion talks in Cantonese and Mandarin, covering topics such as arthritis, asthma, vascular disease, cholesterol and a range of cancers. Sessions emphasised awareness, prevention, early detection, tests and treatment options.

Local Government Cultural Awards 2008

*Run annually by the **Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW**, these awards aim to publicly recognise exemplary cultural development undertaken by councils individually or collectively in New South Wales.*

Category – Integrated Cultural Policy Implementation

- ▶ *Are We There Yet?*, an arts and cultural strategy fully integrated into the Griffith Council's Community Action plan, was one of the **Winners in Division B** under the **Integrated Cultural Policy Implementation** category. The strategy and plan have been developed in partnership with the local community and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and form Griffith's major policy framework.

Griffith Council acknowledges the diversity of the local community and the opportunities this creates for cultural celebration and the practising of the arts. The utility of the arts in addressing other social issues is also recognised. In addition, *Are We There Yet?* assists in expressing the strengths of the community and creating cultural industries.

- ▶ ***From All Four Corners – Celebrating Diversity*** was another project among the **Division B Winners** under the **Integrated Cultural Policy Implementation** category. The project involved participation by the Wagga Wagga City Council’s four cultural facilities, namely, the Civic Theatre, the Museum of the Riverina, the Library, and the Art Gallery, as well as wider government and community involvement.

From all Four Corners – Celebrating Diversity included numerous exhibitions and events and provided the opportunity to develop a widely comprehensive program which reflects the diversity of the community. Two exhibitions had a particularly lasting effect. These were: *Here they come: Post-war immigration of glass professionals to Wagga Wagga*, and the winning project *From All Four Corners*, stories of immigration to Wagga Wagga, which are both available online as a community and educational resource.

- ▶ ***A City of Shadows and Ice*** was likewise a project **among the Division B Winners** under the **Integrated Cultural Policy Implementation** category. In August 2007, Kogarah Town Square was transformed into a wasteland city constructed of ice panes and fire for the presentation of this large-scale physical theatre performance working with young people from the region.

A partnership between **Shopfront Theatre** and **Kogarah Council**, this show was developed in response to events at Cronulla and Brighton in 2005, and used the arts as a means of exploring themes of difference and belonging. Over 70 young people from diverse backgrounds took part in the presentations which ran for four nights and attracted a considerable audience.

- ▶ **Auburn Council’s Cultural Plan 2007-2017** was a winning project in the **Division C** under the **Integrated Cultural Policy Implementation** category. The Auburn Cultural Plan serves to consolidate the council’s role in supporting the distinctive cultural life of its population.

This is a 10 year plan aimed at reflecting the cultural aspirations and values of a community where Arabic is the most spoken language after English, followed by Cantonese, Turkish, Mandarin, and Korean. The council’s cultural plan aims to enhance existing cultural assets and resources, and provide new opportunities for cultural development, creative expression of local identity, and place-making initiatives.

Category – Cultural Infrastructure

- ▶ ***Greenacre Town Centre Improvement Program*** was a project **among the Winners in Division C under the Cultural Infrastructure** category. Referred to as a place-making project, the program focuses on public domain refurbishment.

The creation and installation of meaningful, individual, community-based, public art is seen as allowing community members to express their own local identity and to establish ownership of their own community space.

The culturally diverse community of Greenacre, from school children to senior members, were encouraged to join professional artists in developing 'Welcome Walls' and '0,1,2,3 Sculpture Paths' based on the so-called Arabic numerical system (originating in India), as symbols of inter-cultural learning in Greenacre today.

Category – Programs Projects and Partnerships

- ▶ ***Mu Meng Moved Three Times, and Other Stories – Traditional Chinese Storytelling*** was a project **among the Division C Winners** under the **Programs Projects and Partnerships** category. This is a video project on traditional Chinese stories undertaken by local Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking residents and assisted by community cultural organisations and media workers.

The project was a partnership of Hills Community Aid, Baulkham Hills Shire Council's Cultural Development Program and local residents. It received funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. The DVD is available through the council's library and online.

- ▶ ***News From Islands*** was yet another project **among the Division C Winners** under the **Programs Projects and Partnerships** category. The project marks a milestone in arts and cultural development within the diverse character of Southwest Sydney.

News From Islands responds to the demographics of the region with strong and growing **Pacific communities**, and has been recognised internationally as one of the key surveys of art from Southeast Asia and the Pacific. More than 20 new artist projects were commissioned, which supported collaboration and exchange between local communities and international artists.

- ▶ ***Dragon Tales – Story Time!*** was also a project **among the Division C Winners** under the **Programs Projects and Partnerships** category, run by the **Hurstville City Library**. This is a lap-sit program in Mandarin for children of up to three years of age with parents or carers.

Dragon Tales introduces babies and toddlers to books, stories and reading in their native language, Mandarin, while giving parents and carers an opportunity to talk to each other. The program includes songs, rhymes, simple stories, and interactive finger-plays. Over 50 babies and toddlers attend each session once a week with their parent or carer, a need which was not otherwise met.

Liverpool Refugee Week Awards

A joint effort between the Refugee Council of Australia and the Liverpool City Council, the Liverpool Refugee Week Awards are presented by the Refugee Week Planning Committee to acknowledge significant achievements and contributions made by people from refugee backgrounds to the Liverpool community.

The 2008 Award recipients from the Liverpool area were:

- ▶ **Dr Hala Khamas**, a General Practitioner providing medical services to Mandaean and the general Iraqi community in Liverpool. She is also acknowledged for her volunteer work in organising Mandaean youth activities and supporting newly arrived people to settle in Australia. Dr Khamas has participated in community education and information sessions on health issues, particularly for women.

- ▶ **Mr Dung Vu** has volunteered as a peer educator for the health promotion service for older people since 2005. Mr Vu has run educational sessions for older people on managing their medications, and disseminated information about health and medicine. He has provided social support to help older people of Vietnamese background. He has also coordinated the local carer engagement project run by the Mental Health Council of Australia.

- ▶ **Mr Saif Alkhamisi** has contributed substantially to the Liverpool community through his music, participating in many community events which promote diversity and harmony. Mr Alkhamisi has also organised social and cultural gatherings for the Mandaean community. He has not only generously shared his passion for music, but also organised performances and used his own resources and networks for the benefit of the community.

- ▶ **Mrs Natalina Ramos Horta** arrived in Australia via Portugal in 1991 as an East Timorese refugee. She has worked for the East Timorese community in Liverpool as a volunteer, and promoted the active participation of the community in addressing issues such as unemployment and social isolation. As the president of the Timorese Active Seniors Group, Mrs Ramos Horta has organised community events, visiting the sick in hospital, and run fundraising activities. She travels interstate to talk to and meet with community members, in particular senior members, to promote active living.