

Victoria's 2018 Multicultural Awards.

The Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues (Eastern Region) congratulates all recipients of Victoria's 2018 Multicultural Awards. The state's 2018 Diversity Heroes were recognised at a special ceremony attended by high profile dignitaries and guests on Wednesday 12 September at Government House.

CCOEI and the Migrant Settlement Committee is proud to inform our membership that our nominee, Bwe Thay, received Highly Commended Award in the Emerging Leadership in Multiculturalism Award.



Bwe Thay pictured receiving the Award from the Governor of Victoria The Hon Linda Desau AC. Bwe is a strong community advocate for new and emerging refugee communities. Since arriving in Australia in 2009 as a refugee from Burma he has held a number of community roles including Vice President of the Communities' Council on Ethnic Issues, Co Chair of the Refugee Communities Advocacy Network, Multicultural Ambassador for the Mental Health Foundation of Australia, member of the Refugee Tertiary Education Committee and member of the Victorian Multicultural Commission's

Southern Metropolitan Regional Advisory Council. Mr Thay has also been involved with the Refugee Council of Australia in a variety of roles. He currently works as a Migrant Student and Community Liaison Officer at Swinburne University of Technology, where he supports refugees to access higher education and helps universities better open their doors to refugees.

Cynthia Shaw and Krishani Dassanayake accompanied Bwe to Government House to receive his award. It was a wonderful evening with over 60 awards presented.

Two other awards of note in our region are:

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Awarded to: The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Early Years Program

SCHOOL EDUCATION

- Awarded to: Croydon Primary School