

Newsletter

No 3 August, 2012

Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group <http://bmrsg.org.au>

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Ph. 4751 2120 or 4782 7866 A project of The Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc. ABN 4876520395

Education Direct Help Direct Action Fundraising

Conversation With A Refugee

During Refugee Week, June 18- 22, the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group in collaboration with *Cultural Connexions* took refugees into five high schools in the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney area: Winmalee, Springwood, Xavier College, St Pauls Grammar and Mt Annan High. The event, 'Conversation with a Refugee', featured three former refugees from Burma, Afghanistan and Rwanda telling their stories to students from years 8 to 12. An estimated 1500 students participated in the event. Gold coin donations from students totalled \$1600.

Responses from both students and teachers were overwhelmingly positive. This response echoed those of other teachers and students.

I just wanted to thank you again for Monday. It went well and I think it was very valuable for our kids at Winmalee. Di and I are very keen to extend it next year and Ian Bate English Head Teacher is interested in Yr 11 being part of the audience then too. Also, some feedback from my son who was in your Year 8 Springwood audience. He was really moved by the story and spoke about it to Rick and I last night. He really feels the injustice of detention and Najeeba's story emphasized that. He thought it was really valuable and was pleased to have been a part of it. Thank you again as a teacher and a parent.



Najeeba talking to Students at Xavier College June 2012 Photo

Committee Meeting Decisions

To apply for a Volunteer Grant of \$4,999 to assist with travel expenses for Villawood visitors.

To join Amnesty to screen "Go back to where They Came From" on 30 August

To continue to give House of Welcome and Bridges for Asylum Seekers \$500 per month.

To contribute \$750 towards the cost of Chaplainship Course at Westmead Hospital which Mary Arch is undertaking for work at Villawood Detention Centre.

To provide a panel to field questions at Glenbrook Blaxland Ecumenical Group Migrant Sunday on 26 August at Blaxland Uniting Church.

To support Refugee Advocacy Network's submission to Expert panel on Asylum Seekers.

To confirm the Structure and Organization of the BMRSG - See below

Fund Raising Activities

Bush Dance

Once again we are hosting the popular Bush Dance

You can help advertise the Bush Dance by distributing posters and fliers in your neighbourhood and among your friends.

Help is also needed on the night to sell drinks and serve supper.

If you can help please contact **JeanWinston on 478 7866 or email on bmrsg@aapt.net.au**. Above all spread the news and encourage all your friends and neighbours to attend and enjoy a fun filled night



ZUMBA
fitness

ZUMBA ZUMBA ZUMBA

MOVE YOUR HANDS, FEET AND HEART!

Join Zumba* Instructors from across the Blue Mountains in a one-off 90 minute ZUMBATHON* to help raise funds for the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group (BMRSG)*

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2012
6:00 TO 7:30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM)

SPRINGWOOD CIVIC CENTRE
106 MACQUARIE ROAD, SPRINGWOOD

Tickets: \$15 & \$12 concession (from all Zumba* classes and BMRSG); \$20 at the door

♦ All fitness levels welcome ♦ Lucky door prizes ♦ Zumba* apparel

For more information call Marcela on 0423 651 311

*100% of profits from this event will go directly to the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group. Zumba®, Zumba Fitness®, Zumbathon® and the Zumba logo are registered trademarks of Zumba LLC. Used under license.

ZUMBATHON - Join the Latest Craze

The generous Zumba teachers from across the mountains will combine to run a 90 minute Zumbathon in support of the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

The event will take place at 6pm on **Saturday 29 September** at the **Springwood Civic Centre**. Admission: **\$15 (\$12 concession) or \$20 at the door**. For bookings please contact **Marcela 0423 651 311**.

Gather up your friends and join the fun and help provide ongoing help to refugees.

Structure and Operation of Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group

This Structure of our Group was confirmed at the Committee meeting on 16 July 2012. It is the result of many consultations with our parent body the Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc. It should place our operation on clearer guidelines and spread the load among more members

STATUS

The Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group is a sub committee of the Blue Mountains Family Support Service. By entering into an Agreement with the Blue Mountains Family Support Service the Constitution of the BMFSS becomes the constitution of the BMRSG. The Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group has agreed to abide by the rules of that Constitution.

The Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group will include the words '*A Project of the Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc.*' on all its material, correspondence, advertising, public notices etc.

