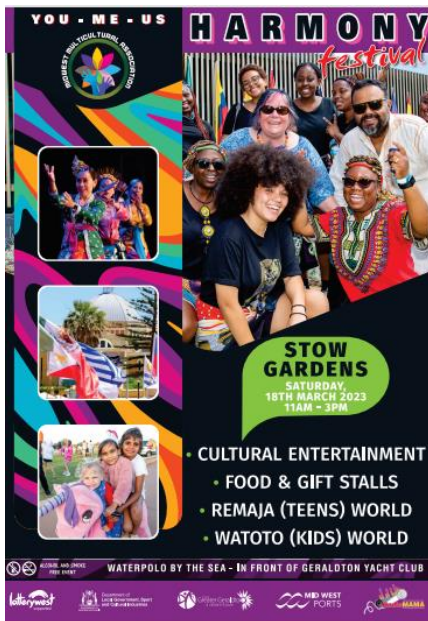


# Midwest Multicultural Association



## Harmony Festival 2023

## Evaluation Report



Email: [midwestmulticultural@gmail.com](mailto:midwestmulticultural@gmail.com)

## Overview

Midwest Multicultural Association Inc (MWMA) was incorporated in 2008 and is recognised by local government as the voice of the multicultural community. Key annual community events facilitated by MWMA are the Harmony Festival in March, Festival of Lights and Multicultural Concert in November.

The Harmony Festival 2023, a family friendly, free, cultural community celebration, was held at the Geraldton Multipurpose Centre, Stow Gardens, Geraldton on 18 March with approximately 2,000 attendees during the event. The festival theme was *'You-Me-Us!'* portraying the message that we all belong and, together we make the region a rich culturally-diverse community where we live, work and play.

More than sixty different cultures are represented in the Midwest region of Western Australia. From this rich cultural foundation attendees at Harmony Festival 2023 were kept enthralled with four hours of non-stop entertainment from dance school students to mothers' groups. All were outstanding in their performances and delighted the audience. Introduced this year were Watoto (Kids) World and Remaja (Teens) World with age-specific activities. Watoto means young child in Swahili and Remaja means teenager in Indonesian.

2023 also saw the return of *'The Parade of Nations'*.

A parade of cultural flags around Stow Gardens ably led by the TS Morrow Navy Cadets culminating in a group photo.

## Sponsors' banners displayed on the stage



Geraldton Yoga



Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group



Derek Councillor



Tom Mwangi & Hari Kumar,  
Midwest Multicultural Association

Midwest Birdlife – Geraldton hosted the *'Farewell to Shorebirds'* as part of the festival.

Birds from around the world travel to the Midwest for the summer and from March begin flying thousands of kilometres up the coast of Western Australia, through countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, China and Japan to return to Russia and Siberia for nesting



Geraldton Mabuhay Cultural Association

*Name Your Country of Birth* was a popular activity with fifty five people being added to the database to receive advance notice of MWMA activities.



Natya Classical & Bollywood Dance School



Chinese Peony Flowers Dance Group



All Things Dance



Midwest Community Fusion Belly Dancers:  
Belly Twinkles-Belly Sparkles-Super Novas

## Program

The program was added to the Midwest Multicultural Association Facebook several days before the festival as well as distributed to attendees on the day.



All Things Dance



Geraldton Mabhay Cultural Association



# HARMONY festival 2023

YOU - ME - US

PLEASE SCAN CODE TO GIVE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE FESTIVAL

