



Welcome to the AMF e-newsletter for Spring 2010. The team has had a busy 2010 commencing new projects and events as well as continuing our ongoing work including:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Diversity Matters, Singapore
- Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation Survey 2010
- Metropolis Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Vietnamese Leadership Training Program
- SBS Dementia Program
- Multicultural Arts Professional Development (MAPD)
- Something to Declare – The Memoirs of Sir James Gobbo
- Managing Cultural Diversity Training
- Community Policing Partnership Program
- Religious Leaders Civics and Media Training
- Sports Without Borders
- InterAction – multifaith youth network

## 6<sup>th</sup> Diversity Matters, Singapore



In September we welcomed the 6<sup>th</sup> of the Diversity Matters forums - a series of Commonwealth forums established by the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Commonwealth Institute in 2001. Themed “Social Cohesion and the Arts”, the forum was held at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore from 23-25 September and was facilitated by the AMF in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation, Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements, The Statesman (India), and LASALLE College of the Arts.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Diversity Matters was opened by Miss Penny Low, Member of Parliament, Singapore



and Founder and President, Social Innovation Park Ltd with words of welcome from the AMF's Executive Director Dr Hass Dellal, President of LASALLE College of the Arts, Professor Alastair Pearce, and Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Dr Mark Collins. Attendees included 50 international delegates from Singapore and countries around the Commonwealth, and 200 students and staff from LASALLE College of the Arts.

The forum explored the role that the arts can play in helping to bridge gaps, build social capital and strengthen social cohesion, and featured a range of Plenary and Case Study presenters and facilitators who shared their experience and expertise in the area of social cohesion and the arts, including from Australia:

Ms Penny Hutchinson	Director, Arts Victoria
Mr Frank Panucci	Director, Community Partnerships, Australia Council for the Arts
Prof. John Nieuwenhuysen	Director, Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements
Ms Padmini Sebastian	Manager, Immigration Museum, Museum Victoria, Australia
Mr Fotis Kapetopoulos	Director, Kape Communications
Ms Cecelia Cmielewski	Manager, Cultural Engagement Initiatives Community Partnerships, Australia Council for the Arts
Ms Jill Morgan	Director, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Australia
Dr Vincent O'Donnell	Executive Producer, Arts Alive, Australia
Ms Claudia Chidiac	Director, Producer, and Performer, Australia
Ms Lynn Cain	Project & Training Manager, Australian Multicultural Foundation

International speakers and presenters included:

Ms Jane Allan	Dean, Faculty of Foundation Studies LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
Ms Margot Bethel	Founder, The Hub, The Bahamas
Professor Chua Beng Huat	Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, Cluster Leader of Cultural Studies in Asia research cluster National University of Singapore and Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
Dr Mark Collins	Director, Commonwealth Foundation



Ms Chantel Erfort	Editor, Cape Community Newspapers, South Africa
Mr Andrew Firmin	Programme Manager, Culture, Commonwealth Foundation
Ms Sheila Graham	Executive/Artistic Director, Area Youth Foundation, Jamaica
Mr Buck Song Koh	CEO, Integrative CSR Consulting Pte Ltd; Adjunct Faculty, School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University
Mr Ravindra Kumar	Editor, The Statesman, India
Ms Jovyn Lee	MA Arts and Cultural Management Candidate LASALLE College of the Arts
Mr Benny Lim	Lecturer (Events Management and Marketing) LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
Mr Arun Mahizhnan	Deputy Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
Professor Alastair Pearce	President, LASALLE College of the Arts
Mr Venka Purushothaman	Vice-President (Academic) & Provost, LASALLE College of the Arts
Ms Sabina Santarossa	Director, Cultural Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
Mr T. Sasitharan	Director, Theatre Training and Research Programme, Singapore
Ms Anupama Sekhar	Project Executive, Cultural Exchange, Asia-Europe Foundation
Mr Mohammed Sheriff	President, Sierra Leone PEN Centre
Mr Jeffrey Tan	Head, Education and Outreach, Singapore Arts Festival National Arts Council, Singapore
Mr Kamau Wa Ndung'u	Creative Coordinator, Sponsored Arts for Education (SAFE), Kenya
Mr Christopher Wade	Director Programmes East Asia, British Council, Singapore
Mr Joseph Walugembe	Artistic Director, Uganda National Cultural Centre
Mr Neil Webb	Director Arts & Creative Industries East Asia, British Council
Ms Audrey Wong	Programme Leader (MA Arts and Cultural Management) LASALLE College of the Arts



