



Where language and culture come together

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES AUSTRALIA

Where language and culture come together

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10/2009

E-Language

NATIONAL COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOL CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION OF ESAV 20th ANNIVERSARY

A worthwhile and great present!!

Community languages school teachers and instructors in Victoria and nationally showed their commitment again by attending the 7th National Community Languages Schools Conference and marking the 20th Anniversary of the Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria held on June 27, 2009 at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre, University of Melbourne.

Over 350 teachers from more than 20 communities spent the day listening and discussing issues of languages policy in today's Australia and the major role community languages school play in delivering languages education in Australia. A strong line up of presenters, Members of Parliament and workshop facilitators together with entertainers from Multicultural Arts Victoria received a strong vote of approval by participants at the end of the day and more importantly since then. The Conference prodded people to think about policy the role of languages, the arts and sport can play in delivering programs and how they can improve what happens in the classroom.

Executive Director of Community Languages Australia, Stefan Romaniw welcomed participants and explained the reason for the Conference theme ***Language, Culture and Sport Building Bridges to a Cohesive Society – Building bridges.***

All these factors play an important role in encouraging students to maintain language and culture if used in partnership and effectively – Intertwined and coordinated them are a powerful tool. He also welcomes all the delegates of the Australian Federation of Ethnic Schools Association who were in attendance and who were holding their National AFESA Council Meeting. Guests from NSW, ACT, SA, Queensland, WA, Northern Territory and Tasmania were also welcomed.

Liz Beattie MP Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs brought best wishes from the Premier of Victoria and Minister for Education and stressed the major role schools played in the Victorian delivery of languages.

Nicholas Kotsiras MP State Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs who was joined by Shadow Minister for Education Martin Dixon called on politicians on all sides to review their commitment to languages education and support for community languages schools and to recommit to an effective bipartisan approach to the delivery of policy. This would place Australia at the forefront of having a nation of diverse language speakers that in turn would better place us in trade, community relations and international relations

Jose Alvarez State Director of Immigration representing the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship Laurie Ferguson MP also reiterated the Commonwealth Government's support for languages and community languages schools.

Elizabeth Drozd newly appointed member of the Victorian Multicultural Commission also reinforced the VMC commitment and support for community languages schools.

Tassos Douvartzides Chair of AFESA offered a vote of thanks to all guests, speakers and presenters and encouraged participants to use the day to reflect on their work and form new networks, partnerships and share their experiences.

Enzo Sirna President of ESAWA and deputy Chair of AFESA introduced the range of speakers who addressed the Conference.

Key note address:

- **The best way to teach languages and the best languages to teach...taking community languages and heritage seriously,**
Professor Joe Lo Bianco, Dean of Education - University of Melbourne
- **Community Languages and the Dialogue of Cultures**
Prof Joseph Camilleri, Professor of International Relations
Director, Centre for Dialogue - La Trobe University
- **Making the Most of the Times: Community Languages in the Age of NALSSP**
Dr. Jane Orton, Honorary Senior Fellow - Melbourne Graduate School of Education
The University of Melbourne
- **Homeland Support and the role of Embassies and Consulates**
Consuls of Greece, Poland
- **Australian Human Rights Commission Project**
Community Languages Schools Human Rights Curriculum Resource and Campaign Project

- Dr Teresa De Fazio and Jennifer Davis
Senior Program Manager, Education & Partnerships Section/Race
Discrimination Unit - Australian Human Rights Commission
- **Professional Learning Opportunities: Professional Standards MLTAV and
Community Languages Australia cooperating**
Andrew Ferguson, President - Modern Languages Teacher Association of
Victoria
- **Sport and Community languages Schools – in partnership**
Patrick Skene, Sports Without Borders

Workshops:

- **Assessing VELs**
Maree Dellora, Manager LOTE – Victorian Curriculum and Assessment
Authority
- **Community Languages Schools Australian Human Rights Curriculum
Resource and Campaign Project**
Dr Teresa De Fazio and
- Jennifer Davis
Senior Program Manager, Education & Partnerships Section/Race
Discrimination Unit - Australian Human Rights Commission
- **Learn and practise interactively**
Jacqueline von Wersch
Professional Development Officer - Ethnic Schools Association Education
Centre
- **Arts and the languages classroom**
Jill Morgan, Executive Officer - Multicultural Arts Victoria
- **Northern Territory activity and invitation to the AFLMTA Conference in
2011**
Paula Simeane, Darwin Language Centre

**A wonderful birthday gift to ESAV
A most successful conference that left its members and guests filled with
enthusiasm and hope.
Another show of national strength under the umbrella of AFESA - Community
Languages Australia.**