



## HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS – EVERYONE BELONGS

Bellingen Shire Council celebrated Harmony Day on Monday 21 March 2016 with a morning tea held in the Bellingen Library.

Popular local singer songwriter Yhan Leal delighted the audience with his musical soundtrack throughout the morning.

An enthusiastic crowd listened while the Bellingen Shire Mayor, Cr Mark Troy acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and then spoke about the importance of celebrating Australia's cultural diversity, inclusiveness and promotion of a sense of belonging for everyone.

"Over the past 70 years seven million migrants have made Australia their home – almost half of the Australian population were born overseas and people from more than 200 countries make up our great Australian community and 300 languages are spoken in our homes".

"Multiculturalism is not something confined to larger cities and in fact in recent times resident migrants from the United Kingdom, the United States, Cambodia, Germany, Norway and India have taken their final step to become Australian citizens in our Shire", added the Mayor.

The message of Harmony Day is '*Everyone Belongs*'. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

Contact Council's Community Wellbeing Officer, Anna Joy on 6655 7300 for information regarding Harmony Day.

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Image Provided: Bellingen Singer/Songwriter Yhan Leal, performing at Harmony Day Morning Tea

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**Authorised by** Liz Jeremy, General Manager

**Date:** 22 March 2016

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Anna Joy on 6655 7300  
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