

WERRIBEE SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK SOCIAL 7S STYLE

Werribee Softball Association was the place to be on Thursday 22 March as they hosted a Come and Try Social 7s event in celebration of cultural diversity week.

Targeting the large diverse multicultural community of Wyndham and with the support of the Wyndham City Council, AMES Australia, IPC Health, the Victorian Government, Centre for Multicultural Youth, Wyndham Community and Education Centre, Softball Victoria, Softball Australia, the City Raiders Softball Club and Renegades Softball Club, close to 50 people attended from a variety of cultures with the majority completely new to the sport.

The event was an extension of the Strike Out Barriers to Sport through Softball Project the association is involved in, engaging with newly arrived multicultural youth and adults in Wyndham and providing them with opportunities to gain a Level 1 Softball Coach Accreditation whilst developing lifelong skills, friendships and community networks.

The Social 7s Come and Try softball event, coordinated by Kerrie Evans from Softball Victoria, encapsulated the spirit of cultural diversity with people of all ages, culture, religion, gender and ability coming together over a fun game of Social 7s Softball and a BBQ feast.

Waan Tardif, the Karen Burmese Refugee Family Resource Mentor from VICSEG New Futures, organised a group of ladies from the Karen Community to attend. "Thank you so much for inviting us to try softball to have a feel for the game; it went well and the women would love to give it another try" said Waan.

Softball Australia made a special presentation acknowledging four students from AMES Australia who recently completed their Level 1 Coaching Accreditation. Two students, Cynthia Mukundi and Tsehaynesh Tsadiku were in attendance to receive their certificate in the company of project partner Namatullah Qasmi, Youth Engagement Specialist from AMES Australia and all the attendees from the event. It's a wonderful achievement by these students who had no prior knowledge of the sport yet have now expressed interest in delivering softball in schools through the Sporting Schools Program.

John Ballestrino, President of the Werribee Softball Association said "the association is proud to be engaged with the multicultural community through the Strike Out Barriers to Sport through Softball Project. We believe that this is great initiative by Softball Australia to attract more participants to our great sport, we encourage anyone that may be interested to get involved." Following the success of this event, the association will be running a 4 week Social 7s competition open to people of all cultures, genders and abilities commencing on Thursday 12 April at 6pm. Click [here](#) for all the details and to register.



From right: Namatullah Qasmi, Youth Engagement Specialist AMES Australia, Tsehaynesh Tsadiku, Cynthia Mukundi participants from AMES Werribee with their Level 1 Coach Accreditation Certificate, Tim Hatzi, Club and Community Development Coordinator, Softball Australia and Dani Yako, participant from AMES Sunshine



Participant from the local Karen Community



Amanda Baker from the City Raiders Softball Club



Participants enjoying a fantastic BBQ