

**MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS AND CITIZENSHIP  
NICHOLAS KOTSIRAS DECLARES ‘VIVA VICTORIA’**

SUNDAY 24 MARCH, 2013

Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship Nicholas Kotsiras today led the longest ever Viva Victoria Festival Zorba dance, with young and old weaving their way through a packed Federation Square.

A capacity crowd laughed, applauded and joined the lively train in the Viva Victoria celebration which saw put more than 70 cultures on show as an entertainment spectacular to close out Cultural Diversity Week.

Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission Chin Tan welcomed members of Victoria’s multicultural communities to the energetic dance and musical offerings across three stages.

“It has been an absolute extravaganza,” Mr Chin said. “What a fantastic way to finish Cultural Diversity Week as Victoria’s premier celebration of our extraordinary diversity.”

Cultural Diversity Week is presented annually by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC).

Mr Tan described Viva Victoria as the showstopper for Cultural Diversity Week.

The week, that began on 16 March, has seen almost 300 multicultural events take place across the state, hosted by schools, local governments, workplaces and community organisations.

“I’ve seen thousands today enjoying the Viva Victoria Festival and I have been heartened to know that Victorians from all cultural backgrounds and walks of life have been able to take part in a truly special week – where the cultural insights are as stimulating and enriching as the celebration itself,” Mr Tan said.

As well as performances, Viva Victoria featured a Kids’ Zone, roving performers; an exhibition of short films featuring culturally-diverse Australians; an exhibition of children’s art; sports clinics with the AFL, Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart and a wide variety of cultural demonstrations.

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