



# Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.

**NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME 9**



**Northwest Multicultural Festival**



**Cultural performers**



**Festival Markets**



**Performers Dinner**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear Members and Friends,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the activities and events that have taken place at the Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc. over the past two months.

Our office, located in the Welcome Lotteries House, continues to offer appointments to the community to discuss any matters related to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities. We are committed to providing support and resources to those in need.

During Mental Health Week, we were proud to support various events and workshops in collaboration with LotteryWest and the Western Australia Association of Mental Health. These included Nutrition for Health workshops, Yoga/Meditation workshops, Zumba fitness classes, and a Talk about Burnout moments workshop. These events were well-received and provided valuable information and resources to our community members.

Our annual major event, the Northwest Multicultural Forum and Festival, was a great success this year, attracting approximately 700 people over the weekend. We would like to extend our gratitude to all committee members, sponsors, and volunteers for their ongoing support and dedication to making this event a success. In addition, we were able to celebrate WA Children Week during our festival, providing a fun and engaging environment for children and families to come together and celebrate the diversity of our community.

As the AGM is approaching in November, we look forward to meeting all members and brief about our achievements over the last year and announce some exciting plans and initiatives ahead. More importantly, we are excited to welcome more dedicated and passionate committee members to be onboard.

We look forward to continuing to serve and support our community in the coming months and appreciate the ongoing support of our members and partners.

Thank you,

**Karen Huang**  
President  
Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.



## 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 - (not pictured)**  
**Vicki Long (not pictured)**



# Pre-Festival Performers Dinner

On the evening of October 18th, NMAWA orchestrated a splendid buffet dinner at the Karratha International Hotel, providing a delightful opportunity for Festival performers to mingle with our ongoing sponsors and supporters before the grand Festival day on October 19th. Heartfelt gratitude extends to the hotel staff for their excellent service that night, as well as to the captivating performers from Dara Thai Dance School and Taiko On Perth, who enchanted and engaged the audience. A special thanks also goes to our event photographer, Robert Hegan of People and Perspectives, for capturing these magical moments.



Mr. Kevin Michel, MLA, bestowed a plaque to NMAWA President Karen Huang, representing Lotterywest's generous support of a \$15,000 grant for the Multicultural Festival. Also captured at this joyous occasion are Mr. Peter Foster MLC, and Mr. Pierre Yang MLC, alongside the hardworking NMAWA committee.





# Multicultural Forum



We extend our gratitude to the sponsors, presenters, and attendees of the Northwest Multicultural Forum.

The Forum plays an essential role in crafting a warm and inclusive atmosphere for all individuals, transcending the boundaries of race, ethnicity, and culture. By providing a space for dialogue and collaboration, it weaves connections that bridge divides between our varied communities.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the tireless efforts of the Forum subcommittee, who work diligently to promote cultural awareness and cultivate a more inclusive and inspiring society.

A special acknowledgment to our Forum facilitator, Shan Su, from Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc., and our distinguished presenters: Karen Huang from Asia CEO Community, Victoria Malyk from Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc., Dr. Jacinta Homann from Pilbara Kimberley University Centres, and Renuga Mullane from Jacob Bala & Associates.

Most importantly, we express our profound thanks to all sponsors of the Northwest Multicultural Forum. Special mention to both **Member for Pilbara Kevin Michel MLA** and **Member for Durack Melissa Price MP**, for their commitment to the future development of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in the North West region!



Asia CEO Community Presenter Karen Huang with Presenter Dr Jacinta Hoffman from PKUC and special guest Mr. Pierre Yang MLC



Ms. Amanda Kailis Liberal for Pilbara with Shan Su, Facilitator/Moderator

**Forum Sponsors:**  
Lotterywest  
Melissa Price MP  
Kevin Michel MLA  
Pilbara Ports Authority  
Woodside North West  
Rio Tinto  
CITIC Pacific Mining  
@Pilbara Development Commission  
City of Karratha  
Regional Development Australia Pilbara



Presenter: Renuga Mullane  
Joseph Balla & Associates



Presenter :Victoria Malyk from Pilbara  
Community Legal Service Inc.



