

Wiimali Chronicle

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Showers, High 26, Low 19

Cultural Festival Celebrates Diversity



Wiimali celebrated its first cultural festival this week. Tai Chi demonstrations, didgeridoo playing, African dancing and a wide array of international foods were just some of the attractions.

“We’ve come a long way in the last 10 years” said one resident. “Wiimali used to be known for being fairly monocultural and here we are enjoying the rich and wonderful benefits that our international residents have introduced”.

A perfect sunny day set the scene and residents were out in full force. From the traditional Aussie barbeque to an Asian and African food spectacular, men, women and children enjoyed the delights. Some even sampled witchery grubs and other Aboriginal delicacies.

Festival organizers could not have been happier with the turnout. Anita VanDeMortel and Louise Matob, co-chairs of the organizing committee, agreed that the day exceeded their expectations.

“It is wonderful seeing the people of Wiimali having a ball and enjoying experiences that ten years ago they couldn’t have even imagined” Anita said.

That our residents would so warmly embrace the cultural diversity that this festival signifies says a lot about the strength of our community and their openness to other cultures” said Louise.



Residents of Wiimali enjoying the international smorgasbord



African food – colors, tastes and aromas – a sensory feast

Wiimali helped us to find joy again

Joyce, a proud Somali woman, explained what the festival meant to her: “Since coming here with my family as a refugee two years ago we have been welcomed and supported. This festival is just one example of this. The school my children attend and the local church have gone out of their way to include and support us. We came here fearful and with heavy hearts - we had lost so much. But the people of Wiimali have helped us to find joy again”.

Tai Chi – Proven health benefits

Tai Chi is one of the ‘soft’ martial arts developed by the ancient Chinese. It is practised increasingly in the West as a means of stress management and exercise. Tai Chi is a series of slow, controlled movements or postures, usually practised outdoors to take advantage of the surrounding energy of nature. According to scientific studies, Tai Chi is an effective healing tool for a range of chronic disorders for example, arthritis and heart disease and stress related conditions. Tai Chi is practised in the Wiimali Park most mornings and newcomers are always welcome to join in.

The sounds of didgeridoo music filled the air



Tai Chi demonstrations were a population attraction