During the forum, participants had the opportunity to address the recommendations raised from the “Commonwealth Statement on Culture and Development” by the Commonwealth Foundation, in particular, a lack of understanding of culture and the arts resulting in the absence of its integration. The outcomes of the forum are to be presented at the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth.

The forum was sponsored and supported by the Australian Council for the Arts, Arts Victoria, Kape Communications, and the Australian High Commission in Singapore.

Details of the forum can be found at:

<http://amf.net.au/news/6th-diversity-matters-singapore-23-25-september-2010/>



*Performance by LASALLE Rhythm Ensemble*

### **Mapping Social Cohesion – The Scanlon Foundation Survey 2010**

The Scanlon Foundation’s Mapping Social Cohesion Report 2010 was officially launched on 16 September by Federal Cabinet Secretary and Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC, MP. Professor Andrew Markus, author of the report, presented the results of this landmark research in partnership with the Australian Multicultural Foundation and Monash University and provided a current snapshot of Australia’s attitudes to immigration and social cohesion.

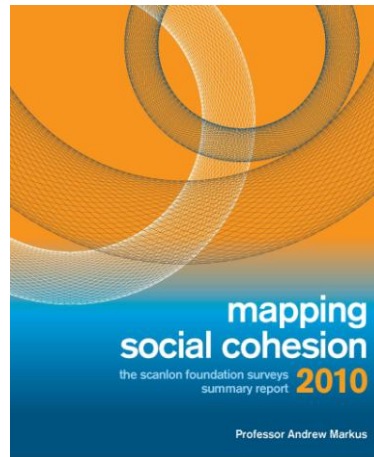
This report presents the findings of the third Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion Survey conducted in June 2010. It builds on the knowledge gained in the two earlier Scanlon



Level 1, 185 Faraday Street, Carlton VIC 3053 Australia

Telephone: (03) 9347 6622 Fax: (03) 9347 2218 Email: [info@amf.net.au](mailto:info@amf.net.au) Website: [www.amf.net.au](http://www.amf.net.au)

Foundation surveys conducted in 2007 and 2009 to provide a broad insight into Australian attitudes at a time of widespread discussion of population issues. The 2010 report also includes new modules to explore attitudes to future population growth and asylum issues.



The 2010 survey registered a marked shift in attitudes to immigration, but the level of negative sentiment remains relatively low when considered in the context of polling over the last twenty years. Those who agree with the view that the immigration intake is 'too high' increased from 37% in 2009 to 47% in 2010, while 45% consider the intake to be 'about right' or 'too low'.

A summary of the report can be found at:

[http://amf.net.au/library/file/Mapping\\_Social\\_Cohesion\\_Summary\\_Report\\_2010.pdf](http://amf.net.au/library/file/Mapping_Social_Cohesion_Summary_Report_2010.pdf)

### Metropolis Asia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



The inaugural Metropolis Asia forum will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 10-12 November 2010. The forum focusing on migration in Asia will attract the participation of experts from the Asia Pacific region and will enhance research co-operation amongst Asia-based scholars and between Asian and non-Asian researchers.

