



presents

**SERIES OF RUSSIAN FOLK MUSIC AND
ART WORKSHOPS IN 2015
FOR PROMOTION OF RUSSIAN CULTURE
AS A PART OF THE WORLD CULTURE**

- **RUSSIAN MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR SENIORS IN ENGLISH**
- **CRAFT WORKSHOP – MAKING CROWNS WITH SENIOR CITIZENS, EMBROIDERY, BEADING**
- **ART WORKSHOPS – TEACHING RUSSIAN TRADITIONAL PATTERNS – KHOKHLOMA, JOST, GJEL**
 - **RUSSIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLASS AND WORKSHOPS IN LOCAL SCHOOL**
- **RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP WITH PRESENTATION OF SOME STEPS OF HISTORY OF SLAVIC PEOPLE AS A BIG COMMUNITY EVENT AND FAIR**
 - **RUSSIAN DOLLS MAKING WITH KIDS**

Supported by:



Government of Western Australia
Department of Culture and the Arts



CAN



This year our Centre took part in the CAN WA (Community arts network WA) project grant program, that is supported by the Government of Western Australia, Department of Culture and the Arts.

Our project aimed at promoting Russian Culture has been prepared as a team effort employing professionals such as, Daria Sulgane, Chebatukha folk group, Irina Yakimenko, Nina and Anastassia Tchernova and teachers of the Cultural Learning Centre Mosaica, with every little detail carefully thought through. It got the competition committee interested and selected by Community Arts Network of Western Australia.



This booklet contains our report on how the project was implemented during the year 2015. We put together pictures of our events, pictures of the samples of art and craft prepared by the participants of our workshops, and some useful information on the history and culture of Russia which we have tried to offer to our audiences as part of this project. The project has been enthusiastically supported by over 15 Russian speaking organisations. Our events attracted over 600 people during 2015.

We would like to say thanks you to them all!



RUSSIAN MUSIC WORKSHOP FOR SENIORS IN ENGLISH IN SOUTH PERTH SENIOR CENTRE

We organized a Russian Folk Music workshop at the South Perth Senior Citizen Centre. The first part of the workshop presented examples of the Russian folk music - live singing performed by folk group Chebatuha and dances performed by the children's group. During the second part, we organised traditional games and dances which involved all the participants of the workshop. At first it seemed complex to them, but in the end everyone was dancing together in the big hall – in pairs, in a line and in the traditional khorovod circle, with ease and abandon!



RUSSIAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC CLASS AND WORKSHOPS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

We go and visit Australian schools and have a wonderful time with the children who learn a lot of new things when we speak to them in English and in an accessible age-appropriate manner about Russian music and culture.

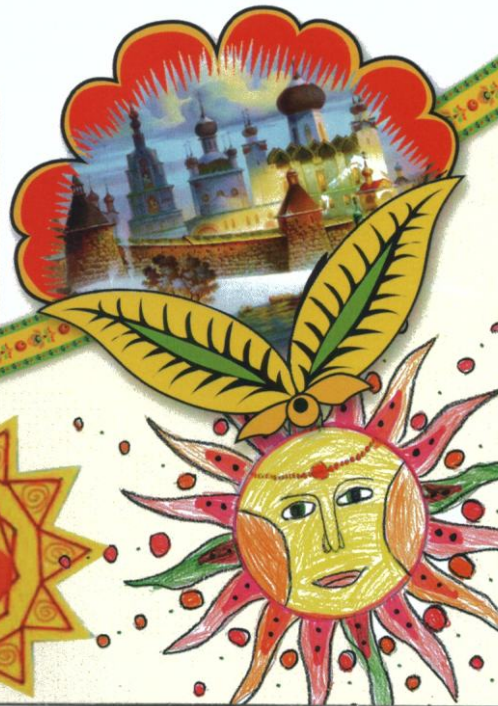
The children sang Russian songs, danced, watched our performance, participated in discussion, answered questions, and played Russian folk musical instruments. In one of the schools we helped the children to prepare a performance for the school assembly.

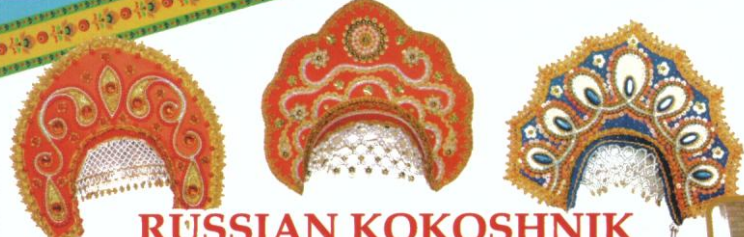
The teachers were very happy and grateful to us, and we all made good friends! We will continue this tradition to attend schools and present our workshops in the future.



All ornaments and pictures in the bottom part of this brochure were created by the children and grown-ups who attended our workshops. There are very many images representing the Sun, as this was the main subject of this project. The images of the Sun were created in a wide variety of techniques by children as young as 4 years old and up. Examples of traditional Russian ornaments and patterns were created by children aged from 6 to 10.

When conducting workshops in the local schools we used simple colouring in pages with traditional Russian handicraft dolls.





RUSSIAN KOKOSHNIK

On 25 June, we presented a master class in Russian folk arts and crafts, where Mosaica's teachers spoke about the tradition and types of the Russian headdress, embroidery, and bead embroidery. Kokoshnik is a part of a Russian national costume. It used to be decorated with precious stones and fancy embroidery. By the way it was decorated, one could tell what village the woman comes from, and whether her family was rich. In the olden days a village needle woman could make such a fantastic piece of work without any special devices. That was how Australian ladies clever with their needles made Russian festive headdress for themselves.