# Festival Workshops



At the **Dara Thai Dancing School** **ดาราท้ายศิลป์ไทย** workshop, participants were immersed in the graceful and expressive movements of traditional Thai dance. Led by experienced teachers Ploy and the team, attendees learned the intricate steps and gestures that make up this beautiful art form. The workshop provided a unique opportunity to learn about Thai culture and instruments through the medium of dance, creating a truly memorable and enriching experience for all who participated.



**Taiko On Perth** 太鼓音  
Japanese Drumming Workshop was a high-energy and interactive session where participants learned the art of traditional Japanese drumming. Led by skilled instructors Simon and the team, attendees were able to experience the power and precision of taiko drumming firsthand, creating rhythmic beats combining Japanese language learning that resonated throughout the room.



*Thank  
You*

*Thank you sponsors for supporting a series of workshop, and we managed to accommodate nearly 100 attendees across all age groups over the weekend!*



## 2024 Multicultural Festival Performers



Pictured left: Chinese Hanfu dancers, alongside the charming MC Kelly Gudgeon and the hardworking NMA organising sub-committee, Joseph Almonte and Wiwik Mears.



Pictured: Dara Thai Dancing School  
ดารานาฏศิลป์ไทย



Pictured: Fabulous Taiko On Perth 太鼓音



Pictured: Colourful Philippines Maskara Dancers



Pictured: Awe inspiring Te Ropu Kapahaka O Mauru



Pictured: High energy from talented Dance  
Kix team



Pictured: Charming Indonesian Dancers

## 2024 Multicultural Festival Performers



Group shot of the performers at the end of the Festival



NMAWA President Karen Huang and committee members to the stage

## Multicultural Costume Competition Winners



# Festival Markets



**Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Northwest Multicultural Festival 2024!**

We had an amazing time celebrating the diversity in the North West region with vibrant performances, delicious food, and interactive cultural activities. It was truly a day filled with joy, excitement, and appreciation for the different cultures that make up our community.

A big thank you to all the sponsors, supporters, performers, food vendors, Festival market stallholders, volunteers, and attendees who made this event a huge success. Your support and participation are what make this festival so special.

These great photos and many more taken over three days by Robert Hegan - People and Perspectives are now available on our Facebook page.





# THANK you

## Multicultural Festival Sponsors & Supporters 2024

### SPONSORS

Lotterywest

Office of Multicultural Interests

Kevin Michel MLA

Also representing Dr. Tony Buti MLA, Minister  
for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship  
and Multicultural Interests

Pilbara Ports Authority

Woodside North West

Rio Tinto

CITIC Pacific Mining

Pilbara Development Commission

City of Karratha

Regional Development Australia Pilbara

Regional Arts WA

### IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

KDCCI

Aspen Living Karratha

ibis Styles Karratha

### WA CHILDREN'S WEEK PROGRAM

Lotterywest

Department of Communities

Meerilinga, Promoting Positive Childhoods

### FESTIVAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Joseph Almonte and Wiwik Mears

### MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Kelly Gudgeon

### PEFORMERS

Taiko On Perth 太鼓音

Dara Thai Dancing School ธารนาฏศิลป์ไทย

Dance Kix Karratha

Te Ropu Kapahaka O Mauru

Indonesian community in Karratha and

Surrounding Areas

Chinese Dance

Samahang Pilipino Karratha

Food Vendors:

Pot Ceylon

Kathmandu Garden

JONNY'S SURF SHACK

Samson Soft Serve

Red Dog Donuts

Festival Market Stalls:

Unwind Pilbara

Pilbara Community Legal Service Inc

KDCCI

Blue Pearl Art

Cora-Larni Enterprise

Grateful Remnants

Pilbara Kimberley University Centres

Phillip Silver & Associates Migration Lawyer

Fast Fit 20

Genesis Natural Hair Care

Neylani

Yujian Chu

Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.

