

Language help for migrants

TAFE launches adult English program

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CALOUNDRA is a growing multicultural melting pot, with an English language program launched by TAFE Queensland East Coast in the area aimed at overcoming the language barriers faced by new migrants.

TAFE Queensland East Coast general manager Paul Wilson said the last Australian Bureau of Statistic Census showed 24.2% of people living in Caloundra were born overseas and the expectation was that figure would rise in this year's Census.

In response to the figures, TAFE Queensland East Coast has partnered with



Classes for the Adult Migrant English Program have begun.

Caloundra Community Centre to offer an Adult Migrant English Program to residents.

Dr Wilson said the need for the local program was also driven by reports that many as 120 new migrants are living in Caloundra and surrounding areas such as Beerwah and Landsborough, with many unable to travel

to programs offered in Maroochydore.

"It makes sense to provide greater access to such a vital program as the AMEP in the local community," he said.

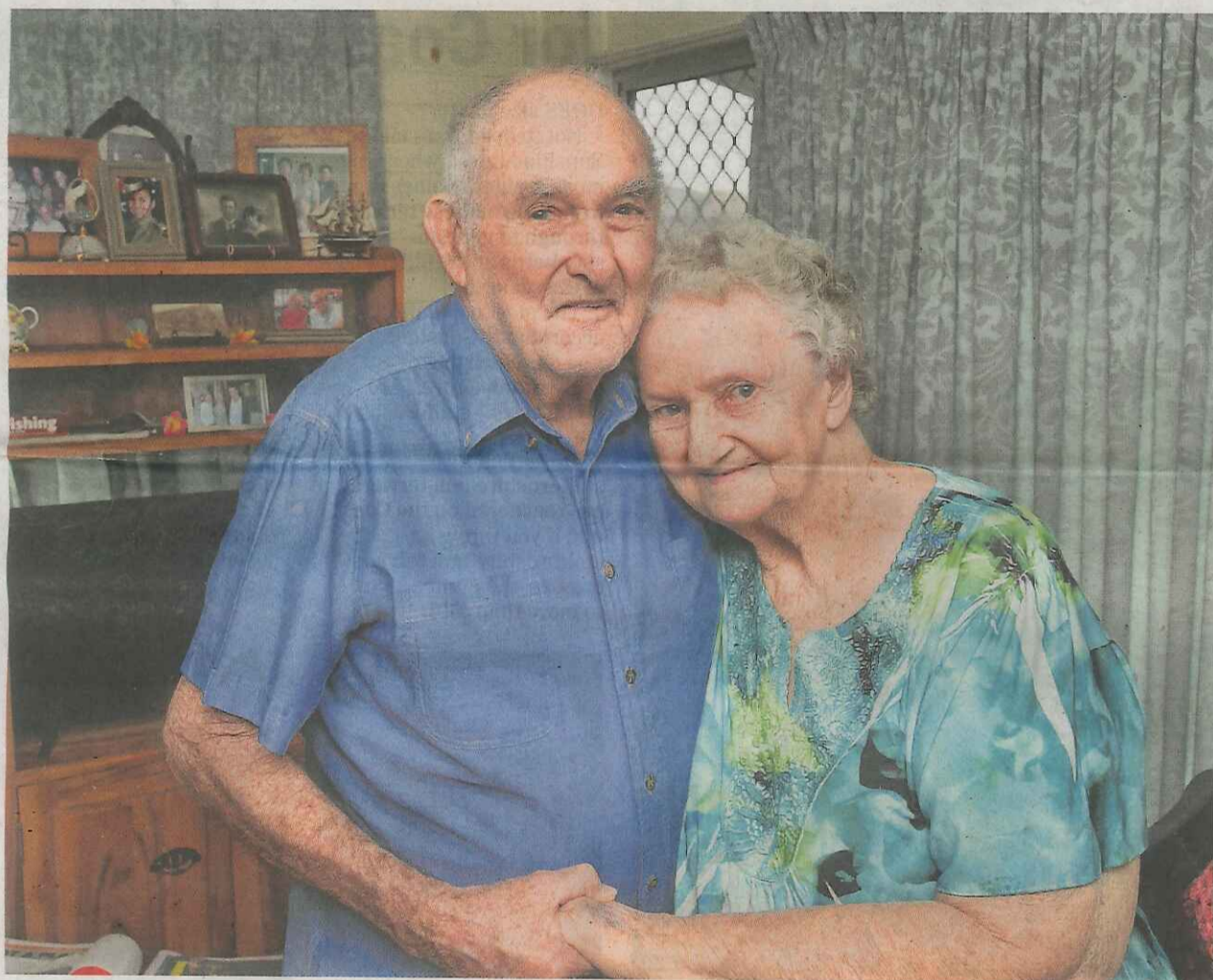
Ten students began the program in Caloundra last week, which will cover language, numeracy and literacy training, as well as life skills such as how to open a bank account, access healthcare or find a job.

Eligible migrants are offered 510 hours of free, federally funded AMEP training, with free child care also available for those with children under school age.

For more details, phone TAFE Queensland East Coast on 1300 656 188 or visit amep.tafeqld.edu.au.



CLASSES START: Students have celebrated the official launch of a TAFE Queensland East Coast Adult Migrant English Program in Caloundra. PHOTO: GEMMA WESTACOTT



GIVE AND TAKE: Nambour's Thomas Dorrett, 92, and his wife Doreen, 88, celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. PHOTO: GREG MILLER

Seven decades battling together

THOMAS and Doreen Dorrett's life has not always been easy.

The Nambour residents lived through war, made multiple moves and raised six children on one income.

Despite the struggles, Thomas, 92, and Doreen, 88, made it through each battle together and on Wednesday celebrated 70 years of marriage.

Daughter Christine Cutts said there was no smooth sailing throughout the early days of their relationship.

"Dad was a soldier before he became a policeman in Nambour," Ms Cutts said.

"They were supposed to get married in 1945 as the war had come to an end but then they wanted to get the rest of the soldiers out of New Guinea and Dad went to lend a hand so they had to postpone their wedding and got married in 1946 instead," she said.

Ms Cutts said she believed her parents had

made it through the long haul and over multiple speed bumps due to a good balance of give and take.

"The key to their long marriage I think is give and take," she said.

"When we were young Mum definitely gave more than she took but now Dad looks after her in their later years so it's worked itself out."

Ms Cutts said she and her five siblings were proud of their parents' achievement.

"We're very proud of our parents bringing up six kids, back in those days especially, and battling through what they've been through. I just think that it's pretty awesome to get to where they've got to," she said.

Ms Cutts said her parents enjoyed their anniversary at home at Sundale McGowan Care Centre in Nambour and were thought of by their children, 15 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Buderim bus service could be slashed

COAST residents will be impacted if proposed changes to Translink bus services go ahead.

Member for Buderim Steve Dickson warned of a reduction in frequency from 30 minutes to one hour for bus route 614 leaving Sunshine Plaza, travelling through North Buderim, Buderim, Glenfields estate and Mountain Creek to Kawana Shoppingworld and on to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Community consultation on the changes will start on July 18 for four weeks, with a public consultation

session to be held at Buderim War Memorial Hall on August 2, from 9am to noon.

"Halving this service would be an imposition to passengers travelling to attend appointments at the new hospital, Sunshine Coast TAFE students and residents travelling to major shopping centres," Cr Dickson said.

"I will be strongly advocating against this change," he said.

A survey can be completed at haveyoursay.translink.com.au or phone Translink on 13 12 30.

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