### 18 MARCH 2023 PROGRAM

11:00AM	WELCOME TO COUNTRY & NATIONAL ANTHEM
11:25AM	ANNA NARVASA
11:35AM	MIDWEST COMMUNITY FUSION BELLY DANCERS: BELLY TWINKLES – BELLY SPARKLES – SUPER NOVAS
11:45AM	CHINESE PEONY FLOWERS DANCE GROUP
11:50AM	WALALGIE BAND
12:05PM	PESONA INDONESIA ASSOCIATION DANCE GROUP (CHILDREN)
12:10PM	ZUMBA WITH LISA
12:20PM	MIDWEST COMMUNITY FUSION BELLY DANCERS
12:30PM	PESONA INDONESIA ASSOCIATION DANCE GROUP (ADULTS)
12:35PM	ALL THINGS DANCE
12:45PM	CHINESE PEONY FLOWERS DANCE GROUP
12:50PM	CROWD PARTICIPATION
1:00 PM	GERALDTON MABUHAY CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
1:10PM	GERALDTON YOGA
1:20PM	GERALDTON THAI COMMUNITY
1:30PM	WATER POLO ASSOCIATION VS THE WORLD – TUG OF WAR
1:50PM	NATYA CLASSICAL AND BOLLYWOOD DANCE SCHOOL
2:00PM	MELANIE BRIMSON
2:10PM	CROWD PARTICIPATION
2:15PM	REVENANT
2:40PM	DRAWING OF COUNTRY OF BIRTH PRIZES
3:00PM	PARADE OF NATIONS ENDING WITH GROUP PHOTO AT STAGE

LOCATE YOUR  
COUNTRY OF BIRTH ON  
THE MAPS OF THE  
WORLD  
**PRIZES TO BE WON!**

SAND MURAL  
ANIMAL RIDERS  
BIRDLIFE  
MIDWEST - GERALDTON

RADIO MAMA BROADCAST  
12 NOON TO 3PM

ALCOHOL AND SMOKE FREE EVENT

<p><b>REMAJA WORLD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAGIC MIRROR</li> <li>• FUSION ACTIVITIES</li> <li>• DREAM TIME TOURS</li> <li>• HEADSPACE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOUNCY CASTLES</li> <li>• FACEPAINTING</li> <li>• OLD MACDONALD'S TRAVELLING FARM</li> </ul>	<p><b>WATOTO WORLD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WILDLIFE DISPLAY 11AM-1PM</li> <li>• PONY RIDES 11AM-1PM</li> <li>• WORKSHOPS 11AM TO 3PM (VARRIOUS)</li> </ul>
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## ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

AUSTRALIANS ALL LET US REJOICE,  
FOR WE ARE ONE AND FREE;  
WE'VE GOLDEN SOIL AND WEALTH FOR TOIL;  
OUR HOME IS GIRT BY SEA;  
OUR LAND ABOUNDS IN NATURE'S GIFTS  
OF BEAUTY RICH AND RARE;  
IN HISTORY'S PAGE, LET EVERY STAGE  
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.  
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING,  
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

BENEATH OUR RADIANT SOUTHERN CROSS  
WE'LL TOIL WITH HEARTS AND HANDS;  
TO MAKE THIS COMMONWEALTH OF OURS  
RENOWNED OF ALL THE LANDS;  
FOR THOSE WHO'VE COME ACROSS THE SEAS  
WE'VE BOUNDLESS PLAINS TO SHARE;  
WITH COURAGE LET US ALL COMBINE  
TO ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.  
IN JOYFUL STRAINS THEN LET US SING,  
ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

Advance Australia Fair was written by  
Scottish-born composer,  
Peter Dedds McCormick in 1878

Back of program



## Food Stalls

- ❖ 100% Thai
- ❖ Amenah's Satay House
- ❖ Big Softy Ice Cream Vans
- ❖ Curry & Char Sui
- ❖ Geraldton Greenough Farmers Markets
- ❖ Islamic Association of Geraldton
- ❖ Lickety Sticks Icy Pops
- ❖ Mint & Pepper
- ❖ Nonna's Kitchen
- ❖ Pesona Indonesia
- ❖ Remi's French Street Food
- ❖ Shaved Ice
- ❖ Tacos Locos
- ❖ Tarts & Co
- ❖ Wicked Waffles & Ice Cream



Geraldton Thai Community

## Gift/Information Stalls

- ❖ Australian Red Cross
- ❖ Beyond Awesome Designs
- ❖ FROGGS -Friends of Geraldton Gardens
- ❖ Midwest Anti-Trafficking
- ❖ Reekalee Designs
- ❖ Sea Life Differently
- ❖ The Little Place Baby Boutique
- ❖ Tupperware