Two Prigg's Face Painting





05-12 October marks Mental Health Week, a time to raise awareness and break the stigma surrounding mental health. It's important to check on yourself at all times, and it's okay to step away from your normal routine to relax yourself.

We offered a few events to support the community from all cultural backgrounds to refresh minds and release stress! Welcome to Mental Health Week's event series, centred around the theme of "Live A Healthy Life."

As we celebrate this important week dedicated to mental well-being, we invite you to join us for a few special events focusing on holistic health and wellness.



These events are designed to support you to prioritise self-care and cultivate a healthy mind-body connection as you strive to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

# Japanese Cooking Class

Fried Chicken with Vinegar and Tartar Sauce  
Chinese Cabbage with Fried Tofu



**Book your spots now!**

\$40 member

\$50 non-member

30/11 Saturday  
10 am-12 pm

(Bring your own takeaway container for your cooking)

Join us for a fun and interactive Japanese cooking class where you'll learn how to make delicious Fried Chicken with Vinegar and Tartar Sauce & Chinese Cabbage with Fried Tofu!

This in-person event will take place at the Pam Buchanan Kitchen. Our experienced chef, Naomi, will guide you through the step-by-step process of preparing these authentic Japanese dishes. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned cook, this class is perfect for anyone who wants to explore the flavours of Japan. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn some new cooking skills and enjoy a tasty meal! Limited spots are available, so be sure to sign up soon.

Remember to bring your own takeaway containers and personal cutlery if needed.

**Book Your Cooking  
Experience**



**Scan to Join NMA  
Membership**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit our Facebook Page for the latest events for members and friends.



# Other Events



## Sundowner with Melissa Price MP and Peter Dutton

Our Treasurer Ren Mullane attended a Sundowner event at the Karratha International Hotel on Tuesday, 29th October 2024 at the kind invitation of Ms Melissa Price MP, Federal Member for Durack, with special visitor Hon. Peter Dutton MP, Leader of the Opposition. This event was a great opportunity to discuss multicultural matters.



From left: Ms Amanda Kailis, Ren Mullane with Ms Melissa Price



Pictured : Ren Mullane, Hon Peter Dutton and Virginia Miltrup  
CEO City of Karratha



## Teddy Bears Picnic

The team attended the EPIC Teddy Bear's Picnic on 12th October at Bulgarra Oval, and handed out some great merchandise to the attendees





# Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ASSOCIATION 3rd BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Join us to elect our new board members and celebrate our achievements in 2023/2024

Light refreshments & Birthday cake will be provided.

Date: Sunday 24 NOV 2024

Time:

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM AGM

3:30PM- 4:30PM NMA 3rd Anniversary

Venue:

Welcome Lotteries House

## Join us for the Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc. Annual General Meeting!

Are you passionate about promoting diversity and inclusion in our community? Do you want to make a difference and help shape the future of our organisation? Then mark your calendars for our AGM on **24th November 2024** at Welcome Lotteries House Karratha!

Come meet our board members, hear about our achievements from the past year, and learn about our exciting plans for the future. **Your voice matters, and we want to hear from you!**

RSVP now and be a part of creating a more inclusive and welcoming community for all.

RSVP by Nov 22nd, 2024 to:  
[secretary@nmawa.org.au](mailto:secretary@nmawa.org.au)



## Join us at our 3rd Birthday Celebration!

Come and enjoy some light refreshments and the birthday cake as we celebrate another year of promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. This laid-back gathering is the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow members, share stories, and simply enjoy each other's company.

No fancy attire required, just bring your smiles and positive vibes. Let's toast to another year of making a difference and creating a more welcoming community for all. Save the date and join us for a relaxed and enjoyable birthday celebration.

RSVP is recommended for catering purposes!

Email to [secretary@nmawa.org.au](mailto:secretary@nmawa.org.au)



# Community Q & A

## Simione Cagilaba



### **Why and when did you move to Karratha?**

Work transferred to me and my family from Mackay Queensland to Karratha. We arrived here 19th December 2015

### **What do you like most about living here?**

Karratha has an allure that needs to be experienced, once you do that the place feels just like home. The weekends with the many family excursions, day trips, overnight camps, fishing trips all within range of the town is simply what makes this place feel like home.