The two day intense forum will examine issues concerning migration flows, management and governance, urbanisation and its influence on social and economic integration, and diasporas and transnationalism. Hosted by the Monash University Sunway Campus in Kuala Lumpur, this new important conference is organised by Metropolis International, Monash University, the Australian Multicultural Foundation and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



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METROPOLIS ASIA: Building Migration Research Co-operation Conference  
 10 - 12 November, 2010  
 Monash University Sunway Campus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For more details, visit: <http://international.metropolis.net/metropolisasia2010/>

### Vietnamese Leadership Training Program

During July and August, the AMF, in partnership with Brimbank City Council developed and delivered a seven week leadership training program for the Vietnamese Community in Brimbank. The training program, specifically tailored to the community covered:

- Leadership and Team Building;
- Public Speaking and Communication;
- Community Mapping;
- Working with the Media;
- Volunteering;
- Brimbank Council and its Environment; and
- Where to from here.

The program was an intensive, practical based leadership training course for participants living, working or studying in the City of Brimbank. The program was comprised of two components – firstly the seven week training, and secondly the development and completion of tasks that enable participants to practice and develop the skills learnt in the training. The Leadership group have organised two events –

- Community Family and Information Day, for families to come together, share, have fun and hear important messages about infant health.
- Social Interaction for Elderly Day – a program for Vietnamese elderly to enjoy, interact with new people and learn about the services available in Brimbank.



AUSTRALIAN  
 multicultural  
 foundation

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## SBS Dementia Program

The Australian Multicultural Foundation was recently funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing under the Dementia Community Grants. We are working in partnership with SBS radio, to promote the awareness of dementia to new and emerging community language groups including, African, Amharic, Dari, Persian-Farsi, Somali, Sudanese-Arabic, and Burmese. The promotion will be achieved through community announcements on each of the seven language programs over 6 months.

The purpose of the community announcements is to begin the awareness within the communities so that people can begin to ask questions about the illness. Dementia is a general term to describe problems with memory and thinking. Dementia is an illness. It is much more common for people over the age of 65 and the older you are, the greater the risk. It is NOT a normal part of ageing. In some cultures, dementia is difficult to understand and accept. Many individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are less likely to be diagnosed in the early stages of dementia.

A new report has found that the number of Australians with dementia is expected to quadruple to more than 1.1 million people by 2050. The number of people with new cases of dementia speaking English at home increases 5.8 times to 350,000 in 2050, with those speaking a language other than English at home increasing 4.0 times to around 35,000 by 2050.

The community announcements will air from September 2010 to December 2010 and then again in February 2011 to April 2011.



Multicultural Arts Professional Development (MAPD) is a national professional development program initiated by the Australia Council for the Arts, and presented by the Australian Multicultural Foundation, RMIT University and Kape Communications.

A unique executive professional development program for the arts in Australia, MAPD is ideal for cultural managers, arts marketers, community arts specialists, producers, curators and artists, who desire to build their skills in utilising cultural diversity for audience development, community partnerships, marketing and targeted communications; project development and international collaborations.

MAPD is an Executive Program at RMIT Business and includes the five key areas of study:

- Multiculturalism – policy and application;
- Cultural Brokerage as presentation;



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- Innovation in Entrepreneurship;
- Income Generation;
- Culturally Diverse Marketing and Communications.

MAPD begins with a five day intensive period in Melbourne at RMIT University followed by consultations and one-to-one advice for a period of up to seven months, whereby participants complete a relevant project.

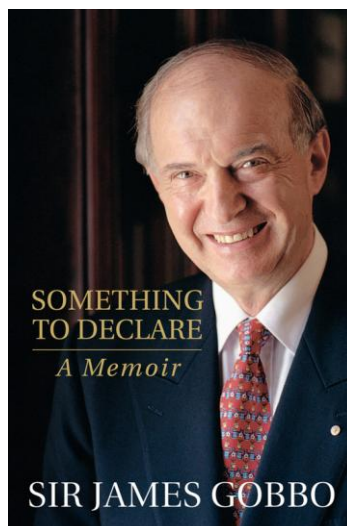
MAPD consultants are leaders in their fields. They have extensive knowledge of the arts, tourism, human resources, business management, marketing and policy development. They have worked nationally and internationally in China, Malaysia, Singapore, United States of America, and the United Kingdom. They include, *Jason Cotton*, a specialist in Leadership of Innovation, Change, Negotiation and Strategic Relationships RMIT, *Dr. Hass Dellal OAM*, Executive Director of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, *David Southwick*, Marketing and Segmentation, RMIT, *Fotis Kapetopoulos*, an expert in cultural diversity in the arts and culturally diverse arts marketing.

