

Intercultural Community Engagement – A Regional Campus Perspective

Joanne Matthews¹, Freda Webb², MACROBUTTON NoMacro [Click here and enter an author]³

1 Monash University Gippsland Campus, Northways Road, Churchill, Victoria, 3842,
Joanne.Matthews@adm.monash.edu.au

2 Monash University Gippsland Campus, Northways Road, Churchill, Victoria, 3842,
Freda.Webb@adm.monash.edu.au

3 MACROBUTTON NoMacro [Click here and enter an Organisation, Postal Address, State, Postcode, Email Address for Author 3]

The focus of our presentation will be to discuss community engagement, social interaction and intercultural connectedness at a regional based University campus. Already international students coming to Australia have significant transitional adjustments and expectations. These coupled with the additional impact of moving to an unfamiliar rural setting are the primary focus of staff to meet student's needs and allow students to develop and connect with both the University and local community.

We will share the experiences of international students at the Gippsland Campus of Monash University and the integration mechanisms and programs that have been established to enhance their student experience.

The strategies and programs introduced include the International Students Friendship Program which connects international students to members of the local community, local Council engagement, including a joint "welcome" and cultural events, and "cooking class" run in partnership with a neighbouring Education Precinct. Details of these programs and events will be presented together with student feedback of their experiences. Practical considerations for others wanting to implement such programs in regional or city campuses will be discussed.

Instructions:

Save this file as a **MS Word** document to your desktop

Please use upper and lower case for the abstract title

Make sure you include all the authors and their organisation details in the abstract

Highlight the presenting author by make his/her name bold

Your abstract will appear on the internet and in the program book exactly as submitted

Key Words

Community engagement, social interaction and intercultural connectedness