

3

Embracing Change on Sound Foundations



Winners of the 2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards, Adrien Monet and Jacques Reynaud of Polyglot with Virginia Judge Minister for Citizenship.

Awards recognising the linguistic and cultural assets of NSW

Awards recognising the linguistic and cultural assets of NSW

The final of the four Principles of Multiculturalism is: *'All institutions of New South Wales should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the population of New South Wales as a valuable resource, and promote this resource to maximise the development of the State'*.

One of the most effective ways of ensuring that the substantive contribution of numerous immigrant communities to the life, culture and economy of New South Wales is duly acknowledged and celebrated is through the presentation of accredited and highly regarded awards.

A range of well-established awards, presented and/or supported by NSW Government agencies and local councils, aim at recognising the linguistic and cultural assets of our society and promoting the benefits of our cultural diversity. The Community Relations Commission continues to play a pivotal role in sponsoring, endorsing and/or supporting many of those awards.

The main awards presented in 2009 are outlined below. These awards highlight some exceptional and inspiring contributions from our culturally diverse community to public life in New South Wales.

National Multicultural Marketing Awards

Twenty years ago, the then Ethnic Affairs Commission of New South Wales established the National Multicultural Marketing Awards.

These Multicultural Marketing Awards promote best practice in marketing by encouraging and rewarding the efforts of businesses and organisations that focus on the cultural diversity of Australia in their overall marketing strategies. Organisations recognised by the Awards are regarded as leaders in the industry and role models in seizing business opportunities through inclusive marketing. These Awards pioneered the culturally diverse approach to doing business which is now being recognised internationally.



The sponsors of the 2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards were *The Australian* newspaper, the AFL (Australian Football League), CMC Markets, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Qantas, the Westin Sydney, and Yellow Tail Wines.

- ▶ Both the **Grand Prize** and the **Export Award** of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** were granted to the Sydney company **Polyglot**, a boutique human resource company which facilitates the provision of multilingual and multicultural expertise by Australian professionals to overseas projects, and assists Australian-based companies in their international expansion. Polyglot's 'business model and strategy are based on promoting, and turning into an asset, the multiculturalism of Australian society'. Polyglot sells Australia to the world as a richer, smarter and more successful country because of its added strength of cultural diversity as a major asset.
- ▶ The **Commercial Big Business** category of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was conferred on major retailer **Woolworths**, for its television commercial featuring husband and wife characters, Maria and Stavros, speaking in Greek. The domestic scene can be understood regardless of the language. The commercial presents an evocative atmosphere of Australian life in the inner suburbs of big cities, and sends a clear message of inclusion, favourable to business.
- ▶ The **Information Technology** category of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was granted to the English language newspaper *Northern District Times* for its unique system of reporting local news in Chinese. The newspaper responded to the emerging challenge of a large number of potential readers not reading English, by linking relevant printed news items in English to Chinese translations on a website. Technology was used to meet a specific business challenge arising from demographic change.
- ▶ The **Government** category of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was won by the **NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care** for its information program for families from Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan who have a child with a disability. DADHC employed state-of-the-art multicultural marketing techniques to deliver information and guidance in various languages, vital to the well-being of families which, in addition to having a child with a disability, face some of the greatest settlement challenges ever experienced by refugees in Australia.
- ▶ The **Commercial Small Business** category of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was won by **UBI World TV**, for creatively marketing subscriptions for a new satellite TV program to the Filipino community in Australia. UBI TV used a catchy, multi-layered, idiomatic Filipino expression, *tutok na* [remain watchful] which captured the imagination of thousands of Filipinos in Australia, redefined local Pinoy culture through a multi-media promotion campaign, and achieved an ambitious subscription target.
- ▶ The **Advertising** prize in the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was granted to the Melbourne agency **Haystack Positive Outcomes**, for its **Taste of Harmony** campaign across Australian workplaces, on behalf of the Scanlon Foundation and in partnership with the Australian Multicultural Foundation. Food is often central to celebration and the best way to celebrate diversity in the workplace is for workers to share food brought from home. Thus, Haystack devised a comprehensive multicultural marketing plan to sell multiculturalism itself, and over 1,100 workplaces participated in these lunches.

