

# Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



August 2008 Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam>  
Email: [AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com)

## Next Oxfam-Diamond Valley meeting Friday 15th August at 8pm Eltham Living and Learning Centre.

At our August meeting Donna Parker from the **The Fair Trade Nillumbik Project** will make a short presentation about the local campaign which seeks to see Nillumbik recognised as a "Fair Trade Community".

A member of **World Vision Australia** will explain its campaign **Don't Trade Lives**, focusing on the chocolate trade and touching on Fair Trade, which as you know Oxfam supports.

**Don't Trade Lives** is a new campaign by World Vision that aims to unite Australians against human trafficking and slavery. Human trafficking is a modern day slave trade. The buying and selling of people for exploitative labour is the third biggest crime in the world today behind drugs and arms. Every sector of Australian society can impact on human trafficking in our region.

Take chocolate, for example. About 70% of the world's chocolate is produced using cocoa beans farmed in West African nations. In the Ivory Coast and Ghana, children are routinely forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions to help harvest the beans.

Some of these children are taken or enticed from their homes. Others come "voluntarily" to cocoa farms, only to find themselves enslaved.

This is one of the most appalling kinds of exploitative labour. And it's all because corporations, middlemen and farm owners are eager to profit from the world's insatiable appetite for chocolate on the one hand and easily exploitable labour on the other.

### Reply from Jenny Macklin:

A letter was sent to Jenny Macklin by Stephen Lavender following **Kevin Rudd's apology to the stolen generation**. Here is Jenny's reply:

Dear Stephen

Thankyou very much for your kind words following the Australian Government's apology to the Stolen Generations. I appreciate the support of your members.

This acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past will, I hope, help us move forward together - Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

As you know the path ahead now involves closing the life-expectancy gap which will need action in health, housing, education and opportunities for meaningful employment.

Thankyou again for your words of support, they are greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Macklin MP

From the **Asylum Seeker Resource Centre**  
Volunteers Weekly Bulletin of August 1st:

As you know, we are very limited in the kind and quantity of donations we can accept as we just don't have enough storage room. Most clothing and furniture items are best donated to the big organisations, such as the Red Cross, the New Hope Foundation (white goods), the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to which we can and do refer any members in need who can then have the items they need for nothing. However, the Material Aid program does ask for certain lines of donations when confronted with specific needs. At the moment it is requesting donations of new:

- cot sheets
- baby towels
- muslin cloths
- teething rings
- socks (unisex for children, teens and adults)
- new underwear (unisex for adults)
- pyjamas
- baby wipes, lotion & bath solution

We would also like to request new or second hand (in good condition) warm winter jackets.

Happily, the many items of lovely clothing brought by members of our group and the Montmorency Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Support Group have all quickly found new owners at the ASRC. One lady knitted colourful small jumpers and hats, which, of course, took up space in Material Aid for a very short time.

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**Oxfam Group and State Committee Projects for 2008/2009 Financial Year** from the Group and State Committee Newsletter July 2008 (written by Sue D'Amico):

As you are aware every year Oxfam Groups are allocated certain Projects that they can fundraise for. The Projects for the 08/09 financial year have now been finalised. As per previous years a summary and proposal will be written for each project. These summaries should be available for your use in about 4-6 weeks. The finance staff is also finalising the documents to start the new phases of these projects i.e. consultation with the field offices so any cheques that you send me will not be processed for another 3-4 weeks. I hope this is okay with you all and I will keep you updated about this process.

PROJECT	Amount needed
Mining Ombudsman	\$40,000
Close the Gap	\$31,000
Resettlement Program - Mekong	\$30,000
International Crisis Fund	\$30,000
Food Security HIV/AIDS - Southern Africa	\$30,000
Indigenous Australia Yorgum	\$50,000
Timor-Leste Nutrition and Community Health	\$70,000

## Mining Ombudsman

I am aware that many of the Oxfam Groups have funded the work of the Mining Ombudsman for many years. This week we were delighted to hear of the announcement by the Human Rights Commission of the Philippines that they will investigate human rights abuses by Australian mining company OceanaGold at the Didipio Gold and Copper Mine. On our website there is a petition to sign to encourage OceanaGold to address the communities' grievances. The link is: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/mining/take-action/>.

From the (Oxfam) **Activist** 29th July:

On Sunday 13 July, the Make Poverty History coalition released its report **See the bigger picture. Act on climate change**, a response to Professor Garnaut's draft climate change review released earlier in the month and is being used by the Government to help develop Australia's response to climate change. The policies that wealthy countries like Australia adopt in the future will have profound ramifications

for everyone. This includes the poorest people in the poorest countries who are the most affected and the least responsible for causing climate change. While people in developing countries don't get a chance to comment on Professor Garnaut's draft report, you do!

