

Victorian Lebanese Community Council Inc.

مجلس الجالية اللبنانية في فكتوريا

VLCC GAZETTE



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VLCC 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER!

In celebration of our first official birthday, the VLCC is planning an Anniversary celebration dinner to be held on **Friday 17th October** at Mezza Lebanese Grill on Lygon st in East Brunswick. This event will also acknowledge achievers in the community. To make reservations please contact **Carol Makhoul on 0422 144 739**

Come along to our **AGM!** To be held on **October 4th** in Carlton Library, 667 Rathdowne st, North Carlton at 2.30pm

WELCOME NOTE

Hello all and welcome to the first edition of the Victorian Lebanese Community Council's very own newsletter, VLCC Gazette! This will be a bimonthly newsletter filled with info on the VLCC board, occasions, local events, latest news and much more!

OUR LAUNCH OCTOBER 19, 2007

It was only a year ago that the very first meeting between several hopeful members of the Australian Lebanese community gathered together to discuss issues concerning them about their community. From that meeting, the VLCC direction and formal board was established. Months later, the official launch introduced the council to the Australian public defining its goals, attracting many guests and establishing itself as a non-for-profit, non sectarian organisation. The VLCC was established to address the needs of the Australian-Lebanese community, particularly aiming to promote cultural understanding and tolerance among the people of Australia with the hopes of strengthening community relationships.

Among the many guests attending the launch, speakers included the Hon Mr James Merlino Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, shadow minister of Multicultural Affairs Mr Nicholas Kotsiras and The former Minister for Vocational and Further Education, Hon Mr Andrew Robb. The night showcased traditional Arabic food, dance and sporting talent AFL rising star Bashar Houli of the Essendon football club. The event proved to be a great night for all!



"Congratulations on a fine launch"
Federal MP, Kelvin Thomson

Left: Amal Ayoub, Rosana Hage-Ali, Chanel (Youth Central reporter), Mohamed Dirani, Michael Kheirallah, Milad Bardon, Tanya King, Cathy Soufan, Imad Farhat, Karim Noura

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Donate books to the Royal Children's

The Royal Children's Hospital, Children's Cancer centre (CCC) is counted as one of the international leaders in research and treatment of childhood cancer. The CCC treats the highest number of children with cancer per year in Australia. Often dealing with many culturally and linguistically diverse families, the CCC is wanting to build a library for these children and their families to utilise while seeking treatment. The library is to be sourced with new reading materials ranging from baby books to books suitable for adolescence. To help out, please donate multi-cultural books and audio books for parents to enjoy with their children.

For further info or to donate, please contact :
Community Liaison Manager Mary McGowan
(03) 9345 4855

EVENTS ANYONE?

Lebanon with Love 2

The new *Lebanon with Love part 2*, is having three shows in Melbourne next month. The wedding is over but the problems have just begun. When will Bashir find a job and move out of his parents house? When will Kylie fall pregnant? Who is the Lebanese Elvis? And who are the surprise visitors from Lebanon?

Showing in Melbourne Fri 3rd, Sat 4th and Sun 5th October. Tickets are selling for \$39.90, with discounts for groups of 10 or more people. Book through ticketmaster online at www.ticketmaster.com.au

Want to contribute to research?

A study conducted by senior research fellow Dr. Andre Renzaho of Deakin University seeks to investigate the relationship between cultural changes and four domains of health and risk factors, including coronary heart disease, mental health, religion-related issues and self esteem among Arabic-speaking migrant families.

The research study aims to improve our understanding of the relationship between cultural changes that happen following migration to Australia and health among Arabic-speaking migrant families. The study requires 3 focus group discussions with each of the following community groups: Lebanese, Sudanese and Iraqi.

One focus group will involve men, the other women and a third will involve young people aged between 13 and 17. If you are at all interested in contributing to this research, please contact Dr. Renzaho on 9251 7772 or Tony Loquet 0419301998

VLCC CORNER:

- * Check out the VLCC interview with Youth Central . Find it online at: www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au
- * VLCC chairman Dr Michael Kheirallah interviewed by SBS radio. Find it online at: www.radio.sbs.com.au

For more information on the Council's events, news, or if you are interested in becoming a member please visit our website: www.vlcc.com.au

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MISS LEBANON PAGEANT...

Females of Lebanese background were invited to join in the 2008 Miss Lebanon pageant in Australia last month.



The Miss Lebanon Australia pageant is an exclusive platform to discover and promote beauty, confidence, intelligence and much, more.

To be eligible, ladies must have been between the ages of 17-27. In previous years, prizes have included expense paid trips to Lebanon, photo shoots and portfolio development, diamond jewellery and elaborate beauty gift packs.

The official Miss Lebanon Pageant was held last month crowning Rosarita Tawil as the winner of 2008 Miss Lebanon.

MENS LINE AUSTRALIA...

