Event Focus: to celebrate refugees coming to Australia, their contribution to Australia and their successful settlement here.

Organising Partners:
Migrant Settlement Committee (Eastern Region); AMES; Foundation House; DHS – Centrelink; Dorish Maru College - Box Hill and Victoria Police
Refugee Celebration Report 2014

EVENT FOCUS: TO CELEBRATE REFUGEES COMING TO AUSTRALIA, THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO AUSTRALIA AND THEIR SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT HERE.

BACKGROUND:

In April 2014 the Migrant Settlement Committee (MSC) guest speaker, Jasmina Mulugeto of Foundation House spoke eloquently about issues faced by refugees such as trauma and torture. The audience was very moved by the stories. As a result of this very moving presentation the MSC membership requested a special event to learn more about refugees coming to Australia and to the Eastern Region of Melbourne. The event would serve to both educate and celebrate the significant contribution made by refugees in Australia. A Task Group was set up with representatives from the MSC membership to commence working on this project.

A Refugee is defined as:

Any person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

REFUGEE WEEK:

Refugee Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia since 1986 which promotes positive images of refugees in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. Refugee Week celebrates the valuable contribution refugees make to Australian society.
CELEBRATIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA:

Refugee Week is an umbrella participatory festival that allows a wide range of refugee community organisations, voluntary and statutory organisations, schools, student groups and faith based organisations to host events which have included: football tournaments, public talks and exhibitions, music and dance festivals, theatre projects and film screenings.

REFUGEE WEEK 2014 – THEME: “RESTORING HOPE”

The theme reminds us that, while a refugee’s journey begins with danger, it also begins with hope. Refugees flee their homelands not only because they fear persecution, but also because they have hope: they hope to find freedom from persecution, safety and security for themselves and their families; they hope to be given a chance to start a new life and recover from past trauma.

It calls attention to the role of countries which, through offering protection to refugees and providing them an opportunity to rebuild their lives, restore hope for a future free from fear, persecution, violence and insecurity. The theme also aims to highlight the situation of refugees whose hopes have not been fulfilled — those who remain in situations facing ongoing discrimination, violence and uncertainty with little hope for a resolution in the near future. The theme calls on us to consider how we can provide solutions for these refugees and restore their hopes for a brighter future.

Refugee Council of Australia – Resource Kit

MSC - REFUGEE CELEBRATION 2014

People in the industry know how busy Refugee Week is each year with a number of events taking place concurrently making it difficult to attend a broad range of presentations. The MSC membership voted to organize an event earlier in the month to ensure as many members of the MSC and the community would be free to attend. In addition it was decided to hold the event on a scheduled MSC meeting date to ensure a high percentage of MSC members could attend this event on a day they already have allocated in their diaries.

AIMS:

- To educate / broaden knowledge of refugees in our community
- To help the community understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia
- To promote positive images of refugees and to celebrate the valuable contribution refugees make to Australian society
- To facilitate better understanding between different communities and encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and to continue making valuable contributions to Australia
- To provide refugees with an opportunity to tell their stories and participate in the celebration through their contribution as: the master of ceremonies; speaker; entertainment and handcrafts presenters
- To utilize a local Social Enterprise community catering group from the Karen refugee community
OUTLINE:

- Name of the event: “Refugee Celebration”
- Event Date: Friday 6 June 2014.
- Promote Refugee Week 2014 (official dates: 15 – 21 June)
- Celebration through:
  - Refugee background speakers telling their stories,
  - Education presentation regarding refugees;
  - Interactive singing and dancing
- Guest Master of Ceremonies from a Chin refugee background
- Refugee handcraft tables
- Social Enterprise catering – Karen Kitchen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Funding:

The CCOEI and the Migrant Settlement Committee gratefully acknowledges funding from:
- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- City of Whitehorse

Resources:

The CCOEI and the Migrant Settlement Committee gratefully acknowledges valuable resources from:
- Refugee Council of Australia – Posters and Online Resource Kit
- UNHCR - Posters

Organising Partner organisations and representatives:

The CCOEI and the Migrant Settlement Committee gratefully acknowledges the project partners:
- AMES
- DHS – Centrelink
- Foundation House
- Dorish Maru College (Box Hill)
- Victoria Police