The participants of this workshop immensely enjoyed the process and the result of their work on the Russian Kokoshnik. They demonstrated miracles of skill and fantasy. They used various beads, ribbons, sequins, artificial flowers, and rhinestones, but the decoration was based on the traditional Russian patterns. One could see that the participants of the master class were skilled in handicrafts, that was why their Kokoshniks came out amazingly beautiful!



We had to promise them that we would visit the South Perth craft studio of senior citizens centre again and tell them about other interesting Russian traditions.

In ancient Rus women had beautiful and comfortable headdress: kokoshniks. Made from expensive materials - silk, velvet, or brocade, decorated with pearls, lace, stones, and embroidered gold thread. The word "kokoshnik" comes from the Slavic word kokosh, which meant a chicken and rooster as it resembles a chicken's crest. Now the kokoshnik is a prized possession of world fashion.



HANDICRAFT PAINTING



A unique master class that took place on 4 July consisted of three parts, and the participants had a chance to learn about **Khokhloma**, **Gzhel** and **Zhostovo** types of traditional painting techniques.

At the master class each type of traditional craft was shown in a presentation with a demonstration of materials, illustrations and stories about these beautiful crafts. After the presentation, the children got a chance to try their hand at painting. The older kids worked on Zhostovo painting under the guidance of the professional artist and teacher **Daria Shulgane**.

The pre-schoolers supervised by **Liason Akhmadeeva** painted Gzhel patterns on plates, and **Veronika Nefedova** taught them to make Khokhloma patterns on wooden spoons and pots.

The children's works are shown in this booklet. After the workshop, the young artists kept creating masterpieces at home for a few more days.



Traditional Russian decorative painting

Gzhel – unique painting style characterised by white-and-blue patterns. Pottery and toys are made of high quality white clay, which makes them light and ecologically friendly. At present there are 27 villages in the Moscow region involved in Gzhel production, with Gzhel State Art and Industry College and numerous factories.



Khokhloma – decorative painting of wooden tableware and furniture, known for its vivid red, green and black colors over a golden background. Articles carved out of wood were usually covered with tin powder and a special coating and hardened in a kiln at high temperatures three or four times, which helped to achieve the beautiful honey golden tint.

Zhostovo painting – characteristic motif – an array of flowers against a black background. It was used for decorating metal trays.



SUN CIRCLE PROJECT



The main workshop of the **Mosaic Sun Circle Project** took place on 19 September. The Sun circle is a magical symbol. Each year brings the same sequence of seasons, turning life into an eternally renewing circle under the sun. During the two hours of Russian merry-making we tried to create a modern take on the ancient folk experience.

During this workshop, we offered a musical theatre presentation of an episode from the real life of a Russian family – with 7 kids, a cow in the backyard and a kitten on the “brick” stove, made by volunteering parents.

We made a presentation on the origins of the Slavic people, their traditions and some background historical information.

And of course – a live performance - examples of traditional Russian singing and dancing by Perth folk groups.

There were traditional folk games - easy, musical and fun.

During the dance master-class we taught to dance in a Horovod – this particular type being an imitation of spinning yarn in a group. Women spun yarn all year round, so it is a good example of a **KHOROVID** that is based on an everyday activity.



During the vocal master class we showed vocalization for men and women for the song "Pancakes" - and the whole audience was singing with us, even though half of the people in the audience were English speakers.

It was a real pleasure to share our skills and passion with the participants willing learn our traditional artistic style!



During one of our master classes we tried to teach the children and their parents to make a

Traditional Russian rag doll, which had been a typical traditional toy for centuries. The doll was not just a toy, it was a symbol of procreation and a pledge of domestic harmony. Usually rag dolls were just a basic representation of a woman's figure: a piece of cloth rolled into a pin, a piece of white linen to make the face, breasts from cloth wads, a plait and an everyday or a festive peasant costume made of flaps.

There are several types of traditional rag dolls depending on the techniques - stolbushka (pole doll), krestushka (cross doll), doll on a stick frame, knotted doll, swaddled doll, twisted doll, stuffed bag doll ([great link: http://u3a.ifmo.ru/simvolika.html](http://u3a.ifmo.ru/simvolika.html)). To entertain babies, they made lots of twisted scraps of fabric into little dolls and strung them together like a garland.

A girl with a rocker

She returned home and brought in buckets of cold water. She is the eldest daughter who helps her mother with cooking and looking after the younger children.

Yoke - a wooden device for making it easier to carry two buckets at the same time



MOSAICA

Cultural Learning Centre Mosaica Inc.

WWW.MOSAICAWA.COM

Mosaica is a not-for-profit organisation working in Perth

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO:

- Promote and create awareness of Russian culture and traditions in Western Australia
- Teach children the Russian language, literature and other subjects in Russian
- Introduce an outreach program to present Russian culture to the Australian community and other ethnic groups

CLASSES IN OUR RUSSIAN SCHOOL INCLUDE:

- Russian language and literature (groups for children aged from 2.5 to 13)
- Speech development, Early child development (from 6 months old)
- Art and craft



- Music and choir singing
- Dance studio
- Russian as a foreign language for adults, group lessons with customized training programs
- Mathematics and logic, a chess club

WHAT WE DO:

- Create cultural programs and events in English and Russian languages
- Organise social events, concerts and picnics
- Provide training and workshops for adults and children
- Participate in music events and competitions held in Perth



Please call:

0433746133, 0413048228



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Mosaica Cultural Learning Centre Inc.

