

WELCOME TO THE FIRST *A TASTE OF HARMONY* NEWSLETTER FOR 2015!

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

WELCOME FROM PETER SCANLON



With only a few weeks to go until celebrations kick off around the country, I am excited to welcome you to the first *A Taste of Harmony* newsletter of 2015.

I recently had the honour of authoring an opinion piece in the Australian Financial Review's Australia Day edition. I reflected on the fact that Australia is lucky to have such a rich, multicultural population, but that we must continue to nurture and celebrate our diversity in order to maintain and improve cohesion and harmony in society.

I see *A Taste of Harmony* playing a major role in these efforts. With over 360,000 people participating in last year's event, we were able to involve a significant number of Australians in a positive and engaging conversation around cultural diversity, while enjoying some delicious food. I am looking forward to this year's event reaching even more Australians and I thank you signing up to be part of the movement.

I would also like to thank our 2015 event sponsors which are leading the way for workplace cultural diversity in Australia. Commonwealth Bank, Target, Dentsu Aegis

Network, Veolia, ANZ, Australia Post and Woolworths all play an integral role in promoting the event and encouraging their employees to participate. I am excited to welcome such a strong cohort of sponsors on board this year.

A Taste of Harmony 2015 is shaping up to be our biggest year yet and I wish you all the best for your celebrations in March.

-Peter Scanlon, Chair of the Scanlon Foundation

START PROMOTING YOUR EVENT WITH THE EVENT HUB

The all-new [Event Hub](#) has everything you need to start promoting *A Taste of Harmony* around your workplace. Start drumming up excitement with promotional tools such as:

- An event guide
- Posters
- Logos
- A newsletter article
- An email banner
- A promotional flyer

We also have a great promotional video featuring chef ambassadors Miguel Maestre and Guy Grossi. Share the video with your workmates to help explain the event and start a conversation about what dishes everyone plans to bring.

All these tools and more can be found at: www.tasteofharmony.org.au/thehub.

ANNOUNCING OUR BRAND NEW CULTURAL AMBASSADORS



It's with great honour that we announce our cultural ambassadors for *A Taste of Harmony* 2015. The cultural ambassadors are our community champions who work tirelessly to promote the importance of cultural diversity in Australia.

Each ambassador champions social inclusion in different ways and in varied communities. This is *A Taste of Harmony's* first ever group of cultural ambassadors – welcome all!

Barat Ali Batoor

Barat is an award-winning photographer, best known for his work in his ancestral country, Afghanistan. He uses photography to highlight the problems facing the Afghani people. Barat received a grant from New York's Open Society Institute for his project "[Child Trafficking in Afghanistan/The Dancing Boys of Afghanistan](#)". He started taking photos in 2002 and launched his first exhibition in 2007.

Sam Almaliki

Sam is the Senior Manager of Community Engagement at Cricket Australia. He is also the Secretary of the Australian Cricket Diversity Council. Sam's role at Cricket Australia is to encourage involvement from all Australians in cricket, recognising and championing diversity as a core value of Cricket Australia. He saw his [first game of cricket](#) in the Villawood Detention Centre after he and his family left southern Iraq in 1997.

Ghaith Krayem

Ghaith is the President of the [Islamic Council of Victoria](#), the peak body for Muslim organisations in Victoria. Ghaith, and the Islamic Council of Victoria, work to support the inclusion of Australian Muslims by keeping the culture of Islam alive.

Abdi Aden

You may have seen Abdi on SBS's award-winning documentary [Go Back to Where you Came From](#). He fled from his home in Mogadishu and arrived in Australia alone, only 16 years old. In 2007 he was acknowledged with a Victorian Refugee Recognition Award for his dedicated work in advocating for the rights of those more disadvantaged, as well as his career as a youth worker.

Carina Hoang

Carina is a special representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supporting the UN Refugee Agency. Carina is also a former Vietnamese refugee and award-winning author. Her book [Boat People: Personal Stories from the Vietnamese Exodus 1975-1996](#) is a collection of short stories which was recognised in the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards for Best Regional Non-Fiction (Australia and New Zealand).

A TASTE OF HARMONY FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS HIT THE ROAD



The *A Taste of Harmony* team has been out and about in capital cities across the country, drumming up support and participants for *A Taste of Harmony* 2015.

We kicked off the festival on Monday 2 February at Martin Place in Sydney, with some of Sydney's finest food trucks. *A Taste of Harmony* chef ambassador, Amina Elshafei (pictured), made a guest appearance, encouraging Sydney-siders to grab some delicious multicultural food and register their workplace for an event.

Adelaide and Canberra were next with great weather and delicious local food truck offerings drawing the crowds and setting each city abuzz with talk of *A Taste of Harmony*.

Yesterday, Perth's most popular food trucks, Comida do Sul Brazilian, Jumplings and Soul Provider served up a feast for hungry customers, with *A Taste of Harmony* chef ambassador, Liliana Battle lending a hand as well.

Tomorrow marks our final festival to be held in Brisbane with That BBQ Joint, The Bun Mobile, King of the Wings, Vira Lata and Oi Taco. If you have any friends or colleagues in Brisbane who want to get involved in *A Taste of Harmony*, send them down King George Square from 12–2 for a delicious meal and a chat with one of our friendly staff members