## Activities

- ❖ Animal Riders
- ❖ Birdlife Midwest – Geraldton (*Farewell to Shore Birds*)
- ❖ Radio MAMA
- ❖ Sand Mural



Rashaan Briggs

## Remaja (Teens) World

- ❖ Magic Mirror
- ❖ Fusion (Activities)
- ❖ Headspace
- ❖ STAY (Short Term Accommodation for Youth)



The sand mural depicts all the different cultures coming together as one representing the festival theme  
*'You-Me-Us!'*

## Watoto (Kids) World



- ❖ Awesome Facepainting
- ❖ Bouncy Castles (one for under 5's and one for over 5's)
- ❖ Fairy Deb
- ❖ Hop Upon a Pony
- ❖ Old MacDonald's Travelling Farm
- ❖ WA Wildlife Display
- ❖ Workshops
  - Bunnings (painting flower pots and planting a plant)
  - The Geraldton Project – making a pinwheel and braiding
  - Mandarin Art & Drama – making a kaleidoscope



## Supported by



## Supporters

- ❖ 65Thirty-Events & Entertainment
- ❖ Beam Mobility
- ❖ Boomerang Bags
- ❖ Bunnings
- ❖ Cooee Motion Media
- ❖ Jaffle Shack
- ❖ Kennards Hire
- ❖ Kick Solutions
- ❖ Lara Dalton MLA
- ❖ Melissa Price MP
- ❖ Midwest Visuals
- ❖ Ocean Air Solutions
- ❖ Rigtters Supermarkets
- ❖ Sandra Carr MLC
- ❖ Shane Love MLA
- ❖ The Geraldton Project
- ❖ Total Toilets
- ❖ TS Morrow Navy Cadets
- ❖ Veolia Environmental Services

**Thank you** to our Supporters who, as well as contributing financially, provided in excess of \$4,600 of in-kind support.

## Presentations by

- ❖ Derek Councillor – Welcome to Country
- ❖ All Things Dance
- ❖ Anna Narvasa
- ❖ Chinese Peony Flowers Dance Group
- ❖ Geraldton Mabuhay Cultural Association
- ❖ Geraldton Thai Community
- ❖ Geraldton Yoga
- ❖ Melanie Brimson
- ❖ Midwest Community Fusion Belly Dancers
- ❖ Midwest Community Fusion Belly Dancers:  
Belly Twinkles-Belly Sparkles- Super Novas
- ❖ Natya Classical and Bollywood Dance School
- ❖ Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group (Adults)
- ❖ Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group (Children)
- ❖ Revenant
- ❖ Walalgie Band
- ❖ Zumba with Lisa



## Evaluation:

The event was assessed by the public, stall holders as well as the committee undertaking a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis.

In essence:

From the public evaluations, most were made aware of the event via social media or friends; all commented that the entertainment was excellent. Of the nineteen responses received – 13 were from residents.

Suggestions for improvement for the next Harmony Festival included:

- ❖ More Indigenous acts
- ❖ More recycling areas or place in prominent positions

Seven people provided their email for future contact by the Midwest Multicultural Association

First Aid services were provided by qualified volunteers from the Midwest African Association. There were two minor incidents of young people falling over.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Harmony Festival committee recommendations for 2024:

Date chosen	16 March, 2024	Theme continues as <i>You-Me-Us!</i>
Promotion	Posters	❖ Artwork on poster, program, tabs for Facebook and certificates - professionally designed and uniform
	Banners	❖ In addition to banners in the city, one banner to be attached to the Geraldton Multipurpose Centre wall four weeks before the event
	Photographers	❖ Senior photographer (with assistant to write down the names of those photographed) to capture images of stage performers ❖ Junior photographer (with assistant to write down the names of those photographed) to capture images of people/activities in Watoto & Remaja Worlds, stall holders and the general public.
Funding	Grants	❖ Apply as soon as possible to cover costs
Infrastructure	Suppliers	❖ Keep local
	Recycling Bins	❖ Recycling - have special-coloured bins at strategic locations to educate community to recycle cans and plastic bottles
	Site Plan	❖ Site Plan - alternate food stalls with gift/information stalls ❖ Hand wash station to have better signage

