



Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4

Good day Members and Friends,

Our second year as an association has been truly amazing. We are so thrilled with the support, encouragement and participation from the Pilbara CaLD and wider community and sponsors.

In this edition of our newsletter we review 2023.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season and prosperous 2024.



Presidents Message Page 2



Q & A with Joseph Almonte



Q & A with William Lee



Our new 2024 committee

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we close another eventful year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared. Our association has been a beacon of cultural diversity and inclusivity in our community, and the successes of our annual events and programs are a testament to the dedication and hard work of each one of you.

This year, we have witnessed the power of unity and the beauty of our cultural tapestry through events such as the Northwest Multicultural Show, the CaLD Professional Network, and our series of Cooking Classes. These gatherings have not only celebrated our differences but have also strengthened the bonds between us, fostering understanding and respect across various cultural backgrounds.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, whose tireless efforts have been the backbone of our success. Your selfless dedication to the association's mission has enabled us to reach new heights and has made a profound impact on our community.

Our gratitude also goes to our generous sponsors, whose contributions have been vital in bringing our vision to life. Your support has allowed us to expand our programs, reach wider audiences, and create meaningful experiences for all involved. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to promoting multiculturalism and fostering a welcoming environment for everyone in our community.

In the coming year, we will continue to build upon our strong foundation, seeking innovative ways to celebrate our differences and unite in our shared values. I am confident that with your continued support and passion, the Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc. will achieve even greater milestones.

Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we are creating a vibrant, inclusive community that honours the cultural richness of every individual. I am eager to embark on the next chapter of our journey, and I hope you share in my excitement for what the future holds.

Warm regards,

Karen Huang

President

Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.



Welcoming our new committee for 2024 NMAWA Committee for 2024

Karen Huang - President
Joseph Almonte - Vice President
Ren Mullane - Treasurer
Julie Davies - Secretary
William Lee - Committee
Shan Su - Committee
Eva Liew - Committee
Wiwik Mears - Committee
Momette Gunda - Committee
Vicki Long - Committee (not pictured)

COMMITTEE MEMBER STORY

JOSEPH BALOLONG ALMONTE

NMAWA - Vice President



I was born on the 7th of October 1969. My mother just died 4 days after she delivered me. I am the youngest of the 9 siblings. Due to unforeseen circumstances, my parents choose to give me to my mom's auntie who is single. I lived with her for almost 30 years until the time of her last breath. She sent me to school from elementary until I finished my Bachelor of Arts in political science.

After I graduated my AB political science, I applied for a government job and I was lucky to get a job as a tax mapper in our local district, and while working I took a post graduate degree but due to lack of financial support I did not push through with my ambition to be a lawyer. At this young age I was given the opportunity to work as a coordinator for the fourth district of Pangasinan province under the then speaker of the congress Jose De Venecia. My leadership affiliation with other organisations brought me to become more active and I'm beginning to involved in social, economic, and sports activities. I found it very attractive and interesting job until Family issues distract me and hitting me to my lowest adversity in my adolescent life, so I leave my mother and choose to work in Taiwan as a Machine Operator for 1 and half year (1995 -1997).

1997 when I married Ritchelle, we had 4 lovely children and all of them are already in Australia. So I applied again for a job in a government and again I was given the opportunity to get a full time job as an engineering aide at the Dagupan city council. However, my stay here did not last long so I was move to other department (city treasurer's office)as a liaison officer.

While working here, so many opportunities bothering my mind especially working abroad. I put my resume for the job interview for Japan as a carpenter trainee and I passed the interview. I hand over my resignation letter and start my traineeship in Japan from 2003 – 2006. As a carpenter – trainee I was given the task to lead the 16 fellow trainees. I studied basic Japanese language, the life, history and culture of Japan and Values. Being a leader, I experienced harassment from my supervisor as I am defiant to some of the On-the job training procedures which is against the standard training rules. My supervisor tried to report me and accusing me of breaking the rules of the company but in the end I won my case and they settled it through ILO (Intenational Labor Organization).

After I finished my 3 years extend in Japan as a trainee and employee, My sending organization offered me a job as a Training manager. Suddenly my career change as I am now a Human resources recruiter and us.