- ▶ The **Community** category of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** was jointly won by the **National Prescribing Service Limited** and the **Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia**, for their campaign **Get to Know Your Medicines**, targeted to older Cantonese, Mandarin and Italian speakers. The campaign designed a comprehensive information kit on the safe use of medicines by older people, and marketed it using a wide range of communication tools and targeting a large audience, with impressive results.
- ▶ **Highly Commended** entrants of the **2009 National Multicultural Marketing Awards** were mentioned in three categories:

Community: Radio 2MFM Muslim Community Radio, for its **Smart Don't Start** campaign to educate young people and their parents about the potential health damaging and antisocial effects of alcohol use and binge drinking.

Advertising: Cultural Perspectives, for their **Measure Up** campaign to raise awareness of why some people should include better dieting and exercise as part of their lifestyles, directed at 19 different cultural groups, ranging from long-term settlers to newly-arrived and refugee communities.

Government: University of Southern Queensland, for its establishment of a **Multi-Faith Centre** within its Multicultural Facility, to encourage the development of spiritual and intellectual life by instilling in its students values of acceptance and mutual respect amongst people from diverse cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Community Relations Commission Awards for Volunteering

The annual Volunteer Awards of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW publicly recognise 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 acknowledge the achievements of individuals whose voluntary contributions have been directed towards settlement and welfare services, community language schools, and the promotion of greater cross-cultural understanding through the hosting of ethno-specific events and celebrations.

Community Relations Commission Volunteer of the Year Award 2009

- ▶ **Ms Perla Lombardi**, born in Argentina, was presented with the **Community Relations Commission Volunteer of the Year Award 2009** for her devotion to improving the health of women from South America for the past 18 years. She has established community support groups of women from different Spanish-speaking countries and personally delivered talks on a variety of women's health issues. Perla has played a significant role in improving the lives and well-being of women in South West Sydney, whilst her tireless efforts with elderly people have made a great difference to their lives, by breaking down social isolation and increasing awareness of good health in old age.



2009 Volunteer Awards (left to right) Stepan Kerkyasharian, CRC Chair; Jean Paul Ndayiragije, Young Volunteer High Commendation; Peter Primrose, Minister for Volunteering; Jasmeen Kaur, Young Volunteer of the Year; Perla Lombardi, Volunteer of the Year; Erin Chew, Community Service Award High Commendation; Nola Randall-Mohk, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner; John Hatzistergos, Attorney General and Minister for Citizenship and Malaemie Fruean, Winner of Community Service Award.

Community Relations Commission Community Service Award 2009

- ▶ **Ms Malaemie Fruean** of Campbelltown was the winner of the **Community Relations Commission Community Service Award 2009** for her 24-year contribution to helping dysfunctional families and youth at risk from all backgrounds. She has specifically worked to break down negative stereotypes of Pacific communities in New South Wales. Malaemie has encouraged many disadvantaged youth and parents to complete their schooling. She is instrumental in assisting community members with court support, family disputes and youth homelessness, and she has been a driving force behind the Pacific Achievement Awards.

Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2009

- ▶ **Ms Jasmeen Kaur Malhotra, 21**, was granted the **Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award 2009**, for her dedication in helping young Sikhs to engage harmoniously with members of other communities whilst preserving their own heritage. She crossed the age gap to foster closer understanding between youth and elders in the community through the *Sharing Sikh Culture* project. She was one of the three-member youth leadership team who mentored and trained school students for the Youth Peace Parliament, a one-day mock Legislative Assembly sitting. Jasmeen is active in spreading understanding of the Sikh faith and participates in ‘open days’ at the temple for the benefit of visitors. She volunteers with various mainstream charities including Red Cross, Clean-up Australia, Red Nose Day, and NISAD Schizophrenia Research.

Community Relations Commission Lifetime Achievement in Community Service Award 2009

- ▶ **Ms Nola Randall-Mohk** was named winner of the **Community Relations Commission Lifetime Achievement in Community Services Award 2009**, for her selfless contribution to the care of multicultural and refugee communities. Nola has led the Baulkham Hills Migrant Resource Centre for ten years, where she has developed programs to assist least-skilled workers and homeless men; for building women's self-esteem; and for African youth in western Sydney. She has contributed to meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged adults and facilitated their access to vocational opportunities. She has particularly assisted the Khmer community and helped manage the Cambodian Australian Welfare Council since its inception in 1982.

