

News and Views



Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc

Welcome to the Sixteenth Edition of the
Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 16
June/July 2010

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News and Views *from the Director - Steve Bowman*

I don't know whether any of the readers of the Newsletter have been watching the current series "The Making Of Modern Australia" screening on the ABC on Thursday evenings. For me the overwhelming message permeating this series has been the amazing contribution migrants have made and continue to make to our "modern" Australian society. As we get ready for the forthcoming Federal election a very small proportion of this potential migrant population, namely those seeking asylum, seem to be being used as a political bargaining strategy to gain our vote. Unfortunately this can have the effect of demonising very vulnerable people, many of whom, in my experience of working in the field for 12 years, go on to make very positive contributions to our Australian society.

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GRADUATION CELEBRATION



Koondoola ISC Fun Day

During the July school holidays, students who were due to exit the ISC Program at Koondoola were taken to the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka for a fun cooking day. The first item on the menu was an entree of fruit skewers which were followed by a main course of self-made pizzas and vegetable muffins. Their cooking experience finished with popcorn snacks. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants who wanted a

repeat performance the next day!

Among the 36 sessions with 22 clients, other activities reported were:

- ◇ Sanding and painting walls for two clients when the handyman had to cancel;
- ◇ There have been a larger number of referrals to The Smith Family for financial assistance;
- ◇ "Bend Like a River" program has been restarted with a group of women from Myanmar;
- ◇ Assisting at the sessions for the TWA community being conducted at the ERCM;
- ◇ Took Alicia to Centacare to introduce the Telecommunications project she is running at ERCM.

Mandy Whitton, MEd

Computer Studies

For Term 3, it is possible for only one class each of First Click and Second Click for ESL students and Seniors. Our Computer grant has been reduced.

Fion Quigley, Coordinator

News Briefs from our Program Coordinators



"Lions player Reuben Riak makes a penetrating run through the centre"

On Saturday 17th July, the Edmund Rice Centre Lions played against the Scripture Union Transformers at Kingsway Sporting Complex. The Lions started strongly kicking four unanswered goals in the first. In the second and third quarters the Transformers steadied, with both teams kicking three goals. Turning for home, the Lions were four goals up when the Transformers threw on their most experienced players fresh off the bench. The Transformers kicked three early goals in the last quarter in what looked like an epic comeback, but coach Atot Amoly flooded the Lions defence and they were able to steady and kick a late goal to seal the match by eight goals to six. The players displayed great tenacity in their first win of the season. All the players and spectators got together for a barbecue and a chat afterwards and it was a great day all around. The Lions' next game will be a rematch against Clontarf Football Academy on **Monday 2nd August at 5:00 pm at Kingsway Football Club, Kingsway Sporting Complex, Skeit Road, Darch.**

Youth Leadership Development Group

While the Youth Leadership group meets fortnightly on Sundays at 2.00 pm at the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka, the Senior Leadership Team meets once a month at the home of one of the Leaders. This is a big time and energy commitment on the part of both the leaders and their Coordinator, Joe Moniodis! *May the Force be with you!*

Multicultural Sport & Recreation Program

During the first half of June, the Indigenous Youth Sports & Recreation Program participants played a badminton tournament. The Love Grid Badminton Academy provided great coaching and prizes for the tournament. This was followed by a soccer Harmony Game against the Refugee participants. The young people shared the game and then all enjoyed a snack afterwards. The group was then taken on an outing to Warwick Bowl where some of the bowling was tremendous.

Our thanks go to Pashtana and Br Jim, as well as to our Youth Leaders, - Poleno, Kashan, Peter and Lyn.

Joe Moniodis, Coordinator

Moorditj Koolangka Program

During the school holidays, the group attended the NAIDOC Fun Day organised by the City of Joondalup. Neville Collard, a Nyoongar Elder, taught the children how to do traditional rock painting. Brenton Clinch took them through some traditional dance steps. The West Coast Eagles ran a coaching clinic. They sampled some bush tucker learning how local bush foods were collected and eaten (including witchetty grubs!) and Gloria Bliss taught them some basics of Aboriginal art.