For more information contact:

Lynn Cain, Australian Multicultural Foundation      [lynn.cain@amf.net.au](mailto:lynn.cain@amf.net.au) (+61 3) 9347 6622  
Fotis Kapetopoulos, Kape Communications      [mail@kape.com.au](mailto:mail@kape.com.au) (+61 3) 9470 1099

### Something to Declare – The Memoirs of Sir James Gobbo

In June we celebrated the launch of *Something to Declare – the Memoirs of Sir James Gobbo*. In these engaging memoirs, Sir James reflects for the first time on his involvement with immigration reform and in the growth of multicultural policy as Founding Chairman of the Australian Council of Multicultural Affairs and the Australian Multicultural Foundation, and as President of Co.As.It., the largest Italian community organisation in Australia. Alongside these achievements, the book traces Sir James's extensive contributions to areas as diverse as artisanship training, the Australian honours system, hospital administration and philanthropy.



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## Managing Cultural Diversity Training

During March we welcomed **Cultural Diversity Week** (15-21 March) including **Harmony Day** (21 March). As part of the commencement of the Harmony Day celebrations, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship launched the Australian Multicultural Foundation's **Managing Cultural Diversity Training Program** on Friday 5 March 2010 - a training resource manual that can assist organisations to address multicultural business challenges and to capitalise on the benefits of managing cultural diversity in the workplace.

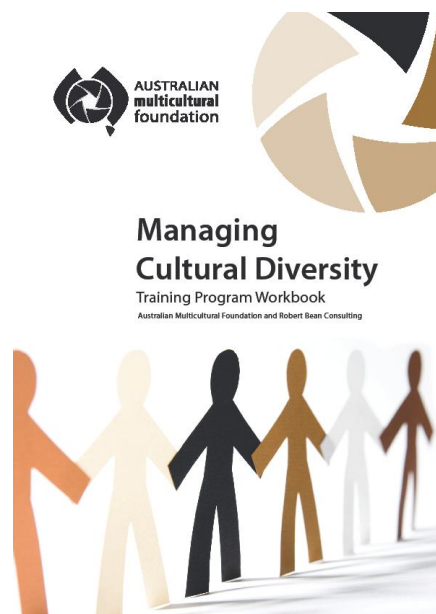
Dr Hass Dellal, Executive Director of the AMF said: "It is no surprise the multicultural nature of the Australian workforce is also its advantage. Enterprises must consistently adapt to the realities of increased workforce and customer diversity so that they can compete in culturally diverse domestic and international business environments."

Funded under the Australian Government's *Diverse Australia Program*, the program was also developed to ensure that the message of the Scanlon Foundation's 'A Taste of Harmony' campaign is translated into ongoing action at the enterprise level.

The Managing Cultural Diversity Training Program is this tool. The manual includes all the materials needed to design and conduct training for managers and team leaders that will help them to develop the skills needed to factor cultural diversity into business planning, organisational development and customer service.

The materials are available for download on our website.

<http://amf.net.au/news/managing-cultural-diversity-training-program/>



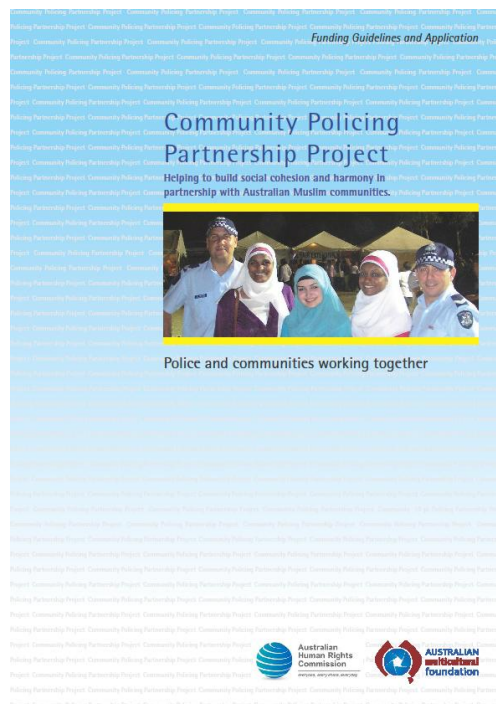
## Community Policing Partnership Program

The Community Policing Partnership Program (CPPP) is a partnership program between police services, the community, the Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) and the Australian Multicultural Foundation (AMF).

