



PACSI NEWS

Official Newsletter of the Philippine-Australian Community Services Inc

Issue 2, April 2012

WELCOME to PACSI NEWS Issue #2!

Old news but definitely good news! Read on ...

HIP HOP DANCING

In October 2011, we embarked on an exciting project for young people (both Filipinos and non-Filipinos). Together with the Blacktown Library, we ran 10 sessions of hip hop classes. It was a great program with kids of Filipino, Vietnamese, Chinese and African origins participating in this pilot project.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

In December 2011, we held our annual Christmas Party with nearly 100 members and guests attending the event. We were joined by the Federal member for Chifley Ed Husic and Federal member for Greenway Michelle Rowland and Mayor Alan Pendleton. Our very own Philippine-Consul General could not make it but she sent a heartfelt Christmas message to PACSI. Adding fun to the party was the special hip hop performance by the young people who did the workshop and the rigodon.

AMBASSADOR ANOTA MEETS PACSI

In January 2012, Her Excellency Belen F. Anota, Ambassador of the Philippines to Australia met with members and officers of PACSI. Sydney-based Philippine Consul-General Anne Jalando-on Louis accompanied her to our office. We briefed her about our services, issues e.g Filipino migrants in Australia and about ways of working together so we can assist Filipinos in Australia.



Stretching to get in the mood for gentle zumba exercise

Get Active!

Gentle Zumba for Young Ones and the Young Once

PACSI's exciting gentle zumba class started on the 10th of March and has been going on every Saturday morning at the PACSI office. This 10-week program is funded by the NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) under its Get Healthy Community Grants. This activity involves one hour of gentle zumba and one hour of information session on different health and healthy lifestyle issues, such as the talk on diabetes awareness by bilingual community educator and PACSI President Julie Nunez. This activity is part of MHCS' promotion of a new service called "Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service", a free telephone service staffed by qualified health coaches aimed at supporting adults at risk of developing chronic diseases, in making lifestyle changes regarding healthy eating, physical activity and reaching and maintaining healthy weight.

get healthy
Information & Coaching Service
1300 806 258
Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm
www.gethealthynsw.com.au

Meeting with Philippine Ambassador Belen F. Anota

PACSI had the honour to meet Her Excellency Belen F. Anota, Ambassador of the Philippines to Australia when she and Sydney-based Philippine Consul-General Anne Jalando-on Louis visited our office earlier this year. It was an occasion for us to brief her about PACSI and its services to the Filipino community, especially to newly-arrived Filipinos in NSW. It was also a perfect opportunity to follow up on how the CFO (Commission for Filipinos Overseas)-PACSI working relationship can be enhanced further, with the Ambassador's assistance. The meeting was attended by members of PACSI Management Committee, volunteers and community workers.



GET INFORMED!

PACSI Info Sessions

Over the last few months, PACSI has run useful and relevant information sessions for newly arrived migrants, ranging from education and career pathways, public and community housing, family and culture, stress management and community safety. The latest info session – on community safety – included a visit to the Blacktown Police Station, as a way to breakdown the fear and anxiety that some people feel when they hear the word police. Before this, we organized a visit to the Blacktown City Council, and learned how the Council works, what are the services it offers to residents of Blacktown LGA.

If there are issues you want information on or you think PACSI should organize an

information session on, feel free to contact us and we can discuss how we can organize it.

Information session on Employment Rights will be held on May 16, Wednesday, 10-12.



Inside the Blacktown City Council Chamber, PETER Filmer, giving PACSI members a briefing.

Volunteers Visit the 'Gong

PACSI volunteers are invaluable to the organisation. They are there every single day of the week to assist the organisation in servicing the needs of the Filipino migrants. They do not expect anything in return but they give their time and experience freely to the community.

To acknowledge their work, we organised a volunteers outing to Wollongong on the 25th of February. 21 of us happily boarded a mini van that took us to places like Bulli Lookout Point, the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple (the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere) and to Kiama where we sat down for a picnic-style lunch at a park near the famous tourist attraction called the "blowhole".

It was a good day full of stories, laughter, long walks, long talks and cat naps in between.



Happy excursionists!



Inside the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple, Wollongong

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

PACSI Annual General Meeting

The PACSI Annual General Meeting will be on the **25th of May** 2012, from 10 to 2 pm at the Max Webber Function Centre, Blacktown Library, corner Flushcombe Road and Alpha Street. All are invited, especially PACSI members.

Info Session on Employment Rights

PACSI will run an information session on rights at work on **16th of May**. This is especially relevant to those who are currently working or intending to work. Session will be run in partnership with Asian Women at Work Inc.

Annual Blacktown City Festival

PACSI will join the 2012 Blacktown City Festival's street parade on 26th of May. Come and parade with PACSI. Contact office for more details near the date.

30 Weeks of Cool Hip Hop Dancing

In June, PACSI will embark on a 30-week hip hop dancing project that will bring together young Filipinos, Africans and Pacific Islanders together. Through hip hop, these young people will learn about expressing themselves and their issues, and discover their potentials. Young talented hip hop choreographers will be invited. This project is funded under the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program of the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Spread the word about this project!

How to contact PACSI

Visit us - 97 Main St Blacktown NSW

Visit our website - www.pacsi.org.au

Email us - info@pacsi.org.au

Post a letter - PO Box 651 Blacktown 2148

Send us a fax - (02) 9676 8584

Call us up - (02) 9672 3738

Ring up our community workers -

- Lina Cabaero - 0404 974 925
- Lea Glasson - 0450 251 804
- Nelia Sumcad - 0404 975 765



NOTICE to MEMBERS

2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

When: Friday, 25th of May 2012
10 am - Registration
10.30 to 1.30 AGM

Where: Max Webber Function Centre
corner Alpha St and Flushcombe Rd
Blacktown

Speeches and
Reports, Election of
Management
Committee, Light
Refreshments and
Entertainment

Contact – 9672 3738
Lina Cabaero – 0404 974 925
Nelia Sumcad – 0404 975 765
Lea Glasson – 0400 860 804