Br Phil O'Loughlin

Lifeskills for Living in Australia Program

Topics covered over the past two months:

- ⇒ Work with the TWA Community being delivered in partnership with other agencies;
- ⇒ Health Issues - visiting hospitals, doctors, filling in forms;
- ⇒ Food and Nutrition - concentrating on 'winter foods' such as casseroles and soups;
- ⇒ Ordering and delivery of extra child car seats.

Peta Bennetts, Acting Coordinator

Settlement Grants Program

In July 2010, a total of 80 case-work services were provided to 54 clients, 10 of whom were first-time contacts. The main presenting issues included:

- ⇒ Centrelink payments
- ⇒ Citizenship
- ⇒ Homeswest Review applications & priority listing
- ⇒ Immigration referrals
- ⇒ JET (Childcare) assistance through Centrelink
- ⇒ Housing
- ⇒ Financial & material assistance
- ⇒ Employment, Resume preparation
- ⇒ Fines Enforcement Registry

We are assisting more clients with more complex issues. The majority of clients are from Sudan, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Afghanistan.

Dolly Holzinger & Marika Kestevska, S&J

Moorditj Koolangka Garden Update

At this stage, the new lettuce, parsley and chives seedlings are coming along nicely, while last season's rocket is still flourishing. The tomato plants are looking very sorry for themselves and are in need of propping up with some tender loving care!

News Briefs from our Program Coordinators



Profile of Angela Broderick

COORDINATOR OF THE LANGUAGE FOR LIVING IN AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

Angela was born in London, grew up in East Anglia, and was educated by Viennese Sisters in Norfolk. Her family migrated to Australia in the late 1960's.

Angela trained as a teacher at the newly established Murdoch University, and subsequently worked in Education Department High Schools teaching English, Drama, Religious Education and History.

After several years working as Religious Education Coordinator at La Salle College, Midland, where she heard about the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka through the College's Community Outreach Program, she retired and came to ERCM to teach English as a Second Language. Since 2005, she has operated as the Coordinator of the English as a Second Language Program.

Angela and her team, (Vicky Ogg, Marie Stokes and Paula Day), are in the process of devising a special program of English called "Language for Living in Australia" which will be specifically geared to meet the needs of refugees and humanitarian entrants. They are developing an English program based on everyday living.

The program targets the language needed to live with confidence in what is often an alien environment. The modules developed so far are 'Family Relationships', 'Enrolling Children in School' and 'Money Management'.

This term the team plans to cover other areas such as 'Medical Practitioners' and 'FESA (Fire & Emergency Services Authority)', which includes Police Services.

Language for Living in Australia Program

Our volunteer teacher status, of late, has led to a problem of finding substitute teachers while teachers are away on sick leave or on holidays. Some of our dedicated teachers use their skills teaching in overseas countries while away on their well-earned holidays! Our classes this term are full to capacity.

The Language for Living in Australia module entitled "MONEY" is being trialled in both Basic and Elementary Classes. It is definitely a work in progress.

Angel Broderick, Coordinator

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Women Together Program

The ladies sewed, knitted, and did some melted wax art work, as well as enjoying delicious pumpkin soup with salads.

During Term 3, we are hoping to organise a visit from some indigenous women to talk about their culture, art and cooking.

Sally Hertzfeld, Coordinator

CBERS Redress Service

Client activity increased in July with the introduction of new funding for additional support and counselling of redress applicants. The number of applicants attending the Wednesday Support Group has also increased. This support group is becoming a real asset in strengthening a peer support network.

The current focus is on forging links between support group members and FACT (Forgotten Australians Coming Together), and it is hoped that this fledgling entity will ultimately function as a viable organisation to further the interests of Western Australian care-leavers.