### **What surprised you about Karratha?**

This place can be tough but we are so blessed to have facilities like the Leisure Plex and REAP (Red Earth Arts Precinct). An eye opener for me is that Karratha offers so many activities all a stone's throw away from home eg; python pool, Mairee pool, Dampier foreshore.

### **What food do you miss from your hometown?**

I miss food cooked in fire, (like firewood cooked meals).

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

The great thing about moving to regional areas is how strong community bonds together. I have been blessed to be able to be part of so many communities, it teaches resilience, builds character and fosters tolerance. Karratha is home, as they say, home is what you make of it.



Northwest Multicultural  
Association WA Inc.

# Community Q & A

## Winna Cong

### My Second Home Restaurant & Cafe



#### Why and when did you move to Karratha?

I moved from Queensland to Karratha in January. We previously lived in Atherton, a scenic, peaceful town. I initially came to seek new job opportunities in WA's mining region. A few months later, in April, my partner joined me, driving 5,000 kilometers from Queensland to meet me here. Sharing a vision to start our own business, and with my partner's chef experience, we took over a small cafe at The Ranges Resort in September. After some preparation, we began our soft opening on October 20, 2024.

#### What do you like most about living here?

Living here has given me the chance to use my social skills and pursue something I love, which I didn't have much time for before. I value not just the job opportunities here but also the chance to connect with the community through our business.

#### What surprised you about Karratha?

The heat! On my first day, it was 44°C outside, and 51°C in the car. Having come from Queensland's mild weather, it took some adjusting. Despite being at a similar latitude, the climate here is much hotter.

#### What food do you miss from your hometown?

While I've adapted to the local food, I do miss the convenience of 24-hour street food back home—things like hot pot and spicy snacks. But most of all, I miss my parents' simple home-cooked meals and local street snacks from my neighborhood.

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

As someone from a different cultural background, I really appreciate the diversity here. I'm thrilled to have opened a restaurant and to bring new dining experiences to the community. I hope to inspire others from diverse backgrounds to find their place in Karratha and make their own contributions. For example, I'd love to join some of the dance classes in the community, though with the cafe open now, I might have even less time to participate!



# Community Story

## Katherine Tawse - paintbox

### Anchored In Art: The Power of Creativity and Community

Hello, friends.

As I sit down to write this, I'm reflecting on how far **paintbox** has come and the incredible journey it has been to bring this space to life. Two years ago, **paintbox** began as an idea in a small corner of my home—a place to share my love for art, explore creativity, and, above all, to foster an environment where people of all ages could connect with the transformative power of artistic expression.

Today, with heartfelt gratitude, we are proudly standing in our dedicated studio, a space that has not only become a haven for art but has also expanded to embrace music, face painting, community drumming and more. It's incredible to witness how **paintbox** has grown from a simple vision into a community that supports and uplifts each other in every brushstroke, melody, and shared moment of creativity. It feels like I'm not just creating art but curating a sanctuary where each person's unique talents and perspectives can be honoured.

**If we haven't met, my name is Katherine Tawse, an Australian artist originally born in the Philippines. I've called Karratha home since 2007 with a short break between 2015 and 2019 when we chose to raise our Karratha-born babies on the Gold Coast for a little while.**

I'm a mother of two incredible children and wife to the most amazing man, and I have been immersed in the world of art since childhood. Mainly self-taught, I further honed my skills through private lessons with a Dutch watercolour artist after graduating from university with a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Writing major. My artistic repertoire spans watercolour, gouache, acrylic, charcoal, pencil, and ink, with a particular passion for painting portraits, botanical art, wildlife, and landscapes. I have exhibited at Cossack Art Awards in previous years with plans to have a solo exhibition soon. I recently received the Highly Commended Award at the 2024 Dampier Art Awards in the portrait category.

