

NEMA NEWS

No. 1—2026

NEMA's END-OF-YEAR PARTY

There was much joy and merriment to be had at NEMA's End-of-Year Party at our Ovens St Office. Sharing in the delights of food, laughter and good company are (Back Row) from left: Yoshani, Faryal (NEMA Community and Project Manager), Marijana, Alfina, Amelia, Elia, Irene, Sebastiano, Cecily, Mal, Sunny, Jackie, Su, and Ian Prentice (NEMA President). (Front Row) from left: Gabriele, Felicity, Hanny, Theo, Neville and Dennis.



BEEP! BEEP!

NEMA congratulates Lizbeth, Sirjan and Farah on each obtaining their drivers licence!



2026 Cultural Dinners

Pangerang Community House

38 Ovens St, Wangaratta 3677

6.00 pm—8.00 pm

The 3rd Wednesday of each month

March 18 April 15 May 20 June 17

July 15 August 19 September 16 October 21

November 18 December 16

NB: Details of the specific cultural food to be prepared on the night will be provided ahead of each month.

NEMA Language Awards

Each year, NEMA presents Language Awards to recognise and encourage multilingual learning among students. A \$100 gift voucher is awarded to students who meet one of the following criteria:

Students whose first language is not English and who are learning and speaking English.

Students whose first language is English and who are learning or speaking another language.

Each year, two students from each LGA receive this award.

Cathedral College

(Below left: Finn Devereaux for Languages other than English). (Below Right: Nathan Costa for LOTE (Languages other than English) via VSL (Online Virtual Schools Language)).



Mansfield Secondary College



At Left: Felix O'Meara (for enthusiasm towards learning Indonesian) and (right) Sarunya Simma (for enthusiasm towards learning English).

(Photo downloaded from the Mansfield Courier site published on December 17, 2025)

Celebrating Outstanding VCE Achievement — NEMA's Member



Congratulations to Mishka Hassan-Haneez, (3rd from left) daughter of a NEMA member from Mansfield, on her outstanding VCE results. Achieving an ATAR of 99.55, Mishka was named **School Dux of Mansfield Secondary College.**

We wish Mishka and her family every success as she pursues a Bachelor of Law (Honours) / Arts at Monash University in 2026.

Australia Day 2026

On Australia Day - 26 January, we proudly celebrate and congratulate all our new citizens who have officially joined the Australian family. Australia Day is a time to reflect on our shared values, acknowledge our history, and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that strengthens our nation and unites our communities.

We are incredibly proud to recognize Faryal Khan, a dedicated NEMA staff member who was honored as an Australia Day Ambassador for the Rural City of Wangaratta. This recognition reflects her leadership, commitment and tireless efforts in supporting multicultural and regional communities. We also extend our congratulations to NEMA member Chi Chi Wang, named Young Citizen of the Year for Albury. This award celebrates her inspiring contributions, leadership and positive impact within the community.

Adding to these proud moments NEMA's CALD Communities Emergency Preparedness Project has been awarded Community Project of the Year 2026, recognizing the vital work being done to ensure culturally and linguistically diverse communities are informed, prepared and resilient in times of emergency.

(Clockwise from top right: Bright Citizenship Ceremony; Faryal Khan accepting her Australia Day Ambassador award; Benalla Citizenship Ceremony; Chi Chi Wang proudly displaying her award; and NEMA's President Ian Prentice (centre), Manager Rob Chatfield (2nd from right) and Manager of Community Development and Projects Faryal Khan (far right) displaying NEMA's awards).





DONATE YOUR CULTURAL DRESSES

**Do you have cultural dresses you no longer use?
Help us celebrate diversity and heritage by
donating them to NEMA!**

**We collect dresses from different countries to
display at our community events, showcasing the
rich tapestry of cultures in our region.**

**Please note: Only dresses in excellent condition
can be accepted.**

Thank you for helping us celebrate culture!

Contact us on: nema@nema.org.au



Multicultural Food & Art Festival

Saturday 2nd May 2026
10:30am to 1:30pm
Batchelors Green Park, Wangaratta
(Important Notes below)

**ENJOY FREE
EVENT WITH LIVE
PERFORMANCES
AND STALLS**

CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating diverse cultures through food, art and community



FOODS

Experience diverse cultural flavours from food trucks & stalls



CLOTHING

Showcase your country by wearing your traditional dress



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ♥ Want to display a stall or participate? Contact us at nema@nema.org.au or 0477 995 306
- ♥ Lock the date and celebrate with us the diversity!
- ♥ In case of rain, the event will be held at the Victory Community Hall, Ryan Ave, Wangaratta! Updates will be posted on NEMA Facebook page



This event hosted by North East Multicultural Association & funded by Rural City of Wangaratta Council.



Happy Birthday to: Noha, Sujita, Muhammad, Kalsoom, Linda, Amelia, Harry, Insaf, Shane, Dieny, Amritpal, Zonia, Ann, Iresha, Tangemalar, Valeree, Nicolina, Kankanit, Kay, Anuja, Mahewish, Carlo, Mara, Patricia, Arzoo, Ashraf, Deepa, Jill, Alwyn, Mira, Catherine, Maira, Mamata, Maria, Fazza, John, Roshan, Jing, Nikki, Mei Fing, Sonymol, Sheila, Lilie, Sharon, Merrilyn, Sabira, Jessa, Gabriela, Shalika, Shanika

Happy Foundation, National and Independence Day to our friends and members from Japan, New Zealand, Serbia and Sri Lanka

Welcome to: Kavyamol, Manisha, Asha, Svitlana, Sirjan, Rama, Lin Han, Karanvir, Asmita

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Wednesday 18th February: Bright Social Group: Lunch at Lupo's Kiln Café, Myrtleford. Bright Group, meet at carpark at 10.30am. Myrtleford Group meet at Lupo's Kiln Café at 11.00am.

Wednesday 18th February: Midweek Break: 10.30am to 12.00 pm. 90-100 Ovens St, Wangaratta.
Please bring a plate of food to share.

Thursday 26th February: Savoy Ladies Social Group: Lunch at the Savoy Club, Myrtleford at 12.00 noon.

WEEKLY EVENTS

All weekly events for NEMA are free unless stated otherwise.

Tuesday : 5.30pm—6.30pm Benalla English lessons at Waminda Community House, Benalla.

Wednesday : 6.00pm —7.00pm Wangaratta English lessons at our offices.

Alpine Shire Region : If anyone is interested in English lessons please contact the Office.

Contact details below. *(Future lessons would be held in Bright)*

Suite 3, 90-100 Ovens St, Wangaratta.
Ph: 03 5721 5490 Mob: 0477 995 306

Office open Monday - Wednesday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
Availability outside these hours by appointment only.
Calls to 0477 995 306 will be answered Mon - Thu 9:00am to 5:00pm.
Any messages outside these hours will be returned next business day.

