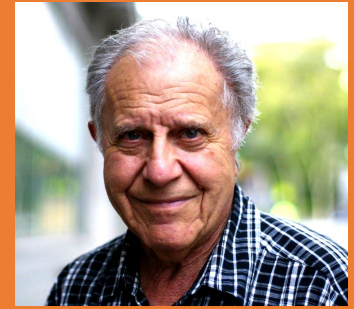


September 2017



# Moving Forward Together



## Welcome from the president to our first newsletter

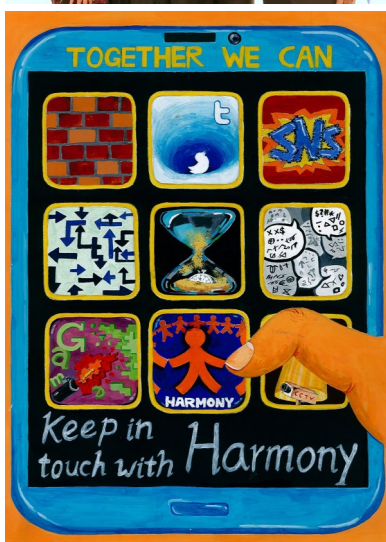
Let me introduce the Harmony Team that would welcome your support to further expand our highly successful Harmony projects, in order that we can have "Harmony Day - Every Day". Our team of volunteers are dedicated to working together with you, encouraging you to give us feedback and to consider joining us in our efforts "To Make our World a better Place". Our Moving Forward Together program has five solid subcommittees – one for Poster & Song Writing Competitions, a second for the Harmony Walk, another for Communication & Marketing, a Fundraising subcommittee and a THINK TANK.

The Moving Forward Mission Statement seeks to bring together Australians from diverse national, ethnic, and religious backgrounds to help build an inclusive society, and to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring principles of fairness, harmony and respect. We aim to build bridges to many likeminded organisations and increase harmony in the wider community. We are very fortunate to live in Australia, most people here are very fair minded, but at times we need to be reminded of the positives to appreciate them. But at times there may be provocations, which blur the bigger picture a little, but at the end of the day most people want to live in peace.

We have already made an impact on lives, judged by the entries of thousands of high quality posters received for the Harmony Day Poster Competition over the last 12 years, and with the Harmony Walk for the last five years. In the next 12 months, we are likely to have four Harmony Walks, in previously years we have had only one annually.

Your awareness of the importance of Harmony in an "Inclusive & Decent Society" is paramount. You have already displayed it with your participation. We are looking for your continuous and ongoing support and encouragement.

**Ernie Friedlander OAM**  
President



Moving Forward Together Association Inc  
CELEBRATING AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSITY  
An Initiative of the B'nai B'rith Alfred Dreyfus Anti-Defamation Unit  
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Tel: 02 9321 6309  
Email: [ernie.friedlander@bbnsw.org](mailto:ernie.friedlander@bbnsw.org).



## Welcome from the vice president

Australia is a country of immigrants. Our latest census reported over fifty per cent of Australians are either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas. We

speak more than two hundred languages at home. We have citizens from almost every country on this earth. Diversity of our population is a fact, not theory.

This diversity has given all Australians many opportunities not just in economic terms but in culinary and cultural

experiences. Our common bond is freedom and democracy. Our common goal is to build a country so that our children and their children will have a bright future.

We live in harmony like a well-rehearsed orchestra playing in tune. But we cannot take this for granted. Sometimes this requires some effort. If we want to move forward together we need to do a little more than just sitting back and allow disharmony to emerge from time to time.

**Mr Benjamin Chow AO BE**  
**Vice President**



## Welcome from the vice president

In 1964 Donald Horne wrote a book with the title *"The Lucky Country"*. Certainly, Australian society has been able to live up to his concept of "she'll be

right". However, our society today has a markedly different composition and I feel we need to make an extra effort to defend the values that we often take for granted.

Are we a truly multicultural society? Firstly, there is an awareness that the first Australians arrived some thousands of years before the First Fleet and settlement in Sydney Cove. Various waves of migration have swelled

our numbers, enriched our culture, titillated our taste buds and kept the economy alive.

The question to be asked, can we still rely on the concept of "She'll be right Mate"? There are a few cracks appearing, and there is a need to engage those who feel alienated. Moving Forward Together is working towards breaking down barriers and reaching the wider community, with programs promoting the acceptance of ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. There is much work to be done to ensure that our grandchildren still enjoy this "Lucky Country".