Additional assistance: Migrant Information Centre (MIC) and Swinburne: Bwe Thay and Jane Curry

Speakers and Presenters:

The CCOEI and the Migrant Settlement Committee gratefully acknowledges speakers/presentations by:
- Tial Hnem – Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Region)
- Lah Ler Paw – Refugee experience
- Pastor David CeuPi - (Falam Chin Christian Church)

CCOEI – promoting harmony and social inclusion
Task Group members:

PHOTO ABOVE: TASK GROUP MEMBERS (LEFT TO RIGHT)

- Convener: Cynthia Shaw – CCOEI / Migrant Settlement Committee
- Gitta Clayton – AMES
- Jeska Chamberlain – Victoria Police
- Jasmina Mulugeta – Foundation House
- Maria deMonte – DHS – Centrelink
- Michael Hardie – Dorish Maru College (Box Hill)

Organisers; Speakers and Presenters:
PHOTO (Left): Maria deMonte – Presenting an overview of Australian and International refugee celebrations including information from the Refugee Council of Australia Resource Kit.

 PHOTO (right): Lah Ler Paw and family singing and guitar segment.

 PHOTO LEFT: Maria (Meyi Cuellar) and Gerardo - singing and dancing segment.

**CCOEI – promoting harmony and social inclusion**
Photo above: Joint Masters of Ceremony: Fr Michael Hardie and Pastor David CeuPi.

Photo above: Pastor David CeuPi Falam Chin Christian Church

Photo Right: Tial Hnem (Migrant Information Centre) and Cynthia Shaw (CCOEI and MSC)
Photo above: Michael Hardie and Belinda Gillam Derry (Tial and Jeska in the background)

Photo above: Jane Curry (Swinburne) and friends

Photo above: MIC Team

Photo above: Andree O’Donnell and Pastor David CeuPi

CCOEI – promoting harmony and social inclusion
Photo above: Kiri McKendrick – Sheriff Office

Photo above: Cindy Kung and Kirsten Reedy

Photo below: Jasmina, Cynthia and Jeska

Photo above: Lah Ler Paw in traditional Karen costume.
Appendix

1. Refugee Celebration Flyer

2. Resources (for organisations holding events)
Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) – Resource Kit link

3. Program (For internal use as a running sheet on the day)

4. Evaluation Sheet

5. Evaluation Analysis
COMMUNITIES' COUNCIL ON ETHNIC ISSUES (Eastern Region) Inc.

And the Migrant Settlement Committee (Eastern Region)
Invites you to

A Refugee Celebration

Learn more about refugees as well as join in and celebrate the amazing contribution refugees have made to Australia

When? Friday 6 June 2014
Venue: The Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Time: 9:30 to 1:00 pm
(meeting reports will take place the first 30 minutes)
Participation: Migrant Settlement Committee members, representatives of other service provider organisations and volunteers all welcome

Handmade crafts on display - for sale

Stories Dancing Singing 🎶

Light lunch provided
RSVP essential by: 3 June 2014
Please Email: chair.msc@gmail.com

CCOEI – promoting harmony and social inclusion

The CCOEI gratefully acknowledges funding from the Victorian Multicultural Commission
3. **Program / Organisers “Running Sheet” on the day**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Duties</th>
<th>Who</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:15am | • Welcome and greetings  
• Acknowledgement of the Wurundjeri People – traditional owners  
• Introduction CCOEI and relationship with Migrant Settlement Committee  
• Event Partners: AMES; DHS – Centrelink; Foundation House Victoria Police and Dorish Maru College | Cynthia Shaw                            |
| 10:25   | **Housekeeping**                                                                                                  | MC Fr Michael Hardie / Pastor David CeuPi |
| 10:30-10:35 | **Presentation** - Celebrations and International Events  
1. World Refugee Day - 20 June  
3. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture 26 June  
4. Explanation of the craft tables | Maria deMonte MSO DHS Centrelink          |
| 10:40am | **Documentary**  
Documentary will run for 6 minutes                                                                 | Introduction: Gitta Clayton AMES Michael/David |
| 10:50am | 1. **Presentation**: “A Personal Journey” by the Lah Ler Paw who will talk about her journey and experience coming to Australia as a Karen refugee and everyday challenges experienced in understanding new systems ways of doing things  
2. **Singing**: Lah Ler Paw and family (Guitar and Singing) | Introduction: Gitta and MC Michael/David |
| 11:10   | **Presentation**: “The Chin Culture and People” by Tial Hnem – Migrant Information Centre.  
Talking about her experiences and stories as a refugee | Gitta and MC Michael                     |
| 11:40   | **Maria (Meyi Cuellar) and husband Gerado**  
Segment | Singing and Dancing | MC Michael and David |
| 12:00   | **Thank you**  
1. Brief thank you by the CCOEI Vice President - Mr. Sui Ting Tse on behalf of Sam Navarra.  
2. Presentation of speaker gifts | David and Michael handover to Cynthia / Sui Ting |
| 12:10   | **Feedback Sheets** – Lucky Draw and Prize | Jasmina Mulugeta |
| 12:15   | **Light lunch** (Social Enterprise - Karen Kitchen) |                           |
Refugee Celebration 2014

