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## E-Language

### VICTORIAN COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AND STRENGTHEN LINKS

Over 270 community languages schools teachers and administrators joined together in a night of entertainment, dancing and team building at the 2006 Victorian Community Languages Schools Dinner on Saturday evening 21 October 2006, hosted by Community Languages Australia and Ethnic Schools Association of Victoria.

Held at the Ukrainian Community Centre in Essendon, a colorfully decorated hall, live band, exciting entertainment, many diverse groups coming together to showcase a harmonious and cohesive part of our Victorian community.

Anne Eckstein MP Member for Ferntree Gully representing the State Government and Nick Kotsiras MP Member for Bulleen representing the Liberal Party both spoke genuinely about their involvement and commitment to languages education and stressed the important work community languages schools do in fostering language and culture. Both received a very warm reception and were wished well in their individual election campaigns. State Director of Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, (DIMA) John Williams threw his support behind the community languages schools program remarking on the assistance communities provide newly arrived communities in settling into Australian way of life and the wonderful work done by schools and communities in promoting languages.

Other guests included Steve Waldon from The Age, Wendy Morris and Kypros Kyprianou from the Department of Education and Training, Mike Zafiroopoulos General Manager SBS, Linda Sydor Petkovic Victorian Multicultural Commission, Con Alimonos DIMA, Bill Horman Crown and Neighborhood Watch, Guosheng Chen RMIT and others.

AFESA Chairman Tassos Douvartzides thanked the teachers and administrators for their hard work in an important area of education citing also the involvement of Victorian teachers at the recent national conference in Brisbane.

Community Languages Australia Executive Director Stefan Romaniw who MC the evening highlighted the importance of having support from the various quarters represented on evening... The purpose of the evening was to say thank you for the hard work put by many. Coming together as a group to enjoy each others company and build rapport and relationships is important.

He acknowledged the support of State the Government through DE&T in providing per capita funding, Training and Professional development programs and the support of Commonwealth Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) in funding national coordination and quality assurance.

Both MP's who attended were also acknowledged as they have been and continue to be strong supporters of the community languages schools program

Entertainment was provided by Ann He from Chinese Fellowship with a traditional Chinese Dance followed by Omiros College Dance group – Finishing with Zorba the chain that was created as people joined in reflected the night perfectly – A great number of people linked arm

in arm traveling the same direction- A picture that told a 1000 words and describes the community languages schools program.

In came the Ethiopian Circus with their remarkable act which had people standing on seats to get a glimpse of the acrobatics, the juggling, the ball bouncing and electric performances. It did not stop there as Vardos a trio of musicians playing gypsy music had people enthralled with their talent.

Both acts were provided through Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV)

A live band *New Waves* entertained people as they enjoyed a five course dinner, music and a constant full dance floor.

The evening was probably best describe in an email from Bill Hormon

“I thought the function went extremely well - the right sort of mixture between formality, entertainment and the opportunity for people to dance, talk, whatever.”

Throughout the night images of the work done in community languages were screened to recap on an effective year in teaching, training, discussion and planning.

Before leaving some schools already booked tables for the 2007 Dinner Dance –

Next Saturday October 28, 2006 the NSW Federation of Community Languages Schools will hold a similar event and on the same day in Canberra the ACT Ethnic Schools Association will hold the Annual ACT Ethnic Schools Day

Much is happening around the country in community languages!

More Photos of the event will be on our websites shortly

[www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au](http://www.communitylanguagesaustralia.org.au)

[www.esav.org.au](http://www.esav.org.au)

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