**Dr David Golovsky**  
**AM, MBBS, FRCS, FRACS**  
**Vice President**

"The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord." –'Abdu'l-Baha (1912)

# Moving Forward Together

## Our Vision for Action & Hope \*

### Why?

The world today is affected by many catastrophes such as the global financial crisis, regional wars and devastation, starvation and intense suffering, lack of adequate medical care and increased violence.

The challenge is to stop accepting this situation as the norm, attributable to human nature thus rendering it unavoidable. Action should be taken at an individual, communal and national level. There is a need to galvanise society to take action towards changing attitudes and behaviour, utilising the decency and the good in all of us, to make this a better world.

The core premise of the Moving Forward Together initiative is that peace and harmony can only be achieved by creating a climate of goodwill and cooperation that transcends class, gender, culture, ethnicity or religion and unites people in positive action.

### Mission

The Moving Forward Together Association seeks to bring together Australians from diverse national, ethnic and religious backgrounds to help build an inclusive society, and to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring principles of fairness, harmony and respect.

### Objectives

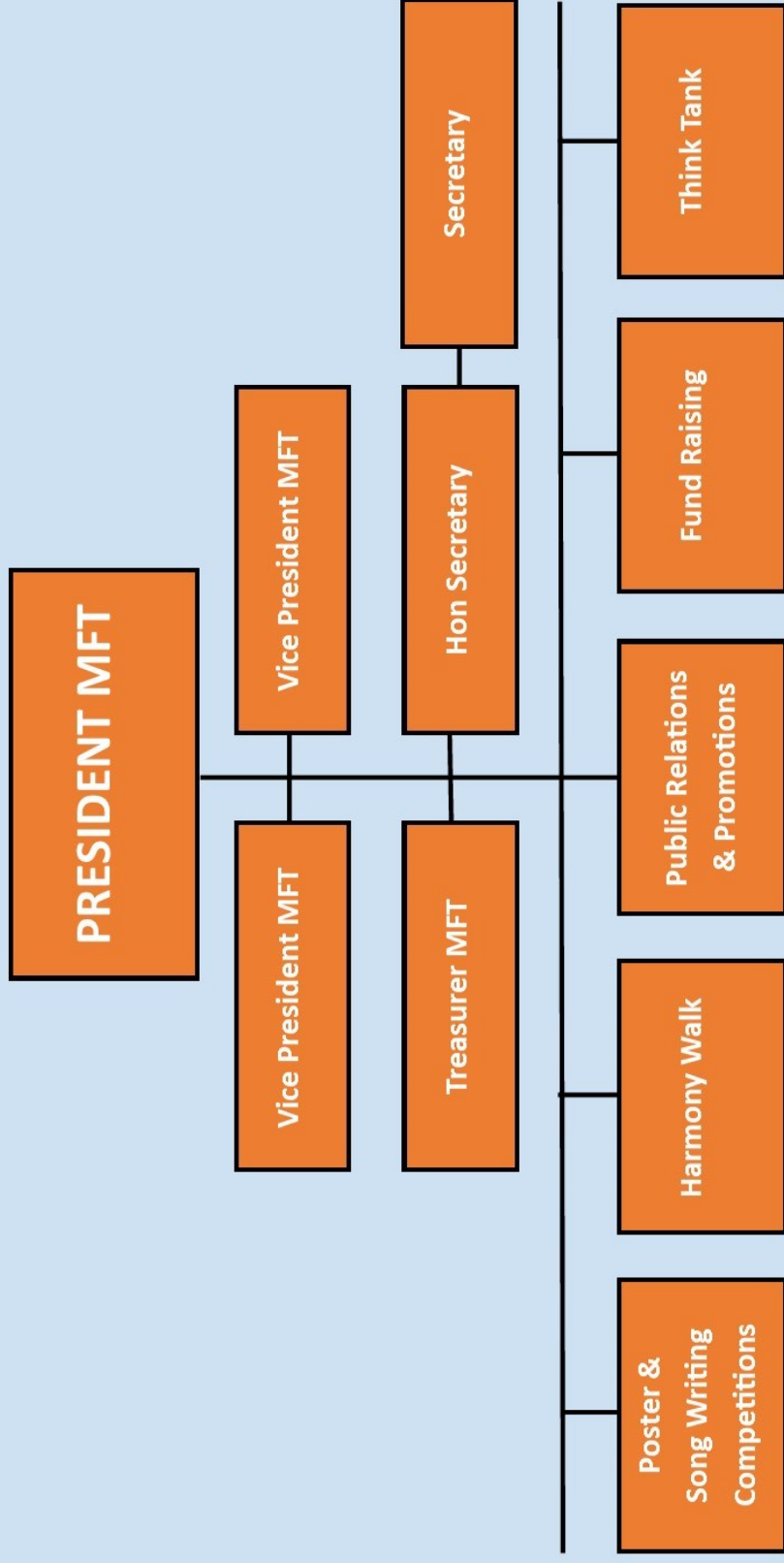
- ◆ Support actions assisting those who have suffered in wars, violence and conflict
- ◆ Nurture a broad social conscience, where individuals have rights, but also responsibilities to others
- ◆ Encourage respect for ethnic and religious diversity, while promoting adherence to laws and values
- ◆ Promote harmony, respect, social cohesion and inclusion and a better understanding among all sectors of the community
- ◆ Facilitate education and networking across the nation and among communities to help promote acceptance and understanding

