

# National Executive Report - July 2009

## National Ethno-cultural Officer

*'At least do something! Do! Don't think...don't hope...do! At least you can come up and say "I did this" or "I shepherded" or "I played on". At least I did something.'* John Kennedy Snr

National Office Bearer Executive Reports are often used as an opportunity for expansive rhetoric.

I will stick to the basics - what I have done, what I am doing (i.e. during EdCon), and what I will do.

### What I've done: April-June

- Created <http://ethnocultural.wikispaces.com/> as per recommendations from CultureJam 2008.
- Spoken with President of FISA and Trevor Carter of Vic Police regarding violence against Indian students.
- Spoken with representatives from AFIS regarding representation of International students in light of the current state of the NLC.
- Endorsed S.A.R.A.H. response, along with FISA, to attack against Indian students.
- Ran a market research session for Italian men aged 18-25 in conjunction with the Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health and the Victorian Department of Justice. This initiative brought in \$450 to the National Union of Students.
- Assisted the University of Melbourne Greek Association in its aim to affiliate with Clubs & Societies at the University.
- Released press statement on Victoria University's decision to cancel Chinese classes.
- Completed 1 of 2 teleconferences with Ethno-Cultural reps from around Australia, outcomes of which included:
  - ~ Support for a reschedule of next CultureJam to March 2010 to enable effective activism from representatives and a more suitable time of the year for organising and training on campus.
  - ~ Need for a website for Ethno-Cultural officers and CALD student clubs in Australia reaffirmed.
  - ~ Need for more active communication from NUS State Branches.
- Spoke on 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Radio Australia, RTRfm Perth and 102.7 RRR re: International students.

- Guest Speaker at the University of Melbourne International Students Forum dinner and a panel informing delegates of my role with the National Union of Students.

### **What I'm doing: July & EdCon**

- Completing consultations with Ethno-Cultural reps as per NUS Constitution.
- Running Ethno-Cultural briefing session at EdCon.
- Workshopping <http://ethnocultural.wikispaces.com/> website pages with Ethno-Cultural session attendees.

### **What I'll do: July and beyond**

- Support culturally and linguistically diverse student representation in upcoming campus elections
- Collaborate with the NUS Research Officer in planning a March 2010 date for CultureJam
- Conduct a feasibility study for the timing and need for Peace Summit
- Meet with prospective candidates for next year's Ethno-Cultural Office and brief them on their role
- Launch the Ethno-Cultural Wikipage in a flurry of pomp and largesse