

BMRSG News

BMRSG

Education Direct Help
Direct Action
Fundraising
Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year to
All

Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group website: bmrsg.org.au

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsRefugeeSupportGroup

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Project of the Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc ABN:4876720395

ISSUE 4 - BY M. Standen

DECEMBER 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Wayne Buckman-New
Chairman of BMRSG

George Winston
honoured as Ambassador
at White Ribbon Day

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Wayne Buckman New Chairperson for BMRSG

For the last eleven years the Blue Mountains Refugee Group has operated on an informal basis with no elections or annual general meetings. The problems surrounding asylum seekers and refugees have shown no signs of improving and recent events have made us aware of the need for a more formalised structure. With the aid of our parent body, Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc. we developed such a structure. On the 8 October 2012 an Annual General Meeting

was held in the Springwood Uniting Church Hall.

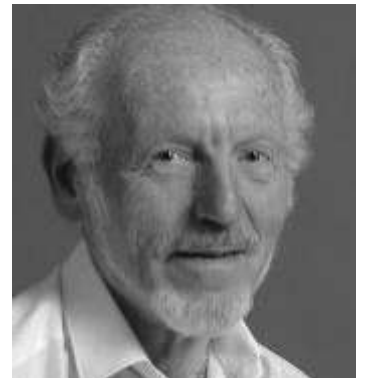


As our long term Chairperson, Marie Standen did not wish to continue as Chairperson Wayne Buckman stepped up to the mark and

accepted the position of for the next year. Well done Wayne. George Winston and Michael Morley were unanimously elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Peggy Goldsmith proposed s vote of thanks to all three for their dedication to the Group. Jim Fitzpatrick, Marie Standen, Craig Belfus, Alison Stone, Noeline Nagle and Grant Medaris were elected as General Committee members. There are still 2 vacant places as General Committee Members.

White Ribbon Day Ambassador

At the recent Mayoral Breakfast for White Ribbon Day George Winston. our Secretary was honoured by being made an Ambassador White Ribbon Day. Congratulations George!



Villawood Report from Alison Sloane



Around 22 active and dedicated people visit regularly at Villawood IDC, providing friendship and support to the detainees. Some also do advocacy work for detainees and a couple are working on an employment project.

There is much fear and anxiety in Villawood now due to recent government actions. The threat of deportation hangs over many of our friends. This group also visits and supports asylum seekers and refugees living in the community.

When we visit, food and conversation are shared in groups and one on one. There are many interesting conversations there on a wide range of topics.

Board games are a popular pass time as are photographic books of Australia; the guys love to see what it's like on the "outside"

There is a continuing steady trickle of releases, usually on either Community Detention or Bridging Visas but there are also frequent new arrivals, so numbers and needs don't diminish. Visitors to Residential Housing are kept busy, this area is quite full just now, mainly families but also some single men. There are now nine children in there: 5 are at school, 3 pre-schoolers and 1 baby. There are another two babies coming, one this month

and one in January. Activities are similar to IDC but housing visitors also assist with English lessons, supplies for the vegie garden and organize children's fun days during school holidays.



Translators

Can you or anyone you know speak Farsi, Kurdish or Arabic. Our Villawood visitors group has been asked by the manager of housing section at Villawood to try to find an Arabic speaking person who would visit a very isolated lady in

It is important that all our visitors to Villawood, those who visit refugees in the community and work at functions should be financial members.

Membership

As you have would have read in the last Newsletter our new structure includes a membership fee of \$20 per annum (\$10 concession). It is important that all our visitors to

Villawood, those who visit refugees in the community and work at functions should be financial members.

All our supporters are invited to join BMRSG by

completing the application form below and paying the annual membership fee. This Newsletter will be the last we can afford to send using Australian Post to those who have not paid the mem-

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A Project of the Blue Mountains Family Support Service Inc.
P.O. Box 197, Katoomba NSW 2780
Website: www.bmrsg.org.au Email: bmrsg@aapt.net.au
ABN 48 765 203 957

Application for membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. Landline: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Skills & Experience: _____

The annual membership fee is \$20 or \$10 concession.
Please send a cheque to BMRSG, P.O. Box 197, Katoomba NSW 2780 or do a cash transfer or a cash deposit to BMRSG, BSB 062 559, Account No 1018 3402.
Please include your name with the transfer/deposit.

Members receive weekly updates by email and newsletters about four times a year.

Seeking fundraising event managers and ideas

BMRSG raises awareness of asylum seekers and refugee issues and raises money to continue supporting them.

Join us by bringing your passion, ideas, and skills in organising and managing fundraising events .

Please note: This is a non paid volunteer position

We are looking for new ideas to raise money or a new angle on an existing idea .

The ideal person would have a great idea, be capable of project managing the idea or event from conception through to completion under the guidance of our project director.

Past events have raised between \$1,000 and \$12,000 .However, the BMRSG can provide only limited upfront funding for your event, whether awareness raising or fundraising, so any events will need to be self sufficient, low risk and ultimately profitable. Well managed events have always attracted helpers in the past.

Still up for the challenge and believe you can make a difference ? then call Craig Beifus on 0402 004 452 or e-mail craigbok@gmail.com and let's chat. See our website www.bmrsg.org or facebook.com/BlueMountainsRefugeeSupportGroup