### Harmony projects

- ◆ Harmony Walk
- ◆ Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions

Moving Forward Together is sponsored by : B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Unit, NRL, Multicultural NSW, Amitran P/L, STARTTS, Baha'i Community, Australian Catholic University





## Moving Forward Together (MFT) Association Organisational Chart





# Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions

The Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions were started in 2007. Since then more than 30,000 students from almost 500 schools have participated in these two competitions and hopefully many of them will have received the message that *"we should all strive to live in a decent society"*.

In 2018 the theme of the Poster and Song Writing Competitions will be: **"Growing Together in Harmony"**

From the beginning of October details of the competition and entry forms will be able to be downloaded from the website;

<http://movingforwardtogether.org.au>

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this such a successful program and we hope that you will all support us again in 2018 and make next year's competitions the best ever.


**Alan Joffe**  
**Chairman Harmony Day Poster and**  
**Song Writing Competitions**

## Next Harmony Walk


Blacktown 18 February 2018  
Further details To Be Advised

## In the Pipeline

Harmony Day  
Poster and Song Writing Competitions  
Closing date 9th April 2018



**HARMONY EVENTS**

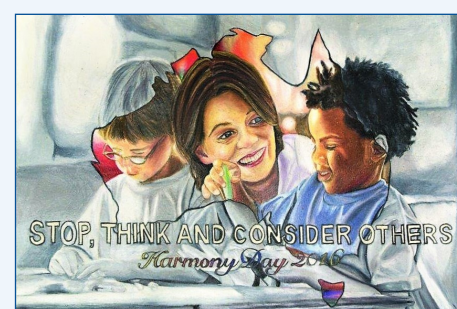
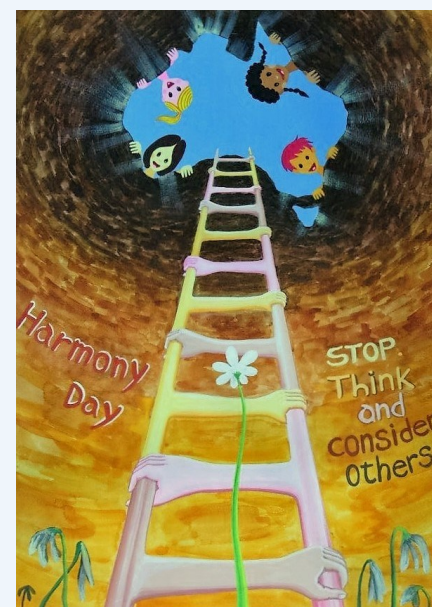



**"Harmony Day – Every Day"**

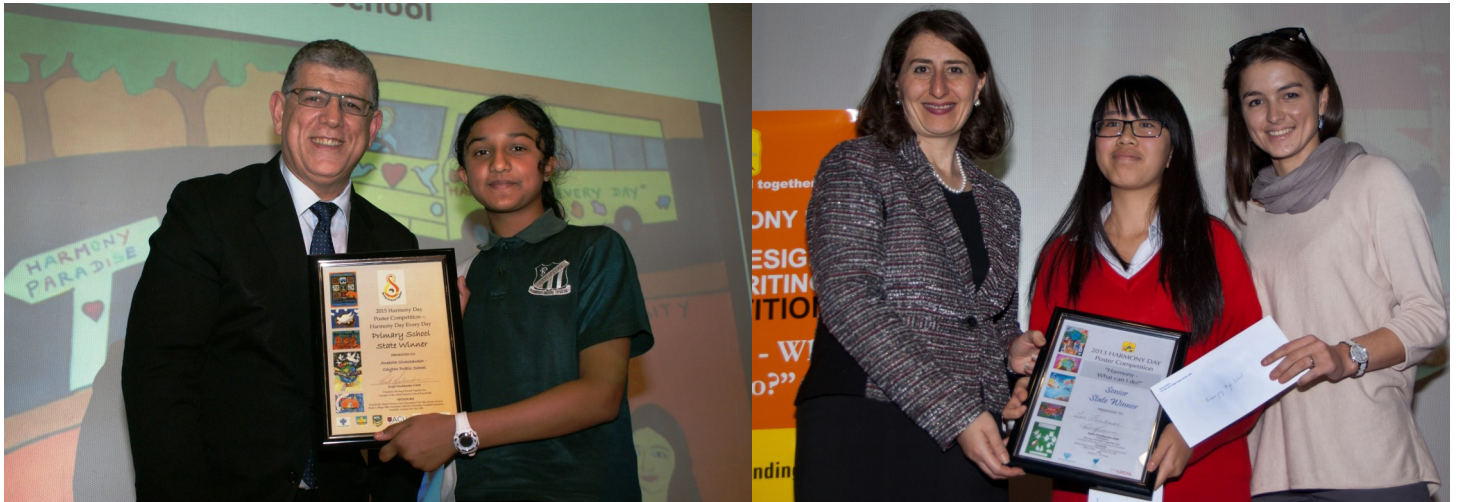
- ▶ By being understanding and inclusive
- ▶ By challenging prejudice and discrimination
- ▶ Appreciating and celebrating diversity
- ▶ By working together for an inclusive Australian Society