After I finished my 3 years extend in Japan as a trainee and employee, My sending organization offered me a job as a Training manager. Suddenly my career change as I am now a Human resources recruiter and Training manager at the same time. I become more involved and focus in recruiting trainees.

My role as recruitment personnel faves me the way to apply for a carpenters job in Australia. My co – trainee in Japan asked me if I can recommend a qualified carpenter to work in Australia. So i answered him in affirmative and he noticed that I put my name and 5 of our co - trainees. To make the story short, all of us passed the interview and was given the working visa (457) . Year 2008 Geraldton, Western Australia . I started my first job as a carpenter , at first I am curious of what lies ahead because i know that Australia was considered as one of the harsh country when it comes to discrimination but that notion was not the case for me because the first person that Ive got acquainted with was an aboriginal and he showed respect, care and understanding of who I am and who they are. Our friendship become stronger after 6 months and im like a part of their family. Unfortunately, our friendship cut short because after 6 months, our company declared bankruptcy and they redundant us.

January of 2009 ,I received a noticed of visa cancellation, I was given 28 days to find a sponsor or leave Australia. The Filipino Club in Geraldton comes to our rescue by giving us shelter and food to eat while looking for job and company to sponsor us. The Filipinos in Geraldton showed us the spirits of love and compassion just to keep us and help our family. 4 of the 7 filipinos was hired , I was able to get sponsor but I sacrificed for a friend who needs it very badly for his family.

I went back to Philippines and re – applied again in Australia. Waited for a year and lucky enough to passed my interview with my manager at the Karratha Tavern. So when I arrived at Karratha. My first impression to this town was like a ghost town because you can only see many people during weekend at the tavern and street lights are only in the aiport and a few at bulgarra and pegscreek. From December to February was like a boring month because you can count how many people in shopping center and the shops close at 4pm.

The KT was ahome for multi – diverse workers in town because we have 5 filipinos , 3 indonesian, 2 french , 2 germans, American, south African, and about 10 Australians. Our diversity in the workplace was like Asian , europians and aussies. As a keen observer in the work place , we are closed to Indonesians and europians are close to aussie. So our division of work was like we are working in the kitchen and they work in the bar and restaurant. So I noticed the language barrier was the issue in the work place at that time.

My 1 year in the Tavern was like a transition period or getting to know each other situation because I've already brought my family in Australia. Our routine was work, house , shopping , during weekend I play basketball with a small Filipino community in Bulgarra. 2014 when I organised a basketball club that will unite and give as fun and excitement to get away from homesickness and away from vices. So it all started here where everyone was involved in weekly basketball games.

Our families become more active in the filipino activities such as playing badminton and volleyball, party during weekend and now we are fully established and had a fast growing and strong community in Karratha. 2020 I registered the Samahan ng filipino sa Karratha as an non – for profit organisation. This organisation will be the umbrella of the filipino club activities in karratha.

As of now, the organisation is supporting the Nortwest multi-cultural association in Australia. We are committed to support the cultural activities of the NMAWA and the City of Karratha.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S Q & A

JOSEPH BALOLONG ALMONTE

NMAWA - Vice President



Why and when did you move to Karratha?

Fact is I lost my job and sponsorship way back 2009 while in Geraldton because of the economic downturn during that year. I was laid off and went back to Philippines. For a year I keep on applying and finding luck to be able to go back to Australia. June of 2010 when I received a call for job interview from Australia. I passed the said interview and its now a history because I brought my wife after a year and 6 months thereafter my children followed us on 2012.

What do you like most about living here?

Frankly speaking, it's like my second home, because my work as Courtesy Bus driver way back 2010 -2015 put me closer to the local and diverse community in Karratha. I like here because I had built a strong Filipino community that keep us united to the challenge of life. I was able to establish a league that bring camaraderie to everyone thru sports activities and encourage them to get involved and support the club /organisation which is very much the same situation in the Philippines. My involvement in sports and cultural activities gives me the positive life to stay here and enjoy every moment.

What surprised you about Karratha?

