

Newsletter

No.23 October, 2004

Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group

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A PROJECT OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS FAMILY
SUPPORT SERVICE ABN 48 765 203 957

Ph 4751 2120 or 47827866

• Education • Direct Help • Direct Action • Fund Raising

Direct Action

Federal Election October 9, 2004

From Marie Standen, chairperson:

"The coming election is our best chance we have of changing the present system.

"Remember you can make your vote count by using your preferences wisely. Distribute all your preferences strictly according to the extent each candidate reflects your desired goals.

"For me this means determining where each candidate stands on refugee and related issues, ranking candidates in order of desirability. The information below and the last newsletter has substantial information.

"Vote accordingly - and encourage others to do the same.

Replies from the Candidates

Last newsletter we published replies from some candidates to refugee-related questions. There was some electoral office stuff up with the Democrats candidature so we now include their replies in this newsletter.

We also asked that candidates attend a forum to discuss our concerns. Joel MacRae of the Greens was the only one interested.

John Haydon. Democrat candidate.

The Australian Democrats policy on refugees:

1. All migrants including refugees will be eligible to the full range of welfare benefits and employment assistance available to other Australians;
2. All people accepted into Australia as refugees will be granted permanent visas;
3. Non authorised arrivals will not be automatically subject to detention unless there are compelling security or public health reasons for doing so;
4. Incentives will be provided to encourage settlement in regional areas;
5. Settlement services for newly arrived migrants will be adequately resourced to maximise the opportunities for migrants to participate fully in the Australian community;

Direct Action

John Haydon. Democrat candidate. continued

6. All refugees and asylum seekers will be provided access to the Australian legal system equal to that of any Australian resident.

We support:

1. Humane treatment of asylum seekers;
2. A Senate enquiry into decisions on refugees;
3. Continued inspection of conditions at all Australian detention centres and Nauru.

We thank John Haydon, member of the BMRSG for this information.

Meet your candidate

A forum organised by the Springwood Ministers' Association and the Australian Christian Lobby Springwood Anglican Ministry Centre 28 Lawson Road. Springwood

7.45 pm Wednesday 29 September 2004

This would seem to be too good an opportunity to miss.

Fundraising

Fund raising dinner

7pm. 21st October Treahorne Restaurant, Katoomba St. Katoomba.

The restaurant has 50 seats. Two superb local musicians, Robert Peters, violin and Julie Coonan, electric piano. will donate their time and talent to enhance the event:

Two menus:

For carnivores: Entrée based on king prawns
A first class red meat main course

For vegetarians: A vegetarian entrée and a top class main course.

A sumptuous desert suitable for both groups
Coffee or tea, BYO wine or beer

Cost: \$60 per person of which \$35 will go to the BMRSG and will attract a tax deductible receipt. The restaurant owners are passionate refugee supporters and will be content to cover their costs. Please contact George on 47827866 if you are interested and wish to book

Fundraising

Raffle prize winners

From recent raffles the prize winners were:

Still life painting, Michael Searle D. Rozawski 03F
Two nights at Sirens guesthouse Mrs. King 21A
Quilt by Enid Paddon-Row Ms. L. Wong 01D
Ideas electric juicer, Mr & Mrs J. Connor 70F
Drip filter coffee maker Mrs. Horsfall 01A
Drip filter coffee maker Ms. Raema Decent 21A
Braveheart DVD Mr. D. Dignam 40C
Entrapment DVD Ms. J. Clancy 14E
High Crimes DVD Mr. Shane Grey 42A
What Lies Beneath DVD Mr. B. Armstrong 66D

Financial Report 31 AUG 2004

Income	Donations	750
	GST Reimbursement	366
	Raffle	1003
	Concert tickets	150

Total income 2,269

Expenses	Advertising	206
	Website Name	69
	HOW & field worker	400
	Fundraising	38
	GST	74
	Postage & Stationery	277
	Refugee Support	700
	Clothes & accessories	154
	Computer related	210
	Direct funding	588
	Energy costs	927
	Laptop computers	217
	Legal costs	50
	Reimburse host	100
	Rent	440
	Respite holidays & visits	51
	Rent of premises	320

Total expenses 4,822

Deficit 2,553

Bank balance 31 Aug 04 15,696

Direct Help

Two boy babies are due to arrive in October and November. Very exciting. We still need the following new clothing in appropriate and quiet colours:

Summer and winter jump suits, Singlets, Nighties, Bonnets and booties.

As well:

New born sized disposable nappies, Flannelette bunny rugs, 2 change tables, 2 baby baths, Sterilizer and 1 car capsule

A baby kit: nappy bag with baby shampoo and soap, cotton buds and balls, thermometer, wet ones, washers, zinc cream, castor oil cream.

Please contact Wendy Farrell Whelan on 47823880 or email cartman@pnc.com.au

Education

A recent (August) Fact sheet about Asylum Seekers and Refugees has been published by Uniting Care NSW and ACT. It comprises the background and summary of NSW Synod resolutions, written by Rev Dr Ann Wansbrough.

The information is available on the internet:

www.unitingcarenswwact.org.au/advocacy/archive.html

Other related sites are:

assembly.uca.org.au/uniting/justice/issues/asylum/index.htm

www.hothammission.org.au

www.asylumseekersfoundation.com

For Your Diary

Wednesday 29th September, 7.45pm

Meet your candidate forum

Springwood Anglican Ministry Centre

28 Lawson Road. Springwood

Sunday 3rd October 1pm.

End the Lies: Rally for Truth.

Town Hall Square (followed by a concert in Hyde

Park). A number of rallies are planned at major centres around the country on Sunday 3 October to protest about Howard government's disregard for truth in government.

2nd- 4th October

RAR National Weekend of Action.

Next Monthly Meeting

Monday November 1st 7.00 pm

Parish Meeting Room, Our Lady of the Nativity,

Great Western Highway, Lawson.

Ample off street parking. All Welcome.

Committee

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If you know of anyone who did not receive Newsletter 22 would you mind phoning Annette 47588153 or email bigsky@iinet.net.au

Please pass this newsletter onto a neighbour or friend.