

# Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



August 2009 Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam>  
Email: [AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com)

**Next Oxfam-Diamond Valley Meeting**  
**8pm Friday August 20th,**  
**Nillumbik Living and Learning Centre,**  
**739 Main Rd Eltham.**

Speaker: Ant Clark:

## SHOPPING WITH A CONSCIENCE

We live in a time of human rights abuse, animal cruelty, genetically modified foods and industry's massive impact on the environment. With some supermarkets stocking over 40,000 items, where do we start if we only want to buy food and products that lighten our impact on the environment, are healthy and have been produced ethically? Did you know that 80% of all saleable products end up as waste, on average, within just six months? We are increasingly aware that how we buy will determine what we buy. Is our purchase based on need, importance, urgency, or impulse?

At our August meeting we will explore practical ways to help us make ethical shopping choices, with time to share questions, experiences, and to feast on some positive alternatives. Please come along with your questions, suggestions and at least one story of a product that you have purchased previously, but now buy an alternative, because of its unnecessarily high impact on our world.

Ant Clark

## The Dance

Great organization by many, dance calling by Michael Pender, and supper serving by Beth Pender and Val Byers resulted in \$2125 going to the Treasurer.

A Fun night. Thankyou to all the hard workers.

Of particular interest to those who have boycotted Nestle products because of Nestle's exploitative practices in the Third World with regard to infant milk formula, is an item from the Uniting Church newspaper 'Crosslight', August 2009:

## POST CARD PRESSURE PAYS

Nestle has bowed to public pressure, revealing that it is negotiating with FairTrade to buy "Fairtrade cocoa to meet our needs". This follows a global campaign, **STOP THE TRAFFIK**, urging Nestle to follow the lead of other chocolate companies, Cadbury and Mars, and stop buying cocoa produced by exploited, trafficked children.

The Uniting Church synod Justice and International Mission (JIM) unit is an active member of STOP THE TRAFFIK. International Rights Advocates (IRA), a non-governmental organization, is pursuing Nestle in a US court, alleging that it is benefiting from forced child labour in cocoa production. IRA is acting for three former child slaves. Thousands of children have been trafficked on to cocoa plantations in West Africa, and tens of thousands continue to work in slave-like conditions.

## BOOK FAIR

Book fair time is fast approaching, so here are a few requests. PLEASE be sure and mark in your diaries two important dates:

**Friday October 16th**, the afternoon/ evening when we move all the books up to the Hall. The Friday would be a Meeting night, so we hope EVERYONE will turn up to help for a while some time after 4.30pm. No rosters on that night.

**Saturday October 17th: Book Fair day.**

We will create a Roster for Saturday for the hours between 7.30am and 6pm. Plenty of substantial snacks will be available all night, plus tea, coffee, maybe other "Liquid Refreshment".

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We are absolutely dependent on everyone's help as we have an enormous collection of books. N.B. **SORTING** will begin on **Wed. August 26th and continue every Saturday and Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm** until the Book Fair. No need to let me know. Just turn up to Eltham Library 'dungeon'. Looking forward to your help. Beth P.

## ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE

### Computer Classes for Women

The ASRC needs female volunteers to help ladies with computer skills on Saturday afternoons monthly, or demand may lead to fortnightly sessions. If you have an intermediate to advanced level of computer knowledge and enjoy teaching one on one, contact Michelle on [shellenews@yahoo.com](mailto:shellenews@yahoo.com) or 0425 759 574.

### Home English Tutoring

During August, the Home English Teaching program is recruiting and training tutors. Please call Sue on 9489 2879.

### Vitamin D Trial

Up to 90% of migrants and refugees tested require Vitamin D supplements. Believed necessary for bone, teeth and muscles, optimal cell function and general immunity against disease, it will be monitored for 12 months.. ASRC Health is collaborating with The Department of Human Services, Refugee and Community Health Workers in Melbourne and The Royal Children's Hospital Refugee Health Team to study the efficacy of High Dose Vitamin D supplementation in vulnerable community members. The response of Vitamin D deficient ASRC members to the Vitamin D supplement will be monitored for 12 months. Asylum Seeker health issues will be highlighted to Government and Health policymakers. "**Journey of Asylum**", a theatrical trailer by the ASRC explores the ideas, experiences and questions

of asylum seekers living in our community with the aim of further developing this into a major production in 2010. The show is on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August from 4-6pm at the St. James Conference Centre, 12 Batman St, West Melbourne  
**Book tickets:** \$10 Food provided by ASRC catering (BYO cushion).

### Supporting Asylum Seekers at Hearings (SASA) - Coordinator needed.

The SASA Program supports asylum seekers seeking Permanent Protection Visas (PPVs), accompanying them to appointments with e.g. Department of Immigration, Red Cross and Medicare to reduce their stress and anxiety. The unpaid SASA Coordinator is responsible for recruiting and training volunteers, facilitating the smooth running of appointments, ensuring volunteer satisfaction and maintaining the Program's administrative systems. Contact Hayley [volunteers@asrc.org.au](mailto:volunteers@asrc.org.au).

### NILLUMBIK CLIMATE ACTION

Thursday 27th August. Last Thursday of each month. Venue & details: Lyn Hatherly  
[lynspire@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lynspire@bigpond.net.au)

#### DIAMOND VALLEY OXFAM

##### MEETINGS

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 9439 3232  
or 0422 042 099  
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