

PRESS RELEASE

Release from: Sheena Knowles, Communications Coordinator,
Diversitat, 0432090428
Date: 16 February, 2010
For release: Immediately
For comments: Luisa LaFornara, Arts & Events Manager
Ph 5229 8446, 0408998401



A World of Workshops

MatchWorks Pako Festa is your chance to learn to dance like an exotic islander or an Indian princess. Fling caution to the wind in a Scottish dance workshop or spice up your life with some Afro Cuban salsa. There are even workshops for kids to get them wiggling, giggling and otherwise having a ball. Look out for these amazing workshops at Pako Festa!



Stars of the Cook Islands. West Town Hall, 1.25 – 1.55pm

Stars of the Cook Islands specialise in the performing arts of the Polynesian Culture. The highly rhythmic sounds of the wooden log drums and the enchanting sound of the conch (shell horn) will 'turou' (welcome) you. Our women swing their hips as they gracefully move across the floor. Their sensual hand movements tell a story while the musicians create authentic sounds of music from Polynesia, through traditional instruments.

ASHA Bollywood Dance. Channel 7 Stage, 2.30 – 2.50pm

Bring out your Bollywood Groove! Get fit and have fun with Asha's Bollywood dance. Inspired from the largest film industry in the world, this exciting new dance form fuses classical indian, folk, bhangra, disco and contemporary moves to get your body moving! Asha has over 15 years experience in Bollywood Dance and performed in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Geelong.



Linus Lithuanian Dance. West Town Hall. 2.30 – 2.55pm

Learn Lithuanian dance from the experts! Representatives from this local folk ensemble recently returned from Europe after having taken part with a combined Victorian dance troupe in the world Lithuanian folk festival in Lithuania's capital city Vilnius. The troupe also toured Lithuanian and Polish cities performing concerts in which Geelong's own choreographed dance "The King's Journey" was a big hit.

Geelong Scottish Dance. West Town Hall. 3.30 – 3.55pm

Scottish Highland Dancing (not to be confused with country dancing which is more folk-like), is an athletic form of dance most often epitomised by the Highland Fling. It is popular at Highland games all around the world and is typically performed to the accompaniment of bagpipe music. You don't need to be Scottish, wear a kilt or have a partner to dance - you just need to wear soft flexible shoes!



KUD Kolo Serbian Group. West Town Hall. 3.30 – 3.55pm

This Folk Dancing Ensemble was established in August 2006 as a social congregation of dancers who wanted to further their folkloric skills. At a recreational and amateur level, they concentrate on preserving and presenting the traditional dance, song and costume of the Serbian people. They hope that you enjoy their performance and workshop which do not so much showcase the culture of a country, but rather the many stories of a nation – the Serbs.

Cuban Dance Academy. Channel 7 Stage, 3.40 – 4.10pm

This Afro-Cuban Salsa workshop is an exercise in 'attitude in motion'! Join in and it will lift your mood, raise your endorphin levels and reduce your stress levels. Dancing helps to stimulate your circulation, increases your lung capacity and respiratory function and will improve the quality of your sleep... best of all, it's good for your soul!



Workshops for Kids – big and small!



Hey Dee Ho Music. West Town Hall. 12.30 – 1pm

This workshop aims to provide babies, toddlers, pre- school children and their parents or care givers an opportunity to have fun together sharing the pleasure of music. The atmosphere is warm, friendly and non-threatening. The session includes music ranging from standard nursery rhymes to more contemporary songs such as those from The Wiggles and Hi 5. All activities are designed to stimulate childhood development and most of all – to be fun!!!

Westside Circus. West Town Hall, 1.30-3.30pm

Westside Circus is a vibrant and growing community arts organisation creating circus, performance, physical theatre, music and leadership opportunities for young people. Their core aim is to make a difference for young people between the ages of 3 and 25 from diverse social, and cultural backgrounds to access all sorts of wonderful new skills. This is a really enjoyable workshop for people who love hands-on circus activities.