Dr Philippa White, Coordinator

Parkwood Integrated Service Centre

Client Services included:

- ⇒ Two new families referred by ISC nurses
- ⇒ 16 client contacts
- ⇒ A case conference organised by Strong Families
- ⇒ Twice supported a client appearing before a Magistrate Court
- ⇒ Participated in fortnightly team meetings for ISC Parkwood
- ⇒ Attended meetings with Early Years Group
- ⇒ Helped to organise a 'Bend Like a River' Program
- ⇒ Assisted with a program targeting refugee students aiming at improving their literacy and numeracy skills.

Two Family Day Workshops were held during the school holidays. These events were a great success due to the collaborative efforts by all ISC staff and great teamwork during the Workshops which covered such topics as general and dental hygiene, First Aid, parenting, and equal opportunity rights in Australia.

Maria Kzivorova, MEd

Driver Education Program

This program is again in full swing. An attempt was made to contact all people on the waiting list. 25 people indicated they either wanted to start immediately or would come when they had the finance. Currently 23 people are receiving lessons. Disappointingly, only six people are attending the Drive Safe lessons.

Christina Ward, Coordinator

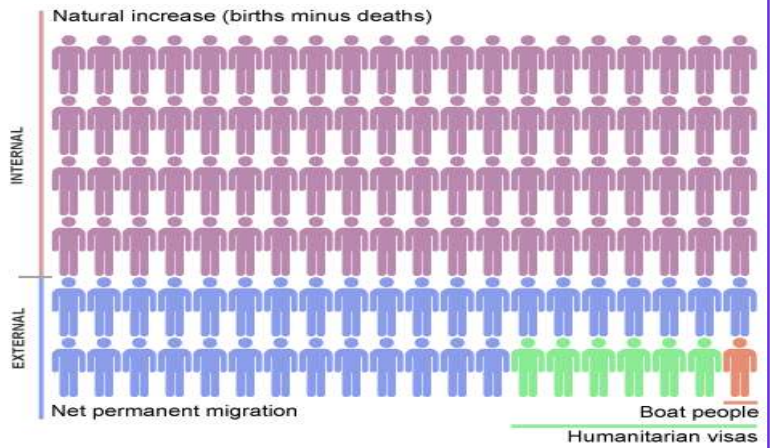
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We are on the Web!
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New Australians, 2009



Figures:
 • 1,925 refugees by boat (± 650 people; estimated at 70% of 2,750 maritime arrivals in 2009)
 • 11,582 other humanitarian visas
 • 63,493 other migrants (158,021 incoming minus 81,000 outgoing)
 • 154,900 natural increase (295,700 births minus 140,800 deaths)

Sources:
 • <http://www.aph.gov.au/library/pubs/BN/sp/AsylumFacts.htm>
 • <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/02key.htm>
 • <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsw/mf/3101.0>

Contact Tim Bennett (tim@electronsoup.net) with updated figures or suggestions.

This table, showing new Australians, including all immigrants and humanitarian entrants (i.e. on-shore and off-shore), gives food for thought.

Thank you to our Sponsors



Forthcoming Events of Interest

- ⇒ Edmund Rice Centre Lions play Clontarf on Monday 2 August 2010 at 5.0 pm at Kingsway Sporting Complex, Skeit Rd.
- ⇒ Staff Development afternoon is scheduled for Thursday 12 August 2010 from 1.00pm - 4.00 pm. The Centre will be closed for the afternoon.
- ⇒ The staff of the Moorditj Koolangka Program is organising a Family Day at Whiteman Park on the 19 September 2010. (Troy Cook may be there!)

If you would like to support the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc, your donation will be most gratefully accepted. Your donation will enable people from Refugee and Indigenous backgrounds, including youth, to continue to gain benefits from our educational programs.

I enclose a donation to assist the work of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc:

[] \$20 [] \$50 [] \$100 [] \$500 [] Other

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque or by direct deposit.

Please make cheques payable to "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc" or deposit directly into "Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka Inc", Account BSB 066 183, Account No: 1009 1408.

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