This form will be collected for a “lucky draw” at the end of the event

Please place your name here for the draw: ……………………………

Evaluation Form (blank form used at the event)

Thank you for participating. Please assist us by completing this survey before leaving today. If you require assistance with the form please inform one of the organisers.

1. Overall the information was useful and relevant.

2. My understanding of refugees has increased as a result of this event.

3. It is important for the Migrant Settlement Committee and their partners to hold events such as this

4. Feedback/suggestions for future events:

5. If you are not currently a member of the Migrant Settlement Committee (MSC) would you like to be placed on our mailing list? If so please print your name and email address below.

   Name ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

   Email address: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

   Thank you for your responses: ………………………………………………………………………………………..
Refugee Celebration 2014

Analysis - Feedback/evaluation

1) 52 + people attended
2) 31 feedback forms were received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✔️ Hearing the personal stories was particularly relevant ✔️ Highlighted a shared refugee experience ✔️ Very relevant ✔️ Extremely! I am a lecturer and researcher in cultural diversity and I learnt so much this morning. ✔️ It was very moving – I was in tears ✔️ I am new to this area and really had my eyes opened by the difficulties refugees face in our “luck country” ✔️ Great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✔️ I work in multicultural services so already have a good understanding ✔️ Gave me a greater understanding of refugees ✔️ My understanding of refugees has increased immensely and I am very grateful to have been told about this event ✔️ Very much increased my understanding of refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>✔️ Absolutely (important) ✔️ Keep on ✔️ Very much</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Feedback/suggestions for future events:
   a. The event was very good and I enjoyed it
   b. Include other refugees e.g. Iranian; Coptic Egyptians; Iraqis for future events
   c. Great to hear from people with lived experience
   d. Kirsten Ready: would love to host an event like this at Manningham City Council next year and also invite our Councillors and staff. This would help us as we embark on the journey of declaring Manningham a Refugee Welcome Zone.
   e. Please keep me informed about this wonderful organisation

CCOEI – promoting harmony and social inclusion
Service, education, practical support and celebration are extremely important but more structured and explicit parts of the program could be devoted to refugee advocacy, and event critique of the kinds of things that get in the way of refugees coming to this country.

Technological mistakes should be well prepared for in the future. It is a shame that your wonderful speakers could not speak in schools to educate the younger people. It would be nice to see a wider audience invited. The craft stall was just amazing – Christmas shopping doing please thank them very much. I would be interested in attending further events and to gain further information.

Promote to a wider community and younger generation.

Fantastic eye opener event and great opportunity for networking.

Wonderful event, lets try for a larger audience next year.

Personal stories are powerful and as Michael says create an understanding beyond words.

A very wonderful program and well organised with powerful testimonies. I like it keep it up.

Fantastic event, extremely moving speakers.

Fabulous event, Thank you.

Great that the event had an “Interfaith” element to it with two religion’s represented by Father Michael Hardie and Pastor David CeuPi.

10. If you are not currently a member of the Migrant Settlement Committee (MSC) would you like to be placed on our mailing list? If so please print your name and email address below.

Result: 9 people requested to be added to the MSC Mailing List (Addresses confidential)