Community Relations Commission Gold Medal

The **Gold Medal** was instituted in 2004 by the **Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW** to recognise those members of the community who have shown outstanding dedication to enhancing community harmony. This Gold Medal is awarded on an individual, ad hoc basis.

- ▶ **Mr Michael Marx AM**, the retiring Deputy Chair of the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW, became the sixth recipient of the **CRC Gold Medal for Outstanding Service to Community Harmony 1996–2009**.

NSW Premier's Chinese Community Service Awards

The **Premier's Chinese Community Service Awards**, established by the **NSW Premier** in 2005, recognise the long and active participation in philanthropic and voluntary community work of Chinese-Australians in our society. These Awards honour Chinese-Australian individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service within and beyond the Chinese community.

This year, three Chinese-Australians from Sydney were acclaimed in the presentation of the following Awards to them:

'Victor Chang' Community Service Award 2009

Award presented in honour of the late 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 granted to individuals who demonstrate exemplary dedication in addressing particular needs within the Chinese-Australian community.

- ▶ **Ms Hua Mei Ruan** won this Award for her work with both the Australian Federation of Chinese Organisations and the Australian Chinese Immigration Association. Her achievements include persuading the Federal Government to increase the intake of immigrant parents by 50%, providing professional artists from China with a platform and opportunities to showcase their new talents, and performing broad-based youth and culture work which has made her an outstanding role model for the younger generation.

'Jack Wong Sue' Award for Voluntary Service Beyond the Chinese Community 2009

Award instituted as a tribute to the World War II hero Jack Wong Sue, who was a member of the joint British, Australian and New Zealand commando 'Z Special Unit'. This award is presented to individuals for their outstanding community service in wider Australian society, regardless of race, culture or social status.

- ▶ This Award was granted to **Mr Ron Yeo** for his dedication and selfless work helping disadvantaged, sick and less fortunate people in Australia and overseas. Mr Yeo has been involved with many charitable organisations in the past ten years, including the Cure for Life Foundation, set up by neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo, for which he raised \$4 million for research and treatment of brain cancer. In 2008, Mr Yeo was honoured by Rotary International with a Paul Harris Fellowship, which recognises individual contributions to international and community service.

'Quong Tart' Lifetime Achievement in Community Service Award 2009

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 given to individuals who have worked for a social cause, both within and outside the Chinese-Australian community, and have had significant impact on the public and cultural life of New South Wales.

- ▶ **Mr Robert Ho OAM** was granted this Award for his valuable support to charity causes through active personal involvement in numerous community and business organisations. Mr Ho's fundraising talent and his generous contributions to the community have been widely acknowledged by local, mainstream and Chinese welfare and charitable associations. Mr Ho was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 1995 and a Police Bravery Award in 2007.

Poetry, Literature and Film Awards

The Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society / Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW Poetry Award 2009

The **Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards**, the oldest and largest national competition for children and young people in Australia, are presented in memory of the famous poet, to the most inspiring and imaginative poetic works submitted. The Awards are sponsored, among others, by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW, and supported, amongst others, by the Children's Book Council of Australia. The Award bearing the name of the CRC is granted for an inspiring poem that makes a contribution to multiculturalism.

- ▶ The **2009 Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society / Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW** prize was awarded to Year 10 student **Jack Burnham**, from Caloundra Christian College, Queensland, for his poem titled '**Lost and Found**', about a solitary stranger's care for others in the middle of unknown, hectic, cosmopolitan, urban surroundings.

NSW Premier's Translation Award 2009

The **Premier's Translation Award** is granted biennially to acknowledge the contribution made to literary culture by Australian translators who render works into English. The prize recognises the vital role literary translators play in enabling writers and readers to communicate across cultures. Works may include poetry, fiction or non-fiction literary works, and stage or radio plays professionally published or performed in recent years. This Award is offered through **Arts NSW** and the **Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW**, in association with **Sydney PEN**.