**paintbox** was born in 2022, fulfilling my lifelong dream of offering art lessons to children and adults. What started as a small offering out of my home studio has grown so quickly and paintbox has had the opportunity to move into a dedicated art studio space in Bulgarra, Western Australia, within less than a year of operations. I currently offer weekly art lessons for children, three times a week and during summer holidays. Many of my students have won local art competitions, some of them winning multiple awards, since attending classes at **paintbox**. I have also run weekly adult sessions and have encouraged many local artists to join competitions where they have successfully sold their first entries. Corporate workshops are a big part of **paintbox**, where I facilitate the step-by-step process of creating art in a group setting. I've also had the great opportunity to work with the City of Karratha, regularly offering art activities and experiences at community events, youth events and school holiday programs.

This year, under the guidance of my husband, artist and musician Donovan Tawse, as the instructor for drums and guitar, we started offering group guitar for beginners. As self-taught musicians with over 15 years combined experience performing locally and overseas, we understand the challenges and triumphs that come with learning to play musical instruments and performing in a band. We bring with us a wealth of practical knowledge gained from our own musical adventures and we're committed to inspiring a new generation of budding musicians in Karratha.



***We are blessed to be situated here in the Pilbara, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes and stories that inspire every piece of work we create. My goal with paintbox is to echo these natural stories and to give others a platform to share their own through a range of exhibitions, workshops, and unique art experiences.***

As **paintbox** evolves, I can't help but feel that I, too, am evolving with it. This growth, however, is not mine alone but shared by everyone who has ever believed in our mission. Together, we are building something that's not only a place of learning and creation but a legacy of passion and resilience. Thank you for being a part of it.

With gratitude,

Katherine Tawse

<https://www.paintboxstudios.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/p/paintbox-100086646661732/>  
[paintbox.karratha@gmail.com](mailto:paintbox.karratha@gmail.com)

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, the Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc. has been able to make a significant impact in our community.

**THANK YOU**

Through a variety of events and programs, we have been able to promote diversity, inclusion, and cultural understanding. From cultural festivals and workshops to educational seminars and community outreach initiatives, our sponsors have played a crucial role in bringing people together and fostering unity.

We are grateful for their belief in our organisation and the work that we do, and we look forward to continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of many individuals in our region.



Department of  
**Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries**



**OFFICE OF  
MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional  
Development  
*Australia*



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs



**Woodside  
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**PILBARA PORTS**



Fair Work  
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**Karratha  
City**



Australian Government  
Regional Arts Fund



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Communities



as convened in WA by

**Meerilinga**



CITIC PACIFIC MINING  
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COMMUNITY  
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**Pilbara Kimberley  
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KARRATHA & DISTRICTS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



**Kevin Michel** MLA  
MEMBER FOR PILBARA

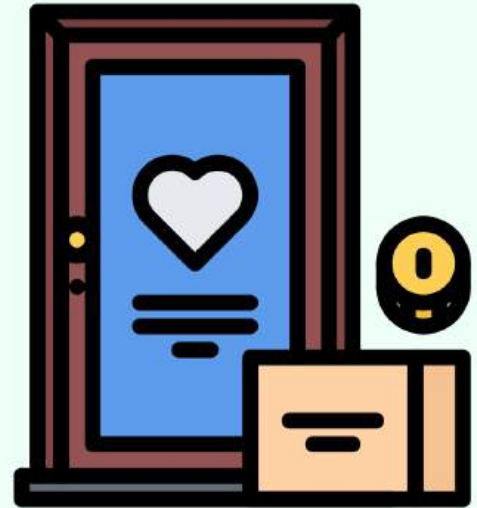




# Northwest Multicultural Association WA Inc.

OUR ADDRESS:

Welcome Lotteries House  
Unit 10, 7 Morse Court,  
Karratha WA 6714  
[admin@nmawa.org.au](mailto:admin@nmawa.org.au)



*As we are a volunteer based organisation  
please contact us by email for appointments.*

## 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.