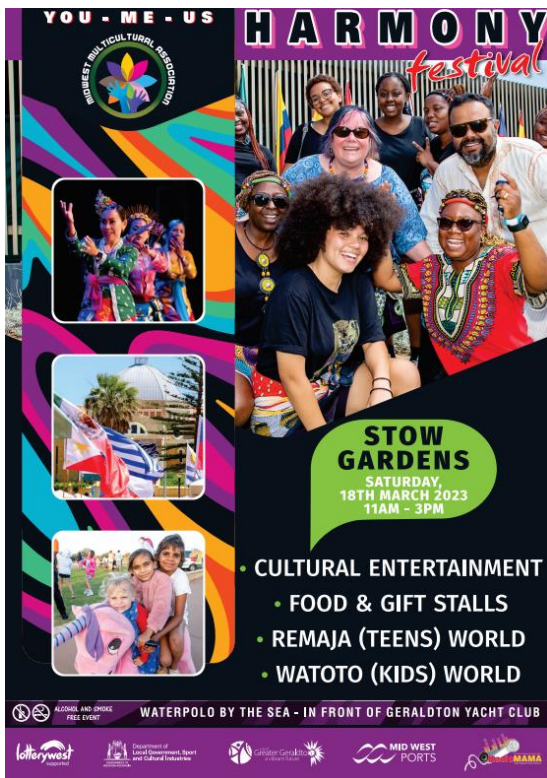


		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Minimum of two informed volunteers to guide stall holders to their sites</li> </ul>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Request City of Greater Geraldton to link coordinators of events on the same day with the prospect of 'joining together' or at least cross-promotion to the community</li> <li>❖ Invite other cadet groups (air force and army) to be involved in the festival</li> </ul>
<b>Stalls holders</b>	<b>Update Stall holder form</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ MWMA need to know how the serving hatch opens (left or right) for ease of placement of van on site plan</li> <li>❖ Request a description of stall in a few words for MC to promote</li> <li>❖ Invite stall holders to provide a donation for spot prizes for crowd participation events</li> </ul>
<b>Program (Entertainment &amp; Activities)</b>	<b>Printed Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ QR code to online survey to be in the middle of the printed program to encourage patrons to give their comments on the festival</li> </ul>
	<b>Performers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Encourage more schools to participate</li> <li>❖ Performers to report to stage manager at least 30 minutes before their performance</li> <li>❖ Appreciation Certificates to be presented to performers on stage after their item - photo opportunity</li> <li>❖ Invite more Indigenous and European performers to be involved in the festival</li> <li>❖ No performer to undertake proselytism, which is encouraging conversion to their particular religion, during a multicultural event. Religious songs accepted.</li> </ul>
	<b>Watoto (Kids) World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Variety of workshops - some for whole event such as Bunnings, others for two hours each (rolling one after the other)</li> <li>❖ Introduce a "Passport" activity where stamps are collected from activities/stalls for person to go into draw to win a prize</li> </ul>
	<b>Remaja (Teens) World</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Develop a youth committee to design and deliver activities within an agreed budget</li> </ul>
	<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ To promote stalls as per the information supplied on stall holder forms</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>On Line Surveys</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ All participants in the festival, attendees, stall holders, performers and contractors, continue to be invited to give feedback to assist in enhancing their experiences at future festivals.</li> </ul>

## Harmony Festival Committee 2023

The 2023 Harmony Festival Committee which facilitated the celebrations come from diverse cultural backgrounds and met regularly to create and deliver a successful event. The committee of Tom Mwangi; Hari Kumar, Yvonne Marsden; Janine Gerard; Jaye Allan; Vita Oktaviana, Yvonne Lovedee provided in excess of 597 volunteer hours to deliver this community festival. In calculating a monetary value to volunteer input into the event a standard \$25 per hour provides a total of \$14,925.