**SPONSORS**

B'nai B'rith Alfred Dreyfus Anti-Defamation Unit,  
Star House Art and Music College, NRL,  
Australian Catholic University, Multicultural NSW,  
Football Federation Australia,  
Amitran Pty Ltd



## Poster and Song Writing Competition Prize giving by the Premier at the NSW Parliament House



## Moving Forward Together wins the 2017 Stepan Kerkyasharian AO Harmony Medal

This award recognises the contribution and achievement of an individual or organisation in facilitating and promoting social cohesion, understanding and acceptance between members of differing cultural or faith communities in New South Wales.





# The Harmony Walk

## From Negative to Positive

The Moving Forward Together Harmony Walk started with the Coogee Harmony Walk in 2012. It was first conceived as a Bali Walk, commemorating the tragedy of the bombing in 2002 – ten years later. However, it was felt we should make it more positive and renamed it—Harmony Walk.

The Coogee Harmony Walk proved to be a very successful pilot. It brought a cross section of individuals together, getting them to meet people from different backgrounds – taking away a lot of the fear of the unknown. Playing music from varied folk backgrounds and adding Australian flavour led to dancing and singing together. The walk itself was the catalyst. The walkers were provided with orange T-Shirts which looked spectacular- identifying with the colours of Harmony Day.

In 2013 and 2014 we had a walk at Cathedral Square, opposite Hyde Park, maintaining its vibrancy and concept. It also brought the NRL (National Rugby League) to identify with it and develop an alliance with us which intensified

further in the coming years.

In 2015 and 2017 we had Harmony Walks in Blacktown. Each walk gave us new concepts. The 2017 Blacktown Walk gave us the idea that we should start in two groups, walking in opposite directions and then crossing over – shaking hands. This was most successful.

In 2016 the Harmony Walk was incorporated into the inaugural Fairfield city of Peace festivities.

Looking to 2018 it is likely that we will have four Harmony Walks, with the first one being again in Blacktown on 18 February.

There were two additional Walks organised by the NRL in collaboration with Moving Forward Together. These walks adopted the name and principles of Moving Forward Together and targeted school students

**Ernie Friedlander OAM**  
**President**





# Harmony Walk

Working in partnership with the NRL

The NRL Community are great supporters of the Moving Forward Together Association and value the ongoing partnership. We see great benefits in Moving Forward Together Association's initiatives and have included elements in our programs.

A Harmony Walk is an integral part of the **NRL's 'In League In Harmony' (ILIH)** seven week social cohesion program. The NRL's ILIH program aims to empower youth to be agents of change for a more cohesive society. By being a part of the program our participants are empowered to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate the diversity amongst their peers and the wider community. The program unites the youth to explore how their similarities and differences provide opportunities for them to move forward together in harmony.

The program is delivered during each term of the school year and culminates in a celebratory Harmony Festival Gala Day, each term. During each Gala Day our students, staff, guests and volunteers participate in a Harmony Walk to conclude the day.

Our schools and Intensive English Centres are encouraged to host their own Harmony Walk in their own schools and communities, with the purpose of it to be youth led.

Please see the link below to the SBS coverage of the 2017 NRL Harmony Day Festival, featuring Moving Forward Together President, Mr Ernie Friedlander OAM:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6cXBqyy0I8>

'In League In Harmony' Term 2 Highlights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUeTty10FYA>

More information on the NRL's Community Programs, is available on:

<https://www.nrl.com.au/community>

**Emily Latu**

**Social Inclusion Officer, NRL**



Remember:  
**Harmony Day is Every Day**