

**HON JOHN CASTRILLI MLA
MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL
INTERESTS**

<http://www.johncastrilli.com.au/>



SONGKRAN FESTIVAL – THAI NEW YEAR

**MACEDONIAN CLUB COMMUNITY HALL
51 ALBERT STREET
NORTH PERTH**

SUNDAY, 26 APRIL 2009

ARRIVE: 11.15am

TIME: 11.30am – 4.00pm

- *Sawatdii* (*sa-what-dee* means *hello* in Thai) and good morning.
- As Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests it gives me great pleasure to be able to share Songkran (pronounced *song-kran*) - the start of the Thai New Year - with you.

- I feel privileged to have the opportunity to share this very special occasion with the Thai community today and experience your cultural traditions.
- The ideals of Songkran are also extremely valuable to the wider community as they reinforce commitment to family, respect for elders, the joy of children and time to reflect on our many blessings.
- I understand that throughout Songkran there is a strong sense of civic pride and giving, as people meet one another to share events and work for the community.
- The Songkran festival offers the Western Australia community an exciting glimpse into the rich and vibrant cultural traditions of Thailand and I welcome the opportunity to share the festival with you today.
- All migrants, people from Europe and Asia, to new migrants from Africa and Iran, play an important part in supporting the economic, social and cultural development of Western Australia.
- Multiculturalism is an asset to the State and today is an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of our culturally diverse heritage, and the generous contributions made by community groups to Western Australia.
- It is important that we continue to foster an environment where everyone can participate in our society and the State government welcomes opportunities for exchange and engagement between all cultures.

- Thankfully, we can acknowledge the high level of inclusion and social cohesion that exists in Western Australia, it is unique in the world today and something to be celebrated.
- I commend the Thai-Australian Association of Western Australia for over 25 years of devoted service; you have clearly enriched the lives of the local Thai and wider Western Australian community.
- I congratulate the President, Mrs Seefah Collingwood-Price and her Committee on your achievements and for organising this wonderful event.
- Thank you for inviting me to join you today, my wife Loretta and I, sincerely appreciate your kind invitation.
- I wish all of you and the people of Thailand a very happy Songkran Festival.
- Thank you.

The following comments added by **[AusWaThai](#)**

To view a list of websites that promote Thai and Buddhist Communities in WA – [click here](#)