



Coast *MAGIC*

Multicultural Arts Group In Collaboration Inc

MAGIC & Nowrooz

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GC MAGIC sponsored the Nowrooz celebration on the Gold Coast.

Nowrooz (meaning "new day") is a spring festival of Persian origin, celebrated for over 3000 years. It falls on the equinox (March 21) and is honoured world-wide in parts of central Asia, Balkans, Middle East, etc. It has been recognized by the United Nations as the International Day of Nowrooz and is on UNESCO's Cultural Heritage list. "Nowrooz is an affirmation of life in harmony with nature," they say.

The festival is rooted in Zoroastrianism (pre-Islamic religion of Persia) with traditions like cleaning the house and buying clothes before Nowrooz and honouring the number 7. The number 7 has a holy position in Persian mythology. One tradition is to assemble 7 foods beginning with the letter "s" on trays.



Nowrooz was celebrated at the Robina Community Centre on Sunday 21st March with live music and a Persian buffet.

A part of Nowrooz is the Chahar-Shanbeh-Soori which was held Tuesday night 16th March at the Albert Waterways, Broadbeach, with traditional food and respect of fire. A bonfire is lit and people jump over it to "cast out" worries and sorrows. The fire is a symbol of the sun's generosity.

Right: Fires are prepared at the Albert Waterways as part of the Chahar-Shanbeh-Soori celebration.

See page 4 for more photos.



Editorial

Creativity is a wonderful thing and is promoted by MAGIC in its many forms – art works, writing, music, performing.



Creativity is developed by practice and experience, such as travel, dancing, writing, reading, doing.

Praise and encouragement cultivates creativity, so please praise and encourage as much as you can. The world will be a better place .

*Flatter me, and I may not believe you.
Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me, and I will not forget you.*

William Arthur

Don't try and force creativity, becoming too concerned or anxious. It is better to let go, let go of rigid thinking but think ambiguously. Here is an exercise for you – Cross out six letters so that the remaining letters, without altering their order, will spell out a word:

BSAINXLEATNTEARS

The answer is on the back page.

One of the creative expressions that MAGIC's Artists in Paradise have been experimenting with has been painting intricate designs on glass. See the photo below of some of their art work.



Happy creating!

Elga Xenins
(editor)



Art Exhibition

ACCES Services Inc. is seeking art works from people who came to Australia from a refugee/humanitarian background.

There is to be an exhibition of the work at Parliament House, Brisbane, during Refugee Week 14th -20th June.

The art works are to be any medium, based on the artist's memories of own country or perceptions of Australia.

Please send details of your art work and your profile and contact details to the curator, Elaine Morgan, at noelaine88@bigpond.com by 30th April. ACCES is to retain 20% of the sale of art works.



The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark.

Michelangelo 1475-1564

Money is something you have to make in case you don't die.

Max Asnas

Art is making something out of nothing and selling it.

Frank Zappa

MAGIC's Admin. Officer

Parnian Partopour is the new Administration Officer helping the smooth running of GC MAGIC.

Although in Australia for less than two years, she has a better understanding of the Gold Coast than many long-time residents. That's because of her work

with a company in Iran. Her work was to provide students wanting to study on the Gold Coast with offer letters and detailed information on things like accommodation, food, furniture and transport.

"I really wasn't surprised when I finally arrived in Australia," Parnian said. "People are so friendly, but I knew they would be. I've been saying that to students for years. This is a beautiful country with lovely weather."

Parnian is a registered translator with NAATI, having learnt English at university. She holds a Bachelor degree of Translation. She also knows some German. Besides working for MAGIC, she is undertaking some studies at the Gold Coast Tafe.

Below: Parnian in the GC MAGIC office in

*News***Glass Work.**

In March, GC MAGIC held a workshop for the Artists in Paradise to extend their artistic abilities. Yvette Barta facilitated the workshop, "painting on glass". See photo below with Yvette, Mitra Hazini, Farnoush Haeri and Nasrin Vaziri.



The work is to be exhibited before Christmas.

Publications.

A publication about young people (aged 19 to 26) of non- English speaking background who have had social / educational achievements is being planned. Also a publication about local visual artists.



To buy earlier publications, *Undulating* or *Children of War*, please email goldcoastmagic@bigpond.com.

Artists are the antennae of the race.

Ezra Pound 1885-1972



Objectives of MAGIC:

- To promote and foster diversity through arts.
- To enhance public awareness and appreciation of cross-cultural arts and artistic productions.
- To integrate artists from diverse cultural backgrounds, promoting their interests and encouraging development.
- To create networking opportunities among artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.
- To exchange experiences and recognize newly arrived artists.

GC MAGIC is an open window to new ideas for harmony in the community through arts.



You are invited to join MAGIC and be part of the multicultural arts scene in 2010. Membership is only \$10 a year (or \$25 group membership) which will keep you informed of all the happenings and will give you discounts to RIOT art shops and at scheduled events (membership cards to be issued soon).

Remember "multicultural" means everyone. We all come from somewhere, from a multitude of backgrounds, each with something to offer to make us a well-balanced, harmonious Australia.

Membership application forms are available at events or by emailing MAGIC at goldcoastmagic@bigpond.com.

Web: www.gcmagic.org.au

Now Rooz Celebration on the Gold Coast : sponsored by MAGIC



Above: "Haft-sin" (literally 7 S's) - 7 objects assembled on table along with live goldfish in a crystal jar of water in front of a mirror – These things are all historical and cultural metaphors. - This is done in each home in preparation for Now Rooz and was done at the celebration in Robina Community Centre, March 21st.

Below: Jumping over the fire at the Albert Waterways, March 16th as part of the Chahar-Shanbeh-Shoori, before Now Rooz.

