



migrant resource centre
southern tasmania inc.

Issue 22, February 2012

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MRC EVENTS

United Nations Working Groups on Resettlement



Picture left : Cedric Manen, MRC CEO and Chair of the Settlement Council of Australia, (right) ; Sky De Jersey – Executive Officer of the Settlement Council of Australia

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Working Group on Resettlement (WGR) meeting in Melbourne on 23rd-25th February was the first time the meeting has been held in Australia (it has only been held outside of Geneva three times in its history). The MRC CEO Cedric Manen was one of three delegates representing Australia from an NGO perspective. The Refugee Council of Australia organised a wide range of visits to settlement agencies and programs across Melbourne, Geelong, Shepparton and Werribee. 87 delegates, from 17 countries, visited schools, English language centres and settlement agencies and saw firsthand multicultural communities living side by side in different areas of Melbourne. The site visits were great preparation for the plenary meetings, two days of presentations and discussion on resettlement across the globe which examined subjects such as:

- Multiculturalism
- Measuring successful settlement
- Government and business sector partnerships

- The role of communities in successful integration

Participants attended from government and non-government organisations as diverse as Argentina, Paraguay, Czech Republic and Romania (who are just beginning their resettlement programs) to the USA and Europe (with a wide variety in types, sizes and histories of resettlement programs and numbers). This diversity resulted in conversations which covered the familiar (finding housing, case management, language, cultural orientation) from new perspectives which was stimulating. The sharing ranged from conceptual conversations about integration to practical discussions on the number of hours and policy settings for language learning in different resettlement programs. The MRC CEO will be representing Australia at the United Nations Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement in Geneva in early July 2012.

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TCCI Business Expo 2012

Connect will have a stall promoting its services to businesses and industries at the upcoming Business Expo to be held in Hobart and Launceston on 6 and 7 March. Held for the first time in Tasmania in 2009, the Business Expo is a fast growing event on the Tasmanian business calendar. The expo is designed to help stimulate Tasmanian business and encourage business growth through promoting different opportunities and services available for Tasmanian business.

This is a great opportunity to promote Connect Clients to employers for cultural work experience and/or employment. The Connect (staff and Manager), Amy, Anne and Sylvia, will be manning the stalls and networking with employers to highlight the benefits of giving Connect clients work experience and employment opportunities and the support Connect can provide.

Settlements Workshops

Saturday, 3 March 2012 – Migration and Justice Workshop for the Karen Community. Contact Natalie Pausin / Tessa McCraig on 62 210 999

Thursday, 8 March 2012 – Presentation session for Hazara Community. Contact Emma Mathieson on 62 210999.

Thursday, 8 March – Driving Group Session

Friday, 9 March 2012 – Insurance and Consumer Rights Workshop for the Karen Community. Contact Tessa McCraig or Eliza Muskett on 62 210 999

Friday, 16 March 2012 – Bhutanese Women's Day Out with session on Leadership.

Thursday, 22 March 2012 – Driving Group Session
Friday, 23 March 2012 – Driving Group Session - contact Tessa McCraig on 62 210 999 to participate.

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MRC Service Update

Connect South - Job Coaching

Coaching to find what?

Job Coaching – South

The first round of Job Coaching is near completion with another round due to start around mid-March. The current round has concentrated on clients from the Bhutanese community working in small groups to identify both long and short term employment goals. One client has been assisted into a security licence training course whilst others will be working with the CCO officer to gain suitable work experience placements at the end of the program.



Job Coaching Session Underway at Connect

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MRC's Packaged Care Programs - offer both case management and a team of 43 in-home support workers who provide assistance with daily living activities. Some of our Clients with dementia also benefit from participating in home-based social and learning activities so that they maximise their memory and skills. Typical activities would include to become re-involved in tasks such as setting the table, helping with cooking and washing up, working on puzzles and discussing familiar photos and stories. All these activities need to be provided in a way that acknowledges the dignity and unique character of each Client. They also provide much needed respite for carers and family members.

We are very pleased to report that three of our in-home support workers are about to complete a Certificate 4 in Leisure and Lifestyle. Michelle, Sarina and Robert will be trained and informed in planning and delivering activities. Between them they will also be able to contribute Polish, Russian, Cantonese and German language, culture and traditions, thereby improving and adding value to our Clients' care.

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Natural Disaster Resilience Program

The MRC has received funding from the State and Federal Governments to run a Natural Disaster Resilience Program for CaLD communities in the Hobart area. This program will be organised by the Settlement team and run by project officers from the participating communities. The program's aim is to assist the CaLD communities to prepare for, respond to and ensure recovery from incidents, crises and other emergencies including natural disasters in Southern Tasmania. This will be achieved through education, awareness-raising and capacity-building measures. Closer links will be developed between the MRC, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmanian Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Tasmanian Police in the promotion of inclusive emergency management practices for at risk CaLD communities in Tasmania. The program will be run over a two

year period and the outcomes will be to achieve more resilience for CaLD communities in Southern Tasmania and greater social inclusion through fostering links in and across CaLD communities in Southern Tasmania and key agency staff.