Poster circulated in the community, on MWMA Facebook and website and in the print media



Promotion of poster in local newspapers prior to event as 13cm x 15.6cm advertisement in:

- ❖ Midwest Times on 3 March - circulation 19,800 copies
- ❖ Geraldton Guardian on 10 March - circulation 6,000 copies



Special Harmony Festival 2023 photo frame from Geraldton's Magic Mirror Photo Booth where 340 photos were taken at the festival (Photo: Chinese Peony Flowers Dance Group)



Tabitha and Angloal Thlesh promote Harmony Festival 2020. Picture: Mid West Multicultural Association

## Cultures come together for Harmony Day 2023

**JAMIE THANNOO**

Geraldton's Stow Gardens will be the centre of multicultural unity next Saturday as the community comes together for Harmony Day celebrations.

The yearly tradition will feature performances from Geraldton's cultural groups, with food from different countries served.

On the main stage, groups representing Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Malay, Chinese and Thai cultures will be delivering live

music and dance, while French, Mexican, Thai, Italian and Cocos Malay meals will be available at the show's stalls.

This year's theme is Living in Harmony. Mid West Multicultural Association vice-president Hari Kumar said Harmony Day was a moment to celebrate diversity, have a good time, encourage tolerance and promote respect.

"The day is a celebration of coming together of the various cultures living in Geraldton and the Mid West, a day of celebration

of our cultural diversity — a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls this land home," Mr Kumar.

He encouraged everyone to get in the spirit of the day and wear their own cultural attire.

"It would be great to see people dressed in their traditional costumes on this day and make the Stow Gardens as colourful as ever," Mr Kumar said.

The Harmony Day Festival will run from 11am to 3pm on Saturday, March 18.



Combined belly dance troupe.



Dancers from the Geraldton Mabuhay Cultural Association.



Amenah's Satay House's Amenah Razekin and Latif Abdul Razak.



Dancers entertain the crowd.

# Celebration of Harmony

JAMIE THANNOO

One of the biggest days in Geraldton's multicultural calendar went off without a hitch as the community came together for Harmony Day celebrations last Saturday.

Dancing, live music and delicious meals from across the world were all on offer at Stow Gardens, with the festivities accompanied by warm temperatures and clear blue skies.

On stage, guests could see dances from a globe-spanning list of performers from nations including India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and China.

The grounds were packed with food trucks and patrons could try cuisines including Mexican, Cocos Malay, Italian, Indian and French.

Harmony Day, known in many other countries as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, is held to promote and celebrate equality and tolerance.

Midwest Multicultural Association president Tom Mwangi said Harmony Day was an opportunity



Geraldton Thai Community's June Weber with MWMA president Tom Mwangi.

to celebrate Geraldton's vibrant multiculturalism. "We utilise this day to celebrate our diverse cultures in the town; it's just a great opportunity, whether it's food, fashion or dance, to tap into that," Mr Mwangi said.

He said there was a great turnout and thanked locals for their support. "It's great that we can be supported by the community," he said.



Naval Cadets march in the flags.



Thomas Nannup.



The Walalgie Band.



Members of the Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group.



Hai Yan, Lily Blackwell, Wendy Yu and Janelle Hui Pictures: David Boyes & Jamie Thanoo

**Half page Advert:**

Acknowledgement to Sponsors, Supporters and Presenters in the  
Midwest Times 29 March, 2023 (Circulation 19,800 copies)



# Harmony Festival 2023

Midwest Multicultural Association would like to thank the sponsors, supporters, entertainers, volunteers and Geraldton community for assisting in making the celebrations so special!

**Sponsors**

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Supported by  
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Office of Multicultural Interests  
City of Greater Geraldton  
a vibrant future  
MID WEST PORTS  
Radio MAMA

**Supporters**

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Sandra Carr MLC • Ocean Air Solutions • Total Toilets • TS Morrow Navy Cadets

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Natya Classical and Bollywood Dance School • Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group (Adults)  
Pesona Indonesia Association Dance Group (Children)  
Revenant • Walalgie Band • Zumba with Lisa



**Next Harmony Festival  
Saturday, 16 March 2024**



*You-Me-Us!*  
All together we make  
**COMMUNITY!**