The final Garnaut report will be released on 30 September. Between now and then you have the opportunity to submit your comments on this crucial report.

Make Poverty History has provided a letter to assist you to have your say and influence the final report. [www.makepovertyhistory.org.au/take-action.aspx](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org.au/take-action.aspx)

## Reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act in the Northern Territory

The Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) was suspended in the Northern Territory last year. Its suspension is a human rights issue of concern to many Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. This suspension of the RDA (Racial Discrimination Act 1975) under the Northern Territory Response legislation has been condemned by the Law Council as "utterly unacceptable". The Northern Territory's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Tony Fitzgerald, has been quoted as saying that, "the suspension of the Northern Territory and Federal race discrimination legislation can never be justified". Learn more about the suspension of the RDA in the Northern Territory and sign the petition to be presented to the Senate calling for its reinstatement.

[Sign the petition](http://www.gopetition.com.au/online.20268.html)

[www.gopetition.com.au/online.20268.html](http://www.gopetition.com.au/online.20268.html)

**Asialink** derives from the Sidney Myer Asia Centre at Melbourne University:

**The world in painting** is an **Asialink/Heide Museum of Modern Art** touring exhibition that brings together eight of Australia's most distinguished artists, that collectively presents personalised worlds through painting that range from domestic interiors to dream-like landscapes. This exhibition has toured to Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Hanoi and Vietnam.

Asialink / Heide Museum of Modern Art also invite you to join an international panel of artists and curators for a lively discussion on the benefits and challenges of cultural exchange. Can art be truly global or are art worlds primarily local? What role can

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international exhibitions and residencies play in the establishment of genuine cultural exchange? How do artists benefit from exhibiting their art in different cultural contexts? By what independent or collaborative means can artists, curators, galleries and museums establish meaningful global links?

## \_EXHIBITION

\_WHEN: Saturday 26 July to Sunday 9 November  
WHERE: Heide Museum of Modern Art,  
7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen  
CONTACT: Email [info@heide.com.au](mailto:info@heide.com.au)

## \_FORUM

\_WHEN: Tuesday 29 July 2008  
TIME: 6.30pm - 8:30pm  
WHERE: Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Level 1,  
Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of  
Melbourne.  
ENTRY: Free

## **CHINA:\* Panel Discussion on "The New Rich in China" 14 August**

Join David Goodman, Louise Edwards, Yingjie Guo and Ivan Cucco for the Melbourne launch of "The New Rich in China: Future Rulers, Present Lives". This intriguing new book explores the hierarchies of wealth, status and power of China's New Rich, their place within the current class structure and the chasm created in an ostensibly communist society.

As China extends its influence in the region, the New Rich link China to the world economy and influence China and Australia's long-term futures.

"The New Rich" is a project edited by Professor David Goodman, one of Australia's leading China-watchers and head of Contemporary China Studies at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Professor Louise Edwards is Director of UTS' China Research Centre and Convenor of the Australian Research Council's Asia Pacific Future Research Network. Professor Edwards' current research explores women in politics in China and gendered cultures of war in China.

Dr Yingjie Guo is a Senior Lecturer in Chinese Language and Culture at UTS. He is interested in nationalism and the politics of national identity in the PRC since 1989.

Ivan Cucco is a PhD candidate working on his doctoral research on new agricultural cooperatives in China.

This event is presented by UTS: China Research Centre and Asialink.

WHEN: Thursday 14 August, 2008  
WHERE: Carrillo Gantner Theatre, Sidney Myer Asia Center, The University of Melbourne  
TIME: 6.30pm  
ENTRY: Free of Charge  
RSVP: To reserve a seat, please send an email to: [events@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:events@asialink.unimelb.edu.au) with "New Rich" in the subject line.

## **DIAMOND VALLEY OXFAM**

### **VENUE**

8.00pm 3rd Friday of each month  
Living and Learning Nilumbik  
739 Main Rd Eltham, Melway Ref 21 J7

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Meeting Chairman - Stephen Lavender 9439 2063  
Meeting Organizers - Carole Wigg 9439 7272  
Marguerite Marshall,  
John Kent, 9434 6882,  
Joan Pickard  
Treasurer & Membership - Alister Rowe 9435 5958  
Publicity Officer & Webmaster - John Kent 9434 6882  
Minutes Secretary - Elizabeth Stewart 9459 4429  
Book Fair Coordinator - Beth Pender 9439 1716  
Trade Winds Tea/Coffee - Val Byers