



EVENT BRIEF AND SPEECH

Event	ECCV Book Launch celebration dinner
Time	6:30pm
Date	Wednesday, 23 September 2009
Location	Springvale Town Hall 397 – 405 Springvale Road Springvale [Melways ref – 79 : K11]
Contact	Sarah Hunt 03) 9349 4122
Attire	Evening wear
VIPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon James Merlino MP – Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs • Hon Lindsay Tanner – Federal Minister for Finance and Deregulation • Hon Malcolm Fraser – Former Australian Prime Minister • Hon Nicholas Kotsiras – Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs • Ms Jennifer Huppert MLC – Member for Southern Metropolitan • Cr Pinar Yesil – Mayor of Greater Dandenong Council • Cr Wayne Smith – City of Casey • Mr Jose Alvarez – State Director, DIAC • Mr George Lekakis – Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission • Mr Stefan Romaniw – Executive Director of Community Languages Australia • Ms Voula Messimeri-Kianidis – Chairperson, FECCA • Mr Paris Aristotle – Director, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture • Mr George Papadopolous • Mr Victor Borg

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of the book began in 2008 • Project received a \$20,000 Strengthening Multicultural Communities grant from the Victorian Government through the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC).
Order of Proceedings	<p>6:30pm Guests Arrive</p> <p>6:55pm Function commences</p> <p>7:00pm Formalities commence – opening greeting by MC Wayne Smith</p> <p><i>7.00pm First course (entrée) to be served</i></p> <p>7:05pm Welcome to country</p> <p>7:10pm Welcome speech – Mr Sam Afra, Chairperson, ECCV</p> <p>7:15pm Welcome to the city – Cr Pinar Yesil, Mayor of City of Great Dandenong</p> <p>7:20pm Address – Mr George Lekakis, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission</p> <p>7:30pm Keynote address – Hon Lindsay Tanner MP, Federal Member for Melbourne Minister for Finance and Deregulation</p> <p>7:45pm Comedy by Trent McCarthy and Akoc Manheim Melbourne Comedy Festival</p> <p>8:00pm Main entertainment event</p> <p><i>8.00pm Main Course to be served</i></p> <p>8:20pm Official History Book Launch – Hon James Merlino, Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs</p> <p>8:35pm Address – Mr Nick Kotsiras MLA, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship</p> <p>8:45pm Address – Bronwyn Hinz, author</p> <p>8:50pm Entertainment – Ms Ajak Kwai with Trent McCarthy</p> <p><i>9.00pm Dessert to be served</i></p> <p>9:15pm Address – Victor Borg, former Chairperson, ECCV</p> <p>9:25pm Closing speech – Mr Sam Afra, Chairperson, ECCV</p> <p>9:30pm Formalities conclude</p> <p>11:00pm Function concludes</p>
Speech type	Short speech – approximately 3 – 5 minutes
Attachments	1. Full program

SHOWING GRATITUDE

7.10 pm, Wednesday, 23 September 2009
Springvale Town Hall, 397 – 405 Springvale Road, Springvale

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

<< confirm acknowledgments on the day >>

- Hon James Merlino MP – Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs
- Hon Lindsay Tanner – Federal Minister for Finance and Deregulation
- Hon Malcolm Fraser and Mrs Fraser
- Hon Nicholas Kotsiras – Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs
- Ms Jennifer Huppert MLC – Member for Southern Metropolitan
- Cr Pinar Yesil – Mayor of Greater Dandenong Council
- Cr Wayne Smith – City of Casey
- Mr Jose Alvarez – State Director, Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- Mr George Lekakis – Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Mr Stefan Romaniw – Executive Director of Community Languages Australia
- Ms Voula Messimeri-Kianidis – Chairperson, Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia
- Mr Paris Aristotle – Director, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture
- Members of the Executive and Staff of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria – past and present
- Councillors and Community leaders
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

- Good evening and on behalf of the current Executive, staff and supporters of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria ...
- I bid you all a big, warm *Grand Final Week* welcome ! (we are a Victorian organisation after all)
- It is wonderful to see so many friendly faces – old and new – gathered together for what promises to be a memorable occasion.
- Before I begin, I'd like to thank **XX** for that wonderful Welcome to Country on behalf of the original custodians of the land.
- And I'd like to pay my own respects to the Kulin Nation and any elders past and present.
- I'd also like to thank the City of Greater Dandenong – and Springvale in particular – for the use of this tremendous venue.
- If Victoria is one of the great multicultural epicentres around the world ...
- then Springvale Town Hall must surely be one of the great multicultural epicentres of Victoria ...
- Making it a perfect place to launch a grass-roots history of migrant and multicultural affairs in this state.
- And of course I'd like to thank *YOU* – the extraordinary array of:
 - political and community leaders;
 - dignitaries and departmental heads;
 - advocates and organisational representatives;
 - and everyday Victorians of every background, colour, culture and creed ...
- who have joined us tonight to help celebrate this historic event.

- The official launch of a book recounting the first 35 years of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria – ***Many Hopes, One Dream***.

