



ViệtSpeak's Language In Community Festival 2024 is a joyous, family friendly day filled with activities, food and music

Melbourne, 21.10.24 - Language links communities, strengthening our connections to the people and places around us — so let's get together and celebrate!

Hosted by Iranian/Australian podcaster and artist **Kate Robinson**, the day's performances and activities are a showcase of the west's community languages: Hazara, Amharic, Vietnamese, Greek, Tagalog, Tamil, Hindi and more.

Dance group **Jollity Bollywood** will light up the stage with various Indian dance forms including Bollywood, Bolly Hop, Folk and Bharatnatyam; Ghanaian master musicians **Nii Otu Laryea** and **Kofi Nortey**, along with West African and Afro Cuban drummer **Ray Pereira** will share a performance of 'talking drums'; parents and children from **Cherry Crescent Preschool** will get everyone singing in Vietnamese and **Multilingual Storytellers** Rohini Vij, Anna Manuel, Dee Palanisamy and Priti Modyiyer will captivate everyone with an interactive storytime. The wildly popular **Karaoke Storytime** will be back and all are welcome to join!

Crafty kids can discover the 'language of place' in a flag making workshop with **Sonia Zymantas**, and explore collage and storytelling with **Viet-My Bui** in an immersive, interactive storybook workshop involving crocodiles and unicorns.

Parents can learn more about community language education thanks to workshops and presentations by educator **A/Prof Julie Choi**, Amharic Saturday School teacher **Tenenet Taye**, and French Studies Lecturer **Dr Tess Do**.

Festival goers can also learn about Asian queer language practices from **Red Pocket Press**; participate in **Daniele Poidomani's** project exploring untranslatable words; or enjoy a **sausage sizzle** on the day.

This one-of-a-kind event will take place on **Saturday 7th December from 11AM - 3PM at Seelaf Square, 1 Secomb Place, Footscray.**

ViệtSpeak representative Hoang Tran Nguyen said the day's festivities are a reflection of what can happen when community languages are spoken and shared.

“The Language in Community Festival celebrates language as a vital part of the fabric of everyday life,” said Hoang.

“In society, language binds communities together. However, if taken for granted, language loss can occur within one generation for many migrant-settler groups. Celebrating the multilingual realities in our homes and communities will ensure intergenerational knowledge and nurture relationships with the people around us.”

About ViệtSpeak:

ViệtSpeak is a non-profit organisation based in Maribyrnong, made up of parents, teachers, academics, activists and community members who advocate for community-centred language education. Since its formation in late 2020, ViệtSpeak’s volunteer-based organisation has worked tirelessly to foster and support Vietnamese language education. Our successes have included establishing the first Vietnamese bilingual kindergarten program at Cherry Crescent Preschool in Braybrook, and publishing a community co-authored translanguaging book *Crocodile và Unicorn Đi Chơi*.

Angliss Neighbourhood House

ANH is an independent community centre in the heart of Footscray, bringing people together to learn, connect and engage in our local community.

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