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Afghani Day Out

On 14th February the Settlement team organised a day out for members of the Afghani community in Hobart. The day was attended by 25 members of the community including men, women and children. The morning was spent playing team games including soccer and discovering marine life on the foreshore. We then drove to Kingston Beach where we had fish and chips and some of the more adventurous went swimming. We were then joined by Sarah from Parks and Wildlife who ran some activities focusing on bush and marine life before going on the Boronia foreshore walk to discover the penguin rookeries and rockpools. We had amazing weather which added to the success of the day.



Members of Afghani group at Dru Point-Margate

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Phoenix Centre

In March and August the Phoenix Centre will provide opportunities for teachers and school staff to develop their capacity in working with survivors of torture and trauma. Attendance at these workshops is free but numbers are strictly limited. Funding for these workshops has been provided by the Department of Health and

Human Services under the Transformers (Early Intervention) program.

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Supporting Refugee Background Students in Schools

is a full day workshop recommended for people working with students of refugee background in education settings; primary secondary and tertiary levels. It aims to provide an approach for working with refugee survivors of torture and trauma in the school environment. The workshop will cover:

- The refugee experience for young people including their prior education experiences
- The impact of trauma on young people's learning and wellbeing
- Strategies that teachers and other staff can use in the classroom and school setting to support the recovery process
- Ideas for developing a 'whole of school' approach for working with refugee background students

This workshop will be held in both the South and the North.

South: Friday 9th March 2012, Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper St, Glenorchy

North: Wednesday 14th March 2012, Adult Education Centre, 51 York St, Launceston

8.30am-4.00pm

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Incidental Counsellors Course

The Phoenix Centre will also be offering a course for **Incidental Counsellors**. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for teachers and school staff to develop their capacity to work with survivors of torture and trauma. Please note that completion of the Phoenix Centre's "Supporting Refugee Background Students in Schools" workshop is a prerequisite. The course will provide any teachers and school staff with skills and strategies for building relationships with refugee students, and for handling difficult and distressing situations. The content will include:

- The principles of a good working relationship with traumatised students

- Cross cultural considerations
- Basic counselling skills to enhance responsiveness to refugee students and families
- The emotional responses of teachers and school staff and implications for practice
- The 'limits': when and how to refer to relevant services.

The Incidental Counselling course will be held in the South and the North on the following dates:

South: Friday 24th August 2012, Glenorchy Civic Centre; Cooper Street, Glenorchy

North: Wednesday 29th August 2012, Adult Education Centre, 51 York Street, Launceston

Please contact Kylie Millar at the Phoenix Centre on 62349138 for further information or to register.

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[Australian Lawyers for Human Rights \(Tas\)](#)

On Valentines Day the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (Tas) led by Madeline Ogilvie, along with the Australian Nurses Federation (Tas), held a fundraising and awareness event at Colville Gallery. The **"Spread the Love to Someone Else"** event was a huge success with money raised being donated to the Phoenix Centre for assistance with working with asylum seekers detained at the Pontville Immigration Detention Centre and in Community Detention in Hobart. The Antidiscrimination Commissioner, Robyn Banks, spoke on the topic **"Who Cares about Asylum Seekers?"**. It was clear from the large number of people who attended the event that there is huge support within the Tasmanian community for those who are seeking asylum in Australia. The Phoenix Centre is extremely grateful for the generous donation of money raised at the event. The support of community members who attended the event, along with the ongoing support of the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights and the Australian Nurses Federation, will ensure that asylum seekers in Tasmania have access to appropriate support and

that they are aware there are people who truly care about their plight.

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[MRC Staff](#)

[Archana Anil](#)

Commenced work as the Settlement Project Officer from 21 February. She has worked across three different continents in the past 10 years in the areas of Administration, Human Resources and Project Work. Originally from Bangalore, India, Archana moved to Australia with her family seven years back and lived in Mildura, Victoria for three years before moving to Hobart. During her stay in Mildura, Archana worked as a Project Officer with a business consultancy firm working with Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to provide advice, mentoring and project work. Archana has worked with the MRC since October 2009 as the Executive Support Officer and is really looking forward to working with the communities and service providers in enhancing settlement outcomes for Tasmania's migrants in her new role.

