

Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



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November 2009 Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam>
Email: AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com

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

The Future is here – climate change in the Pacific.

People may remember Nic Maclellan, who gave us an excellent presentation two years ago, 'Voices from the Pacific: communities responding to the challenge of climate change and development'. As countries prepare for global climate negotiations in Copenhagen 7-18 December, how will the Rudd government's policies on climate change affect people in neighbouring Pacific countries? Do Australian pledges on climate mitigation, adaptation and resettlement meet the needs of small island developing states in the Pacific? Join us for this presentation on the impacts of global warming in the Pacific islands by Nic, a journalist and researcher who has travelled in the region to document how global warming is affecting rural livelihoods in small island states. As lead author of the recent Oxfam report: 'The Future is Here – climate change in the Pacific', Nic visited Kiribati, Fiji, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands, to talk with communities that are responding to the challenges of global warming, peak oil and financial crisis.

He has written widely on development, human rights and labour mobility in the South Pacific, and contributed as a broadcaster and journalist to Radio Australia, Pacific magazine, Islands Business and other media.

I hope to see you there!

Carole Wigg

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/climate-change/docs/The-future-is-here-final-report.pdf>

Our Annual General Meeting

"This month is the AGM. Could you please think about what role you would like to play in the coming year? I am conscious that this year we seem to have had fewer people coming to meetings and fewer new people coming to check us out. Perhaps we need to raise our profile in the community more regularly. We probably need an updated brochure. Please bring your ideas about how the group can make its presence felt both locally and more broadly."

Stephen Lavender

Volunteer help needed for ASRC end of year party for members

One of the best days of the year at the ASRC has always been our Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Christmas Party. 300+ asylum seekers are treated to a massive party in the park with bbq, food galore and live music. We especially spoil all the kids with animal farms, inflatable castles, slides, games and face painting!

On Sunday 6th December 12.30-4.30pm at Flagstaff Gardens, across the road from the ASRC, helpers are needed for:

- Food prep. on the day
- Setting up and/or packing up
- Food team on the day (eg. cooking/serving at the BBQ)
- Children's activities
- Entertainment (including music)

For more information and to offer assistance contact Tara Watson at events@asrc.org.au

Wanted: Community Meals Coordinator - volunteer position

The Community Meals Program provides meals to ASRC members, volunteers and staff Monday to Friday. The core aim of the

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program is to provide asylum seekers with a nutritious and well-balanced meal, whilst helping to decrease isolation as they enjoy a meal amongst others within the ASRC community. For a position description, email Hayley at volunteers@asrc.org.au

There are so many myths and half - truths being spread about asylum seekers and refugees at the moment. Most are aimed at simply creating fear and a backlash against refugees. Some of you may also have heard stories or received emails claiming we are being flooded by boat arrivals or that refugees are a burden to our economy.

Below is an e - mail you can send to anyone in response to all of this:

Dear Friend,
I know at the moment there is not a day that passes where refugees and asylum seekers are not in the news. Sadly most of the media reporting does not reflect the truth and is based mainly on half-truths and myths. I invite you to read the information below giving the other side to what you may have been hearing, then to make up your own mind once you have got all the facts.

I am still trying to get the basic facts about people seeking asylum by boat, where can I get this?

Click onto this short video below by the ABC for a good introduction to the issue
<http://hungrybeast.abc.net.au/media/8-bit-immigration-1>

I hear we are being flooded by boat arrivals, is there any basis to this?

You can read Get Up's myth buster here:
<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/ChampionsofTruth>

I read about refugees getting special treatment from Centrelink. Is this true?

You may have seen the Channel 9 news story the other week claiming that refugees were ripping off the Centrelink system and getting special treatment, all untrue. The Media Watch video that gives the true facts:

<http://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/transcripts/s2724620.htm>

Is there really anything wrong with Australia using Indonesia to hold people seeking asylum to Australia?

Yes. The reason this approach is so wrong is because we are simply outsourcing the former Pacific Solution of the Howard Government to Indonesia. Listen to the interview below with Professor James Hathaway, the former Dean of the University of Melbourne and the leading academic on refugee law in the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P25SB31YkTg&feature=related>

I am told that people fleeing from Sri Lanka are not real refugees

Click on this short video from Al Jazeera to see why people are really fleeing from Sri Lanka
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixWd9P5_0wY&feature=player_embedded
Kon Karapanagiotidis, CEO, ASRC

DIAMOND VALLEY OXFAM MEETINGS

8.00pm 3rd Friday of each month
Living and Learning Nillumbik
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