- ▶ The **NSW Premier's Translation Prize** and **PEN Medallion 2009** were granted to translator and writer **Mr David Colmer**, born in Adelaide in 1960, for a body of work including contemporary Dutch literature translated into English from the mid 1990s. Mr Colmer won the David Reid Poetry Translation Prize for the best translation into English of a designated Dutch poem in 2007, and again in 2008. Since 2001, major UK and US publishers have printed Colmer's highly rated translations. In Australia, Scribe published his translation of Dutch writer Gerbrand Bakker's novel *The Twin* in 2008.

Community Relations Commission / NSW Premier's Literary Award 2009

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

- ▶ The **Community Relations Commission / NSW Premier's Literary Award 2009** was granted to **Professor Eric Richards**, of Flinders University in South Australia, for his work *Destination Australia: migration to Australia since 1901*, described by the Awards judges as 'a thoroughly researched overview of Australia's migration history' which offers 'a fascinating, detailed account of the many waves of nationalities whose arrival in Australia was central to a grand plan of immigration that has led us to our multicultural present'.

Community Relations Commission Dendy Short Film Award

Integral to the annual Sydney Film Festival Dendy Short Film Awards, the **Community Relations Commission Dendy Short Film Award** recognises films which reflect the multicultural experience of Australia, by depicting immigration and settlement processes, cultural and linguistic diversity, or cross-cultural settings. The Commission's Award has been part of the Dendy Short Film competition since 1992, and has attracted outstanding accounts of social history.

- ▶ The **Community Relations Commission Dendy Short Film Award 2009** was granted to *Missing Water*, a film directed by Khoa Do, produced in New South Wales and shot on location in Western Sydney. It presents the story of dangerous and often life-threatening journeys undertaken by thousands of Vietnamese refugees during the 1970s and 1980s, in search of a new life in Australia. This is a unique Australian film, which features actual refugees and their descendants depicting a migrant experience shared by many. Khoa Do was the 2005 Young Australian of the Year, the first ever film maker to have been awarded the honour.

Women/Young Women of the West Award

The **Women/Young Women of the West Award** is an initiative of the **University of Western Sydney [UWS]**, inaugurated in 2008 to specifically acknowledge leadership qualities in young women.

- ▶ The **2009 Women of the West Award** was granted to **Ms Jan Nicoll**, a youth worker with Allawah House in Minto and a mother of five, for her tireless work in assisting young people and families in crisis in the Campbelltown area. Her achievements are numerous. Following the Macquarie Fields riots, she provided many of the families involved in the conflict with counselling and support. She subsequently trained to become a Community Conference Facilitator for young adults. Jan was the driving force behind the establishment of a permanent *Youth Off The Streets* project at Macquarie Fields, and she has also been actively involved in the Aboriginal community.

Department of Education and Training Multicultural Awards

The Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Languages School Students of the Year 2009

The **Department of Education and Training's Community Languages Program** presents these **Awards for Excellence** annually to acknowledge students' commendable performance in areas such as proficiency in a community language, intercultural understanding, contributions to the school community, and leadership in the community.

In 2009, there were 229 nominations covering 32 community languages, which resulted in 10 Minister's Awards being presented. This year's winners were:

▶ **Senior Section**

Buwaneka Arachchi	Sinhalese
Joanna Ding	Mandarin
Jing San	Mandarin
Tracey Sein Kay Yeung	Cantonese

▶ **Junior Section**

Jussi Jenssen	Swedish
Gabrielle Liong	Cantonese
Matthew Michelini	Italian
Pavel Nikiforov	Russian
Kannan Subapriyan	Tamil
Evan Watt-Smith	Greek

Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition 2009

The **Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition** aims at enhancing awareness of Australia's cultural diversity among NSW primary school students, while developing their interest and skills in public speaking. Through research and class-based activities, participants are provided with opportunities to explore complex issues involving multiculturalism, and to express their ideas to wider audiences.

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

The 2009 winners were:

- ▶ Years 3 and 4 – **Sammy Seth**, from **Singleton Heights Public School**
(A total of 1,075 public school students took part in the competition in this age division)
- ▶ Years 5 and 6 – **Rachel Daniel**, from **Wattle Grove Public School**
(A total of 1,129 public school students participated in the competition in this age division)

Cohesive Community School Award 2009

The Cohesive Community School Award recognises outstanding achievement and contribution by a school or a group of schools in promoting unity, cohesiveness, and social harmony in the community.