GRATITUDE

- I must admit that if you told me back in [YEAR ??] when I first arrived in Australia as a migrant from Lebanon
- that one day I would have the honour of standing up here speaking before a former Prime Minister, and a roomful of esteemed leaders from across the political aisle, all levels of government, and every corner of the community
- I would not have believed you.
- And it is because of organisations like the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria, that this is possible.
- So if you were to ask what over-riding sentiment is evoked in me by tonight's celebrations ... it is GRATITUDE.
- Gratitude for a country and a state that actively defends the democratic principles of personal representation and participation for every individual.
- Gratitude for a system of government that allows the expression of concern and dissent and institutes specific protections for those most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society.
- Gratitude for a people that have continuously opened their hearts and minds to generations of migrants and refugees seeking a new life.
- And of course gratitude to the band of remarkable men and women – many of them here tonight – who helped build a small grass-roots organisation to carry the issues of ethnic groups and cultural minorities to the highest echelons of power.

- It is in tribute to them and to the many, many others who laboured – largely unsung – on behalf of Australians from diverse cultural backgrounds, that we have produced this wonderful book ...

[-- HOLD UP BOOK --]

- ... and in their honour that we gather here this evening.
- You'll be seeing a smattering of those faces appearing both in the book and up on the big screens throughout the evening.
- Obviously, three and a half decades is a long time in fashion ...
- and while there may be some here tonight who would prefer to lay low at the sight of earlier versions of themselves, I assure you we have tried to be gentle in our selection of photos.
- But if I may, I'd also like to take this opportunity to pay special attention to some of the key figures with us this evening whose involvement with ECCV was instrumental in the organisation's formation and growth.
- The first two are George Papadopolous and Victor Borg who I am pleased could both be with us tonight.

[-- INVITE GEORGE P AND VICTOR B TO STAND --]

- Victor has kindly agreed to provide us with a few of his own recollections later in the evening
- But before that, I'd like to express the deepest gratitude of myself and so many other Victorian migrants for their vision, energy and dedication, without which we would not be here tonight.

[-- APPLAUSE --]

- Following on with that same passion and commitment to the cause are George Lekakis and Hakan Akyol ...

[-- INVITE GEORGE L AND HAKAN A TO STAND --]

- Many of you would know them from their respective roles on the Government's Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), but before that both were among the ECCV's loudest voices calling for greater equality, acceptance and appreciation for the benefits that cultural diversity brings all of us.
- George will also be speaking in a moment, but to both men, I extend my deepest thanks.

[-- APPLAUSE --]

- There are of course, countless others here this evening whose support of ECCV's aims and activities has been invaluable.
- Malcolm Fraser, your past and present support for a more multicultural Australia and greater compassion for refugees is much appreciated and we are truly honoured that you could be with us tonight.

[-- APPLAUSE --]

- Lindsay Tanner, your long-time advocacy on behalf of the marginalised and disadvantaged members of the community and strong support of new and emerging communities has not gone unnoticed and we are deeply grateful that you agreed to be our keynote speaker tonight.

[-- APPLAUSE --]

- And of course it would be horribly remiss of me not to give a special word of thanks to the young woman responsible for researching and writing the book – author, Ms Bronwyn Hinz.
- I know you have your family here tonight and you should all be very proud of the hard work Bronwyn put in to bring this book to fruition.

[-- APPLAUSE --]

- Sadly, time prevents me from naming all the individuals worthy of acknowledgement over the past 35 years.
- But before I close, there are a few organisations which must be mentioned.
- Obviously, all the ethnic associations, agencies and service providers – large and small – who have been members of ECCV in the years since the Council's inception.
- Without you, we would not exist.
- Our sister Ethnic Communities' Councils around Australia,
 - around the regions of Victoria, and
 - the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.
- It is wonderful to see you represented here tonight.
- The Victorian Multicultural Commission,
 - Multicultural Arts Victoria,
 - Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture,
 - Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria.
- Thank you all for joining us.
- There are others of course.
- Many, many others who have played a part in the journey of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria.

- I wish I could thank you all by name, but please be assured that you have the gratitude of all associated with ECCV.
- And the gratitude of very proud Lebanese Victorian who chose to make this state his home.

SAY THANK YOU !

- Like many who have arrived on these shores from foreign lands, I have always been struck by the strange awkwardness that Australians feel in giving and receiving praise.
- In expressing gratitude to others and receiving the gratitude of others for something they have done.
- It is not the Australian way to make a fuss or showboat about ones accomplishments for fear of appearing too full of oneself.
- Or to usher too much praise in case it feeds the dreaded big head !
- Well tonight, I encourage you to make a little fuss.
- To share in the spirit of the night by showing your gratitude to one another.
- For all of you here tonight are part of the great accomplishment that we honour and celebrate this evening.
- So right now, I want you to turn to the others at your table and say a warm “thank you!”
- Thank you for playing your part in the story of the Ethnic Communities’ Council of Victoria.
- And thank you for your part in the success of a dynamic multicultural Victoria.

[-- ENCOURAGE THANK YOUs --]

- And when you get the chance to mingle throughout the evening, say thank you to those on other tables.

CLOSING

- We all know we are the midst of a time of great challenges.
- That our society is not perfect and there is much work to be done.
- But compared to so many places in the world, we have a great deal to be proud of ... to celebrate ... and be thankful for.
- This is a night for looking back together and looking forward together.
- And as my own family looks on, I am pleased and proud to share this special moment with you all and say ...
- ... Thank you.

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS – ECCV HISTORY LAUNCH

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