

Media Release

February 20th 2011

Happy Birthday WINners

Gladstone - The Women's Intercultural Network celebrates its 1st birthday in the Community

Last week, the Women's Intercultural Network celebrated a major milestone - their 1st birthday.

A year ago, on February 18th 2010, Natalia Muszkat, Lyndal Hansen and Maria Richards decided to take matters into their own hands and set off to address the many issues that for years have been raised regarding the wellbeing of new resident and their families. A year later, by working together with many organisations and individuals, WIN has become a point of reference for settlement and integration issues and an integral part of the community.

With the support and auspice of the Gladstone Women's Health Centre, WIN has worked alongside the Gladstone Regional Council through its Intercultural Reference Group and the Multicultural Community Relations Officer to deliver appropriate programs to the diverse population of Gladstone as well as including the whole community in activities where existing and new resident interact and get to know each other in a positive, welcoming and safe environment.

The Network has participated in major events throughout 2010 and 2011 such as National Playgroup Week, Multicultural Festival, Australia Day, Harmony Day, International Women's Day, Relay for Life and others. In addition, WIN has been able to deliver, entirely on volunteers' power, two Conversational English programs, a Basic Computer Skills program, First Aid training and a monthly Yoga class as well as tours around Gladstone, International Movie Nights and a long list of information sessions about activities and services around the Region.

Network Coordinator and President Natalia Muszkat recalls "at the beginning we just knew we wanted to deliver English classes and some information session, but things escalated so quickly and we found ourselves surrounded by great volunteers that just wanted to organise more activities and involve more people". Only after 4 months, the 2010 priority projects the Network set for itself were already achieved, a management committee was formed and the membership program grew to almost 70 financial members with over 350 people receiving WIN's weekly newsletters. "We have been supported by great people, organisations and industry along the way, of course we found some barriers and resistance to change, but overall the community has been great and I am confident to say that we are making a difference in the lives of new residents and the development of our community", Mrs Muszkat says.

Twenty eleven is set to be ever bigger for WIN, more programs have already been scheduled and more and more volunteers and participants are taking part in all activities and events. *Bringing the community together* is the motto of the Women's Intercultural Network, and we toast to that in this very special birthday celebration.



Bringing the Community Together

Women's Intercultural Network - WIN

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More information and a calendar of future events can be found at www.womensinterculturalnetwork.org.
Interested parties can also contact Natalia Muszkat, Network Coordinator on 0423 177 411 or email womens.intercultural.network@gmail.com for more information.

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For further media information contact Natalia Muszkat, Network Coordinator on 0423 177 411 or email womens.intercultural.network@gmail.com for more information.



Bringing the Community Together