[Rose Wood](#)

Rose commenced on Valentine's Day as Executive Support Officer replacing Archana Anil. Rose has over 10 years experience in the secretarial field working with CEOs of Impact Fertilisers and Board Secretary at Onstream. Prior to returning to the secretarial field, Rose ran a business with husband Michael for 13 years, a convict museum/cafe called the "Old Watch House Goal" at Granton. She has raised money for charity with Multicap, door knocked for Red Cross. Rose and Michael once ran the Porsche 911 car club, the club organised a day for Camp Quality children to enjoy rides. Currently Rose and Michael are restoring an old train carriage in the era of the 1930s Orient Express. Rose looks forward to being part of our team.

[Amanda Krone](#)

I am enjoying my new role as Youth Support Worker with the dedicated team in Settlements and meeting many friends/Clients of MRC. I have worked broadly with young people as a teacher

in NSW schools and also specifically in health education and outdoor recreation. If anyone is interested in offering ideas or assistance to youth programs, or seeking further information, I am happy to talk to you.

I am available at the MRC office Wednesday – Friday or on akrone@mrchobart.org.au

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Cultural Calendar Dates:

March 2012

March 2 Fri - Melbourne Food and Wine Festival (to 21 March) -This event showcases the best of Victoria's culinary culture.

March 3 Sat - National Day-Bulgaria

March 6 Tues - Independence Day-Ghana

March 8 Thu - Magha Puja - Also known as Sangha Day, this day celebrates the community of followers of the teachings of Buddha (Theravada tradition)-Buddhist

March 8 Thu - Purim - Purim commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination by the courage of a young Jewish woman called Esther.

March 8 Thu - Holi is a boisterous festival with people smearing each other with coloured water and bright powders. Originally a festival to celebrate good harvests and fertility of the land, Holi also commemorates some key figures in Hindu mythology.

March 9 Fri - WOM Adelaide (to 12 March) -This festival features a three-day music, arts and dance festival held in Adelaide's Botanic Park-Festival

March 9 Fri - Moomba Waterfest, Melbourne (to 12 March)-This festival's highlights include Dragon Boat races, the 'Birdman Rally', fireworks display, the Moomba Parade and Waterfest Carnival.-Festival

March 12 Mon - National Day-Mauritius

March TBA - Estia Greek Festival, Hobart - Over the past fifteen years Estia has provided a forum for showcasing and sharing the rich Hellenic-Australian culture, heritage and tradition with the broader community

March 14 Wed - New year: Nanakshahi - year 544 -The Sikh calendar is called the Nankshani Calendar and takes its name from guru Nanak,

who founded the Sikh religion more than 500 years ago.

March 14 Wed - Sydney Road Street Party, Brunswick, Melbourne (to 25 March) - This large multicultural gathering is an all-ages day, celebrating peace, understanding and cultural diversity.

March 16 Fri - Five Holy Days of Pronia (Banjah) to 20 March - The Mandaean community are an ancient religious community from southern Iraq and Iran.-Mandaen

March 17 Sat - Cultural Diversity Week, Victoria (17 to 25 March) - Cultural Diversity Week features a program of festivals and events highlighting Victoria's cultural, linguistic and religious diversity

March 17 Sat - St Patrick's Day -This day is Ireland's National Day. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and brought Christianity to Ireland in the early days of the faith-Ireland

March 18 Sun - Geelong Highland Gathering - Features massed pipe bands, Scottish culture, livestock, merchandise, music, dancing and haggis hurling.

March 20 Tue - Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Tunisia-Tunisia

March 21 Wed - Harmony Day - Harmony Day celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. Schools, community groups and organisations across Australia host Harmony Day events.

March 21 Wed - Norouz (various spellings) New Year - Norouz means 'new year' in Persian and is a traditional festival of spring that has been celebrated for more than 3000 years by people from Iran and surrounding countries.-Iran, Bahai, Kurd, Zoroastrian

March 21 Wed - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reminds us of our collective responsibility for promoting and protecting this ideal.-United Nations

March 21 Wed - Independence Day-Namibia

March 23 Fri - Adelaide Salsa Festival (to 25 March) - This festival features Latin American dance parties, workshops and performances.-

March 24 Sat - Fraser Coast Cultural Festival, QLD (to 24 March-The Fraser Coast Cultural Festival, north of Brisbane, is a celebration of culture with entertainment, street theatre, a parade, international food, craft and display stalls.

March 25 Sun - Independence Day-Greece

March 25 Sun - Thai Culture and Food Festival, Melbourne - This is a celebration of Thai culture in Federation Square, Melbourne, with food stalls, dancing, arts and crafts.-Festival

March 26 Mon - Independence Day-Bangladesh

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Tune in to Hobart FM 96.1 to get more updates from the Migrant Resource Centre (Southern Tasmania) Inc on the last Monday of every month. Next broadcast is on Monday, 26 March 2012 at 1pm. If you would like to contribute any community updates or articles, please email rwood@mrchobart.org.au

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