Men's Line Australia is a dedicated service for men with relationship and family concerns. When you feel like it's all getting too much, help is as close as the phone. Men's Line Australia has an Arabic site which men can access at: www.menslineaus.org.au

Men's Line offers:

- * Counselling information and referral
- * Is Australia wide
- * 24/7 service
- * Is anonymous and confidential

ACHIEVER OF THE EDITION: Q & A WITH EMAD NAYEF

Business pioneer Emad Nayef is a key contributor to the colossal success of the Hairhouse



Warehouse chain. Competing against 55000 other Australian franchisees, he took home the prestigious FCA Franchisee of the year award in 1995. Currently running several branches, Nayef's success is most likely attributable to his passion, persistence and humble nature.

Q. Where in Lebanon are you from?
Tripoli

Q. How did you get started?

I started as a cleaner at the first Hairhouse Warehouse store about 11 years ago.

Q. What was your biggest hurdle and how did you overcome it?

Convincing the banks to lend me the money to open my own store and convincing my parents that dropping out of university was the right thing for me at the time were the two biggest hurdles. I was able to formulate a smart proposal for the banks utilising a cash flow projection, and told my parents that I believed in my own destiny.

Q. Advice to others?

Surround yourself with people who are successful. Always ask questions and maintain a hard work ethic. Never become complacent.

Q. Favourite Lebanese food?

Wara Enab (stuffed vine leaves)

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WHAT'S NEWS?

Congratulations to the Australian Lebanese Youth Association (ALYA) who raised over \$12,000 for the Royal Children Hospital's Good Friday Appeal! Funds were raised at the youth-centred "Lets Jinn" ball which showcased guest speakers including Aussie Home Loans founder John Symond, comedian Rob Shehadie, Arabic music and dance and much more. The night honoured the many contributions that Lebanese and the wider Arabic-speaking community has made to Australia. Well done ALYA!



MARCEL KHALIFE IN CONCERT 27 APRIL

Pushing the boundaries of classical Arabic music this poet, singer, composer and musician shared his gift with Melbourne in April playing at The Arts Centre, Hammer Hall. Together with the Al Mayadine ensemble, Khalifi filled the room with inspiring music reminiscent of ancient Middle Eastern traditions and Western style, reaffirming his title as the Bob Dylan of the Middle East.



For more information visit:
www.marcelkhalife.com

VLCC SEND OFF'S

Two of the council finders have sadly left the VLCC to pursue higher studies. A warm farewell to Amal and Howaida Ayoub, we thank you for your efforts and wish you both the best of luck in the future.

Off pursuing their careers are Dr Mohamed Dirani and Dr Rosana Hage-Ali both of which contributed to the council's media team. Mohamed recently completed his PhD in Ophthalmology with his twin eye study receiving world wide recognition for its scientific contributions to the understanding of common eye disease. Mohamed has now moved on to manage a large scale eye study in Singapore - We're sure he will go on to achieve great things. Upon completing her medical degree, Rosana has spent some time working in Mildura, now based at the Alfred Hospital, she is currently preparing for her physicians exam- good luck Rosana!

We thank you both for your efforts and wish you the very best of luck in your careers and future endeavours.



Right: Rosana Hage-Ali and Mohamed Dirani

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THE 2008 MULTI-CULTURAL CUP...

Keep your eyes peeled for the next Australian Football Multicultural Club match set to take place later in the year. A Lebanon team will be competing this year with the hopes of taking away the victory cup. In previous years, the Lebanon team has done well and found itself in the semi-finals. The Australian Football Multicultural Club competition features teams assembled from Melbourne's migrant communities. The cup has included teams from Croatia, Greece, Italy, Israel, Samoa, Tonga, Vietnam, and Turkey. Usually held at The Optus oval in Carlton, the event attracts many guests and AFL stars. The last Multicultural cup was won by Greece.

AUSTRALIAN LEBANESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (ALHSV)

ALHSV is dedicated to telling the inspiring stories of Australian-Lebanese in Victoria through writings, photography, film, artwork, cultural events and exhibitions. Some of these stories focus on the past, some on the present. All are recorded for future generations.

Each story invokes the journey of the Australian-Lebanese, from their arrival in the late 1800s to the present. These stories speak of the joys, struggles, humour and courage of families, individuals, businesses, churches, mosques, schools, cultural organizations and communities. For more info visit their web site: www.alhsv.org.au.

DID YOU KNOW?

In light of the Miss Lebanon pageant held recently, lets take a moment to acknowledge the first and only Lebanese Miss Universe, Georgina Risk. In 1971 the stunningly beautiful Georgina took home the crown and is notoriously remembered for making a fashion statement by wearing a very revealing top and hotpants.

Prior to going to Miami Beach to compete in the pageant, Georgina was told by a local fortune teller that she would be travelling to a far land and will become successful. This seemed to be the case as following her win, Georgina was and still is one of the most spoken about Lebanese celebrities.

She is now married to the famous Lebanese singer Walid Toufic who also appears as a judge in the Miss Lebanon competitions.



Above: Georgina (middle) after being crowned Miss Universe 1971.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for future VLCC Gazette editions, please email VLCC gazette editor at:

csoufan@vlcc.com.au