The BMRSG will submit all activities to the BMFSS for clearance in advance.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the BMRSG must register each year with the Secretary.

Committee Structure

The Committee will consist of:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Eight (8) general committee members

Regular Members

The Committee will appoint a Vice-Chairperson, Assistant Secretary, Publicity Officer and Database Operator from among these Regular Members.

All members may attend committee meetings but only elected Committee Members have voting rights.

A **Quorum** will consist of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson and 4 other members.

The elected Committee Members of the BMRSG will become members of the BMFSS.

Committee Nomination Process

Prior to each Annual General Meeting an advertisement will be circulated amongst members seeking **Expressions of Interest** for filling the positions listed above. Candidates for the Committee will require a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be current members of the BMRSG. These will be submitted to the BMFSS for approval prior to the BMRSG AGM.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS will be held regularly throughout the year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An **Annual General Meeting** will be held as near as possible to September each year. A representative of the BMFSS will act as Returning Officer.

GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings will be held as required. These may take the form of policy-making meetings, think tanks, information distributing, guest speakers and social functions.

Special Purpose groups may be set up by the Committee and may be of two types:

1. A Special Purpose Group created to manage an **ongoing activity** such as the Villawood Visitors. This Group will report to the meetings of the Committee. The Committee will ensure that the Group:
 - Adheres to the aims and principles of the BMRSG
 - Ensures the safety of members, attendees and the premises
 - Stays within the financial limits set by the Committee
 - When working with children all members have either police clearance or have signed the *Working with Children Disclaimer*The Committee must approve all financial matters in advance.

2.

A

Special Purpose Group created for the duration of a **particular function** such as a dance, concert, forum etc. A **Project leader** will be nominated by the Committee to manage the activity with authority to make all the

necessary arrangements. Prior to the function the Committee will ensure that the function;

- adheres to the aims and principles of the BMRSG
- ensures the safety of members, attendees, and the premises
- stays within the financial limits set by the Committee
- when working with children all members have either police clearance or have signed the *Working With Children Disclaimer*

When the particular function for which it was created finishes, that Special Purpose Group will disband.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS AND PUBLIC

Copies of Management Committee Agendas and Minutes of Meetings will be forwarded to all Committee members and those who attended the last meeting, and other members by request, either by email, post or hand delivered.

Blue Mountains Family Support Service will also be included on the email distribution list for forwarding of minutes of BMRSG meeting.

Regular updates will keep members who are on the email list informed of BMRSG activities.

Newsletters will be sent to all members several times per year. Those members who are not on the email list will receive the Newsletter by post or hand delivered. Copies of the Newsletter will be placed on the BMRSG Website.

Website - A Webmaster will be appointed by the Committee to manage the website. The Committee must approve all financial expenditure in advance.

Facebook - An Administrator will be appointed by the Committee to manage the Facebook page. The Committee must approve all financial expenditure in advance.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The BMRSG has control of financial decision-making. *Also refer to Auspice Agreement for detail about ratification of financial payments, etc.*

INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Whilst there is some coverage of volunteers under BMFSS insurances (which extends to BMRSG supporters), all BMRSG supporters should take all necessary care required by Occupational Health & Safety procedures. **Working with Children Declarations** must be obtained for all Villawood IDC visitors and those working with children. BMRSG supporters who carry out any aspect of BMRSG work should complete volunteer disclaimers.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The development of policies and procedures will guide the activities of BMRSG. Policies and procedures will require approval by BMFSS.

COMPLAINTS, GRIEVANCES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Development of agreed processes will be developed and agreed upon by BMRSG and BMFSS to address:

- internally driven conflicts and complaints;
- conflicts and complaints between BMFSS and BMRSG; and
- conflicts and complaints original externally.

REVIEW OF AUSPICE ARRANGEMENT

BMFSS and BMRSG will meet annually to adopt any new policies and procedures, review insurances and other auspice arrangements.

Advanced Notice
**Annual General Meeting will be held on
Monday, 8 October, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the
Springwood Uniting Church Hall.**

All positions will be declared vacant. Nominations for the positions on the Committee must have the name of the proposer and the seconder and have the agreement of the candidate all of whom must be registered members of the BMRSG.

If you send your email address to bmrsg@aapt.net you will save us the cost of postage.

M Standen August, 2012