- ▶ The **Peninsula Community of Schools** of Sydney's Northern Beaches received the **Cohesive Community School Award in 2009**, in recognition of the diversity of programs implemented by the group to promote a cohesive community, and of the links established with external agencies. The Community includes ten primary and three high schools which have developed a complex range of strategies that recognise and build upon the diversity and strengths in the group and reach out into the local community.

Highly Commended were **The Northern Spirit Learning Community** and **St Mary of the Angels**.

Connected Learning Awards 2009

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

Students entering the **Greeting Card Design Award 2009**, a category of the Connected Learning Awards, were invited to create an original design that communicated a message of goodwill, harmony and celebration, capable of being appreciated by all community members. Positive feedback showed that students were keen to engage in exploring design ideas for a message that spoke to all people about the meaning of the Christian tradition of Christmas, including many of the Muslim students who do not celebrate this occasion.



► The winner of the **Greeting Card Design Award 2009** was student **Ms Heidi Chan**, from Epping West Public School, for her artwork entitled ***Fingerstar***.

In the winning submission, the image of a star symbolises Christmas, making a star with one's fingers represents friendship and fun times together, and school uniforms signify being at school together.

Multicultural Health Communication Awards 2009

Good practice in multicultural communication by the NSW health system is acknowledged through these biennial **Multicultural Health Communication Awards**. They cover all manner of multilingual resources, be they printed or audiovisual, in a language other than English or in more than one language. These Awards were established in 2003 to acknowledge excellent contributions by NSW Health staff and staff of NSW Health-funded organisations including NGOs.

The 2009 winners were:

Category: Government, under \$5,000 Fact Sheet / Brochure / Patient Information

Frequently Asked Questions – BreastScreen NSW
English and Croatian

Winner – Sarafina Zubovic, from Fairfield Multicultural Health Services, SSWAHS

Category: Government, over \$5,000 Fact Sheet / Brochure / Patient Information

Health Fact Sheets for Refugees
Arabic, Burmese, French and Kirundi

Winner – South East Sydney Illawarra Health, Multicultural Health Service

Category: Non-Government, under \$5,000 Fact Sheet / Brochure / Patient Information

What is Arthritis?
Chinese and Greek

Winner – Arthritis Foundation of NSW

Category: Non-Government, over \$5,000 Fact Sheet / Brochure / Patient Information

Get to Know Your Medicines
Italian

Winners – National Prescribing Service Ltd, CoAsIt Victoria, and the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA)

Category: Government, over \$5,000 Audio Resource

Having a baby in Australia? We speak your language

English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Arabic, Persian, Hindi, Tamil and Korean

Winners – Children and Youth Health, Westmead Hospital, and SWAHS Multicultural Health Network

Category: Government, over \$5,000 Visual Resource

Heart Matters: The Benefits of Cardiac Rehabilitation

Cantonese and Mandarin

Winner – St George Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Service

Category: Government, over \$5,000 Visual Resource

For Parents Who Smoke – Listen to what your children say

DVD in English with simplified Chinese subtitles

Winner – The Chinese Australian Tobacco and Health Network

TranSCRIBE Awards 2009

TranSCRIBE is a young writers' competition established in 1998 by the **NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre** and **Schizophrenia Fellowship and Mental Illness Education Australia (NSW)**, with the support of the **Black Dog Institute**. These biennial Awards are geared towards providing young people aged 12–19 with opportunities to explore mental health and cultural diversity issues through writing and story telling. This year's competitors were required to broadly approach the theme 'Like a fish out of water'.