Under the CPPP, funding was provided by the Commonwealth Government to facilitate partnerships between police services, the community, the Commission and the AMF to promote social cohesion and counteract discriminatory views and intolerance towards Muslim Australians. Building trust, establishing local networks and facilitating a stronger sense of social participation, respect and inclusion within communities were all key aims of these partnerships. The program provided funding and strategic support for police and community groups to respond to issues that have been identified and agreed on between them.

This initiative responded to the findings of the Isma' report and Unlocking Doors as well as the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Muslim Youth Summits organised by the AMF. The Muslim Youth Summits saw Australian Muslims expressing their wish to develop closer relationships with their local police. Summit participants highlighted the need for more opportunities for positive engagement and increased cultural awareness on the part of police. Social and recreational activities (in particular sport) and discussion forums are needed to build community bridges between youth, police and the wider community.

The independent evaluation report by Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, Griffith University provides us with the learnings, challenges, limitations and successes.



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## Religious Leaders Civics and Media Training

The Religious Leaders Civics and Media Training project will enable religious leaders to represent their communities in a way that discounts negative perceptions and ensures balanced reporting of issues, as well as contributing to dispelling myths and inaccuracies about different cultures and religions.

The project funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship will focus on education and training including topics on mutual respect, freedom of speech, democratic principles, responsibilities and privileges, the law in Australia and Australian demography as well as media training.

The project will select ten religious leaders from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, including from new and emerging backgrounds in Melbourne and Sydney to participate in the training. Follow-up training session and evaluation activities will assist in the development of a 'working with media' resource manual specifically designed for religious leaders, incorporating research and learnings from the training program.



Sports Without Borders is a not for profit organisation which is dedicated to assisting young people from newly arrived refugee and first and second generation migrant backgrounds to integrate into their local communities by facilitating their participation in sport. Sport has played a vital role in multicultural Australia, empowering many newly-arrived Australians to develop an identity and sense of active belonging.

Sports Without Borders will foster this process by providing funding and services to young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. For more information, please refer to [www.sportswithoutborders.org](http://www.sportswithoutborders.org).



InterAction is a new network of inspired people with a mission to promote social harmony through projects of common action for the common good. We bring young people from different cultural/spiritual/religious backgrounds together to work side by side for the sake of something greater. With the vision of eventually growing into a national/global network,



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InterAction links like-minded groups and individuals to achieve common goals through making positive contributions to their local communities as well as humanity as a whole.

InterAction is auspiced by the Australian Multicultural Foundation and is supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission. We have already gained the support of a number of religious, interfaith & community organisations, as well as the advisory support of Prof. Gary Bouma (UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific).

If you would like to know more about InterAction visit [www.interaction.org.au](http://www.interaction.org.au) or email [info@interaction.org.au](mailto:info@interaction.org.au).

### About us



The Australian Multicultural Foundation was established in 1988 as part of Australia's Bicentennial Year. The aims and objectives of the Foundation are:

- to cultivate in all Australians a strong commitment to Australia as one people drawn from many cultures and by so doing to advance its social and economic well-being;
- the promotion of an awareness among the people of Australia of the diversity of cultures within Australia and the contribution of people from all cultures to the development of Australia;
- the spread of respect and understanding between all cultural groups through any appropriate means.

The Foundation will achieve its aims:

- by adopting issues of national significance;
- by initiating projects and programs in consultation and in partnership in any worthwhile field or activity.

