



# Russian Ethnic Community Council of NSW Inc

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2004 – 2005 President's Report

My final year as President gives me great pleasure in reporting to you on a period in which our organisation achieved many of its goals and objectives. The RECC posted another year of high results in what is fast becoming a complex operating environment. Once again, the Executive Committee demonstrated outstanding teamwork and continual commitment to the interests of the Russian Community and managed the business in such a way as to deliver sustainable long- term benefits.

### **Significant Achievement**

In May 2005, the RECC once again was successful in its grant application for a period of 2 years (24 months) under the Community Settlement Services Scheme (CSSS) program, which is funded by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) effective from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Once again, the RECC was amongst a small number of successful applicants to receive funding for 2 years period.

To achieve this important result the Executive committee demonstrated outstanding teamwork and professionalism in its approach to meet this objective.

Also, an excellent performance and total commitment of our Community Worker, Mrs Alla Khlebakova, who has largely contributed towards the RECC success.

The receipt of this grant enabled the RECC to continue to deliver a much needed Settlement Information and Referral Service for the newly arrived Russian speaking immigrants. Besides improving and expanding existing Service, Mrs Khlebakova has also established a “Social Club” group, which attracted many newly arrived migrants seeking new contacts and friendship in the new country.

### **Financial Growth**

The RECC recorded steady financial improvement during 2004 – 2005; – its non-grant related net income for this period was approximately \$4,700, which is substantially higher than the previous year's figure. For an overall organisation's financial performance please refer to the audited Financial Report provided.

### **Membership**

During 2004 – 2005, the membership had increased by at least 20 new members. This result reflects a continued momentum in our interaction with the Russian Community.

## **Other achievements and activities:**

### **Victims of Beslan Appeal**

Barely recovering from a horrific event caused by the tragedy in Beslan, the RECC had launched a "Victims of Beslan Appeal" in early September 2004.

A call for help was requested from the Russian Ethnic Community Councils of the other states and the Russian Orthodox Church, which resulted in a very generous response from the Australian community and an amount of \$170 000 was raised.

### **Community Services**

#### **1. Bus Excursions**

The RECC continued to organise Bus Excursions to various places of interest around NSW. These Excursions still remain as a major community attraction, especially amongst the elderly people and continues to receive tremendous community support.

The success of these trips is largely due to hard work of our Excursions coordinator Mr George Skorniakoff and to his wife Helen. On behalf of the Executive, it gives me great pleasure to say 'thank you' to both George and Helen for their commitment to the Project.

#### **2. Academic Achievements Awards**

This is now the sixth consecutive period during which the RECC continued to remunerate students of Saturday Russian Schools and the students of Russian Studies at the Macquarie University by means of presenting end-of-year Academic Achievement Awards.

### **Important activity since 30/06/2005**

This year the RECC celebrated 10 Years Anniversary since its official incorporation in December 1995.

To mark this very important occasion the Executive of the RECC hosted a special Dinner-Dance function, which was very well attended by the various government departments' representatives as well as leaders of many Russian community organisations. The details of this event can be obtained from our current quarterly bulletin "Vestnik".

### **Future Partnership**

Following a meeting with Archbishop Hilarion, discussions have been initiated with the Russian community based organisations in order to form a unified representative body, which will look after the interests of the Russian community, initially for the elderly, such as Home Aged Packages, by means of researching available grants for which the Russian community might be eligible to apply.

If this Project is successful, it will create a great opportunity to bring individual Russian organisations to work together for the benefit of the whole Russian Community.

### **Strategic Review**

As there is no doubt that in the future, grants will become more competitive and even more complex to obtain, the RECC has to be positioned effectively to ensure that we can continue to serve our community's interests and meet their ongoing needs.

**Summary**

Overall, this has been a productive year with a satisfactory result.

To remain relevant in a rapidly changing societal environment, however, we need to be even more proactive and endeavour to do much more for the Community we represent.

I urge members to continue to support the RECC as we work to provide a cohesive environment in which all of us can participate fully.

As I am concluding my third term as President of the RECC, I would like to say a very sincere 'thank you' to very special people of the Executive team, for their continuous support, commitment and the sacrifice of their own free time for the benefit of the Russian community and our organisation.

I am honoured to have served the RECC and special thanks go to the DIMIA consultants Mr Bernie Coombes and his predecessor Mr January Blackburn who have given their support and guidance during my presidency.

Finally, I would like to wish the next President every success in this demanding yet rewarding job and offer my assurance of support as needed.

Z.Kojevnikoff  
President 2004-2005