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## Daily Mercury



GLOBAL GROOVES: Filipino dancers are ready for Saturday's Global Grooves From left: Vicky Ogilvie, Georgine Crawford, and Ela Maglente. Emma Murray

NEWS

# Festival invites Mackay to groove to global beats



by [ZIZI AVERILL](#)

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DANCERS from the George Street Neighbourhood Centre are preparing for tomorrow's Global Grooves festival.

The annual event is the region's largest multicultural festival with 28 different food vendors, workshops and 15 music and dance acts from around the world.

Eight women from the George Street Neighbourhood Centre will be performing a traditional igitot dance from the mountainous provinces of Luzon, Northern Philippines.

The Filipino dancers have all migrated and made their homes in Mackay.

Dancer Georgine Crawford said their performance was "their way of giving back to the community, while connecting to their culture".

Mr Crawford said the dance troupe was driven by their love of dance, and the joy they get from performing.

"We're not professional dancers. We do it for fun," she said.

Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson was taught some Igorot dance moves while dressed in a Malong, a skirt similar to a sarong worn in Marawi, Southern Philippines.

Cr Williams said this weekend's festival was a "celebration of this great multicultural community we live in".

In the past five years, Cr Williams said, he has seen Mackay citizenship ceremonies welcome people from 79 nations.

Global Grooves is a free event. It runs from 3pm to 8pm, in Queens Park, on the oval Saturday, October 27.