Harmony Day is celebrated every year on March 21st. The 2010 theme was ‘Express Yourself’ and the Office of Engagement supported community and local government organisations in Penrith, Fairfield, Liverpool and the Blue Mountains in conducting activities to mark this important event.

In the Penrith LGA, the Office of Engagement supported Harmony Day celebrations through a partnership with Penrith City Council, local schools, the Department of Education, Blacktown City Council, Nepean Migrant Access and community services to produce a book of migration and settlement stories, “Through your eyes”. The stories were collected by local primary school aged children who interviewed migrants and then wrote the stories for publication. The book was launched at St Marys’ Corner on July 17th 2010 at a public ceremony attended by local migrant communities and services. The Office of Engagement provided an internship opportunity for a media and communication student, Andres Rios to produce a video capturing the interview process. The video is available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIP3F2Nw4Yw.

The video was presented at the launch of the book and it generated a great deal of interest from services, the local media and members of the community. Various articles were published in local newspapers and the contribution of UWS was acknowledged. The video captured the process of planning the oral history project, the training provided to the children to equip them with effective tools to conduct the interviews and the actual interviews. The project represented an important partnership with local councils and community services in the Penrith and Blacktown local government areas around cultural diversity and cultural harmony issues.

For further information about this project please contact the Office of Engagement at engagement@uws.edu.au