



City of Canterbury

City of Cultural Diversity

Media Release

1 December, 2010

Bengali Cultural Celebration

Celebrate the launch of the new Bengali Collection in the new refurbished Lakemba Library

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Cr Robert Furolo MP, is inviting residents to celebrate the launch of the new Bengali collection at the newly refurbished Lakemba Library.

“Earlier this year, we were successful in obtaining a grant from the State Library of NSW to purchase more than 1,200 books, DVDs, music CDs, newspapers and magazines, as well as offer a range of activities such as children’s story times to engage Bengali families,” Mayor Robert Furolo said.

“To celebrate our new Bengali collection, we’re inviting residents to a cultural celebration at the newly refurbished Lakemba Library with plenty of dancing and food.

“We work hard to ensure our libraries have a comprehensive collection of resources that meet the needs of our diverse community.

“We already have a vast selection of multi lingual resources at all our branch libraries which specifically target the needs of Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Korean and Vietnamese speaking members of our community.

“The Bengali community is one of the fastest growing community language groups in the City of Canterbury.

“This trend is evident within the library’s membership, which now has over 1,000 Bengali speakers and has grown by 511% since 2003.

“The new Bengali resources will be delivered through Campsie and Lakemba libraries, which are the two branches with the highest number of Bengali speaking members.

“We’re also very excited about the recent refurbishments that have been made to Lakemba Library and Lakemba Senior Citizens Centre. This has been made possible through the support of a Community Partnership Grant from the State Government of NSW.

“Stage 1 of the redevelopment has provided a modern branch library with a flexible meeting and study area and additional library space.

“The refurbished Centre also includes special event space, a main hall including a full stage and new kitchen facilities, a foyer area providing art space and community information, additional public meeting rooms and dedicated office and activity space for community organisations.

“The expanded Library has provided greater room to house the existing collections, helping us cater for the specific needs of our multicultural community.

“The additional flexible space has also provided the opportunity for small events and library activities such as this Bengali celebration.

“Our libraries have a fantastic track record of providing high quality services to our City’s culturally diverse community.

“Our multicultural service has been overwhelmingly successful and there has been an overall increase in community language loans over recent years.

“Our new Bengali collection will build on this success by reaching out to an important and rapidly growing group of people within our City.

“Please come along and help us celebrate our new Bengali collection and the new and improved Lakemba Library,” Mayor Robert Furolo said.

The free Bengali Cultural Celebration is on **Monday 13 December from 6.30pm to 8pm at Lakemba Library, 62 The Boulevarde, Lakemba. For more information phone 9789 9402.**

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