



AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE NIGHT

The Adelaide University Rotaract Club, SA, celebrated unity in diversity with Cultural Night 2018, a colourful celebration of multiculturalism featuring performances, food, language, customs, traditions and music from cultures around the world.

ROUGHLY 400 GUESTS and volunteers attended the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute to showcase their cultural backgrounds and experience the cultures of others on September 21, the United Nations International Day of Peace. These included the many cultural clubs based on the University of Adelaide campus that were eager to take part.

Various local cultural groups and dance companies took to the stage to perform traditional Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Uyghur and Romani dance, as well as Brazilian samba and Spanish flamenco. Representation on stalls included Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Italy, Australia, Spain, Germany, South Sudan, Kenya and Medieval Europe.

Dignitaries in attendance included the Honorary Nepalese Consul, Dipak Dhamala, the Lady Mayoress of Adelaide, Genevieve Theseira-Haese and district governor David Egan.

"The main message of the night was that there is 'Unity in Diversity', thus demonstrating the benefits of multiculturalism, as the many colourful foods and performances presented on the night would not have been possible without cultural diversity within our community," club president Lenard Sciancalepore said.

The festival doubled as a fundraiser, with over \$5000 raised to support three chosen charities. One-third went to Roma World United, which aims to empower the Romani people – one of the most persecuted ethnic groups in history – with skills-based training workshops, education and basic human rights.

Another third was sent to the Children's Welfare Organisation of Nepal (CWON), working to deliver effective grassroots development through empowerment workshops, access to hygiene facilities and sex education. The remainder of the profit was distributed to the Kurdistan Save the Children's Fund to help refurbish a school devastated in the conflict centred in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Cultural Night 2018 was the largest the Rotaract club had ever organised, and they are excited to continue growing the event in the many years to come.





Lenard said preparation is key to the night's success.

"Prior to the event, volunteers received training and a briefing of how the night was to be run, and what was expected of them when interacting with guests. Club meetings were held each Thursday night over the course of a year, and a line of constant communication was left open after hours via social media, emails, Facebook and Skype, in order to prepare for the final product.

"By showcasing the linguistic and ethnic diversity of Adelaide's multicultural community, I believe we were truly successful in achieving intercultural understanding and social cohesion," Lenard said. •