The winners of the TranSCRIBE Young Writers Competition 2009 were:

► **Category: 12–15 Years**

1st Prize: *A change of course, story*

by Joanne Barron, Holy Spirit College, Bellambi

2nd Prize: *The blue fish, story*

by Jackie Chung, Danebank Anglican School for Girls, Hurstville

3rd Prize: *Not like the others, story*

by Caitlin Baldock, Kellyville High School

► **Category: 16–19 Years**

1st Prize: *Like a fish out of water, story*

by Leigh McMahon, St Joseph's College, Banora Point

2nd Prize: *Stolen from me, story*
by Natalie Shaw, Aquinas College, Menai

3rd Prize: *Decay of innocence, poem*
by Basil Jaber, Canterbury Boys High School

Local Government Cultural Awards 2009

These **Cultural Awards** are conducted annually by the **Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW** and aim at publicly acknowledging outstanding cultural developments undertaken by councils either individually or collectively in New South Wales. In 2009, there were two multicultural winners and one High Commendation, all from Division C covering local government areas with populations over 60,000.

▶ ***Stories of Love and Hate*** was a Division C **Award Winner** under the **Programs, Projects and Partnerships Category**

This theatre show, with a script that retains actual verbal accounts of the facts, reveals life and love experiences of people directly affected by the 2005 Cronulla riots. The work was developed through an intensive interview process with 65 residents from the Bankstown and Sutherland local government areas. The play is a model of community consultation and cultural development, part of an ongoing collaboration between Urban Theatre Projects and Bankstown Youth Development Service, with the support of Bankstown City Council.

▶ ***A Migrant Story*** was a Division C **Award Winner** under the **Library and Information Services Category**

Twenty-six children aged 11–15 years from the Randwick local government area were individually matched with immigrant children. After attending intensive writing workshops, they interviewed their partners about their immigration experiences. Their accounts were collated into a book, *A Migrant Story*, which was officially launched in December 2008 at Bowen Library and Community Centre in Maroubra. The project provided an opportunity for children and older migrants to interact, form lasting relationships, and experience life from different perspectives.

▶ ***Hurstville City Library, Museum and Gallery: Celebrating Diversity*** was a Division C **High Commendation** under the **Library and Information Services Category**

Hurstville City Library, Museum and Gallery collaborated on a strategic program of inspiring events, innovative exhibitions, and technological tools to engage the diverse local communities. Amongst the many activities, the Chinese community was celebrated in *Kung Hei Fat Choy*, a photographic exhibition and collection display; the *Changzhou Exhibition*, which showcased photographs from Hurstville's sister city; and through a newly created local Chinese Volunteer Group. Budding illustrators joined *Manga* [Japanese cartoons] *Drawing Workshops*, and families participated in craft activities and entertainment at the *Pacific Patterns Family Fun Day*.

Liverpool Refugee Week Awards 2009

*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 2009 Award recipients from the Liverpool area were:

- ▶ **Ms Kim Hoa Huynh:** Born in Saigon and arriving in Australia as a refugee in 1986, Kim is currently a student at MTC Training Solutions and mentors other Vietnamese students. She is a volunteer in several Buddhist temples where she participates in fund-raising activities and offers to cook for the monks. Kim has been passionate about volunteering on behalf of the needy and recent arrivals ever since her settling in Australia. Kim is regarded as an inspiration to other students from the Vietnamese-Australian community.
- ▶ **Ms Yassmen Yahya:** Having arrived in Australia from Iraq as a refugee in 2007, Yassmen is a volunteer coordinator with the Liverpool Mandaean Resource Centre, where she has been involved in settlement support services for families. Yassmen also helps other volunteers and develops resources for the Centre to build the capacity of the Mandaean community. She liaises with government and non-government organisations to raise awareness of the community's needs and to advocate for services. She joined the Board of Directors of the Sabian Mandaean Association in 2008, where she provides administrative support to the Board, co-edits the Mandaean newspaper Al-Ahad, and assists with submissions.
- ▶ **Mr Akeel Abbas:** Akeel has demonstrated passion for social justice in advocating on behalf of refugees and improving links between his community and the wider society. He participates in performances depicting refugee issues and has written scripts for performances which challenge religious stereotyping. Akeel has successfully obtained funding from the Community Policing Partnership Program to co-run workshops on improving relationships between police and Muslim students. He mentors students, and promotes understanding of and respect for refugees. Akeel is an active promoter of harmony at Miller Technology High, where he is School Captain. Through his leadership qualities he plays a significant role in counteracting prejudice and stereotyping.