Surprised me? Well I think aside from the burning heat , it's the unstable rental in which they cannot control. If this trend keeps going and salary is not given priority. Small businesses will suffer because workers will leave and find other jobs elsewhere to make for a living and try other options for the love of the family.

What food do you miss from your hometown?

I have so many foods that I really miss like season beef lingua, pork adobo and igado (pork tenderloin and liver), halo halo ice cream.

Anything extra you want to say about living here and coming from a CALD background?

Living in Australia particularly Karratha , is you need extra patience to cope up with work and life . You need to express yourself and try to not stay in your comfort zone to be able to recognise and accept you in the diverse community in Karratha. In my case, I can speak a basic Japanese language , a little Mandarin and Spanish. My English still needs improvement as I am not fluent but I am not afraid to speak to share my thoughts, culture, values and my life. I want them to know that I need a friend or companion to handle the longing of being away from your family. Need to involve in recreational and multi-cultural activities to be happy and be part of the community.



COMMITTEE MEMBER Q & A



William Lee

Founding Member



Why and when did you move to Karratha?

After graduating with a diploma of hospitality in Melbourne in 2018, I relocated to Karratha due to employment sponsorship.

What do you like most about living here?

Karratha, a multicultural city, is home to a diverse community with individuals from various backgrounds, all of whom are friendly and welcoming.

What surprised you about Karratha ?

One aspect that took me by surprise was the city's remoteness, as it is quite far away from major urban centers. In order to reach neighboring towns, one must drive for a minimum of three hours.

What food do you miss from your home town ?

I find myself longing for the street food and traditional breakfast options in my home town.

Anything extra you want to say about living here and coming from a CaLD background?

It is my belief that our association can contribute towards making this place more enjoyable to live in."





CaLD Events in 2023

proudly sponsored by:

Office of Multicultural Interests | City of Karratha

Pilbara Ports Authority | Fortescue Metals Group

and supported by Pilbara Kimberley University Centres



A NMAWA year in photos





NMAWA Cooking Programme 2023



Japanese Cuisine with Chef Naomi



Baking with Chef William



Chinese Cuisine with Grace



Indian Cuisine with Abby



UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2024...



FEBRUARY

**Lunar New Year 2024
& Lantern Festival**

MARCH

**Harmony Week
Multicultural
Exhibition**



APRIL

**Thai New Year
Songkran**

follow our page to be updated



Japanese Cooking Class returns in February 2024



**Chef Naomi brings more amazing dishes to
the community!**

Save the date:

24/02

23/03

25/05

Registration will be open in early February!

EXPRESS OF INTEREST: COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CLASSES (Adult / Child)



**Join the Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.'s
Community Language Classes!**

Learn a new language, connect with diverse cultures, and make new friends. Beginners and advanced learners are welcome.

Express your interest today at admin@nmawa.org.au or scan the QR Code to fill out the EOI form!





Support NMAWA

Collect your recyclable items and support your Association

MEMBER NUMBER

Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.

C11255965



Keep your member number handy - share it with your supporters to raise funds and to track your fundraising efforts.





Northwest Multicultural
Association WA Inc.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

We welcome you to apply to become a member of NMAWA Inc.

Our members enjoy discounted event prices throughout the year.

Annual memberships: Individual \$20 or Family \$50

Some of our programs include:

- Community Baking Class
- Japanese Cuisine Class
- CaLD Professional Networking events throughout the year
- Community language programs for children and adults
- Annual Multicultural Dance and Fashion Parade
- Annual cultural events

Volunteers welcomed: if you have some time to help and make new friends

Contact us directly or visit Seek Volunteer

<https://www.volunteer.com.au/> to see how you can get involved.

Sign up for our e-newsletter

Email: admin@nmawa.org.au

Find us on **facebook** or visit our website www.nmawa.org.au

Embracing Diversity



2024 Membership

NMAWA Membership fees are annual from 01/01 to 31/01.

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00
FAMILY \$50.00
CORPORATE \$100.00

To sign up as a member today please visit our website

www.nmawa.org.au

Complete our fast and easy online membership form

<https://form.jotform.com/233012494374453>

Our mission is to support diversity in our community, all nationalities welcome.

Support Local Business



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