



November 2010

Working for Refugees Worldwide

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday
December 1st:
Sanctuary Christmas
Gathering and Board
Meeting

Ghana Safe Mother-
hood fundraiser—
November 6 at 5.30
pm (Mullumbimby
Old Drill Hall)

International Rainbow
Club Luncheon— Sun-
day 14th November

Trivia Night - Decem-
ber 3

Details inside.....

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Sanctuary Northern Rivers

Keeping in touch

From the president's desk.....

Annual General Meeting

On September 22, we conducted our 6th Annual General Meeting. Four highlights of the evening come to mind –

- Mayor Jenny Dowell spoke eloquently, acknowledging the resilience of the African families who have settled here with such dignity, in spite of their past traumas;
- Sarah King's emotive and evocative recital of poem from Zimbabwe;
- Jean-Claude leading all in song as a finale to the evening;
- Appointment of a new governing body.

A New Governing Board

I warmly welcome Sue Darnell and Ian ("Nic") Nicol as new members of the Board, joining Jean-Claude Mapatano, Russell Trebilcock, Dave Noble, Julie Webb and myself. It is a Board that is steeped in community, volunteer, administrative and professional experience – a magnificent group of very committed people to continue to provide governance to our task. We have included a brief profile of each of the new Board members in this edition. I would encourage ideas and concerns to be represented to any members of the Board, so that we may astutely and accurately guide our endeavours to support refugee needs.



Jean Claude, at work in the Kakuma Refuges Camp clinic. Jean-Claude has again been elected to the Board.

May I also again publicly express my gratitude to outgoing Board members, Katherine Morrison and Brian Nash – both who have stepped down after two years representation. These two remarkable individuals have worked assiduously to meet need and have been vocal and encouraging in their hopes for how we can best meet the objectives of the organisation. Their selfless and insightful contribution has been very much appreciated.

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Sanctuary Christmas Gathering and December Board Meeting

Wednesday 1st December

at On-Q

106 Tamar St, Ballina

5.30pm Christmas Gathering

BYO drinks & plate of nibblies to share

6.30pm Board Meeting

All Welcome !

Introduction to 2010/2011 Board Members

Michael Douglas- President

Michael Douglas is a doctor of medicine. For the past 20 years, he has worked in international health, developing programs throughout a number of countries in the Asia Pacific region, giving voice to focus health systems within local communities, that they may prevail of their basic rights of health and well-being.



Michael has been a founding member of Sanctuary Northern Rivers and President for the past 7 years. He feels profoundly privileged for the role that he has played in bringing the cause of refugees a little closer to the Northern Rivers community.

Russell Trebilcock-Vice President

Retired Federal public servant and former secondary teacher. Have had a strong commitment to social justice and human rights for many years. Currently Vice President of Sanctuary Northern



Rivers and coordinator of Sanctuary's program to donate wall hangings of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to local schools

From Page 1:

Volunteer support

The bedrock of our work is that undertaken by the volunteers. There are a large number of you who work in a wide array of settings - administrative support, family support, advocacy. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and your generosity acknowledged. Sanctuary Northern Rivers recently received a grant to explore how we can best support our volunteers. We have been privileged to have Dr Judy Singer undertake the consultations on this; many have had the chance to talk with Judy and share their thoughts on strengths and weaknesses. Sanctuary Northern Rivers runs almost entirely on the vision and energy and goodwill of a number of people. This does not undermine our duty of care to all who are involved - most particularly the families who arrive and those that support them. It is our responsibility to provide families on arrival and during their settlement period with that support that ensures a positive transition into a new and secure community. This requires well resourced and supported volunteers - a challenge for an organisation that is entirely dependent upon **voluntary contribution**. **After a very busy settlement year, we are likely to slow 'business' in the coming year so to ensure that families and volunteers are enriched in the way that we endeavour to do so.**

May abundant blessings be upon you all.

Michael Douglas

1 November 2010

Dave Noble—Treasurer

David Noble moved to the Northern Rivers from Melbourne five years ago, and now calls Lismore home. He has been interested and involved in refugee issues for more than 10 years. For the past 3 years he has been active with Sanctuary Northern Rivers, the last two as a Board member. David works in the not-for-profit sector as an administrator and seeks to contribute those skill to the Board.

**Jean-Claude Mapatano— Board Member**

Jean-Claude came to Australia last year in 2009. He left his native country, The Democratic Republic of Congo and lived in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya 4 years beforehand, where he met and married Djidji ,who was living there with her two brothers and two sisters. He is now married with two young boys, the first boy has 18 months and the second born last month.



Jean-Claude has a graduate diploma in nursing with eight years experience in hospital and clinic. **Jean-Claude states “as the Australian government, through sanctuary sponsorship gave me chance to be settled in Lismore, I will be happy to serve the community and in order to build a good future in Australia. I will not hesitate to express my feeling of gratitude to the all Australian communities, especially the sanctuary members.”**

Julie Webb– Board Member

I have worked passionately { paid and volunteer} for the rights /quality of life & empowerment of others all my life. I am a volunteer & coordinator of all settlements. I recruit, train , supervise and support our other wonderful volunteers. This role also requires working with the community and the myriad of government agencies and N.G.O.'s as well as the planning and management of the pre arrival work. I have been on the board since 2009. This is always rewarding, insightful and delightful, but also very hard at times, Contact me on 66 298393

Ian Nickol– Board Member

Ian is new to the Sanctuary board but has sat previously with Migrant Resource Centres and Drug and Alcohol services. 35 years in mental health include community projects with ethnic communities, co-ordinating a psycho therapeutic programme, and the last decade and a half counselling refugee survivors of torture and trauma. Notions of social justice inform his work to alleviate the damage done by the despicable behaviour of others. An academic background in anthropology centralises the place of culture in assisting new arrivals to Australia settling in Lismore and its surrounds. As well as the current research into Sanctuary's African settlers, he hopes to developed more funding to continue the organisations work.

Sue Darnell– Board Member

Sue has a background as a teacher with TAFE in literacy and numeracy and at a language college with English as a second language. She has been involved with Sanctuary for over 2 years and previously been a board member. Sue continues to be very involved with the Homework Centre for high school students which Sanctuary started a few years ago.

**Contact details**

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Dave Noble—	0402734495/ northcoastnobes@gmail.com
Sue Darnell	darnz@tpg.com.au
Jean-Claude Mapatano	0404634530/ jcmapatano@yahoo.fr
Ian Nicol	psychonics@gmail.com
Julie Webb	julieruls@hotmail.com

Volunteering matters

Wanted!

- We are in urgent need for support of a couples of families to assist with transport, and more general assistance with children's needs;
- An editor for this newsletter: Do you have a creative flair? Good with words? Do you have a day to offer **once every two months? You could be the "Editor in chief" of this fine production;**
- Responding to refugee enquiry and application: we still receive a large number of requests for assistance each month. From our beginnings, we have endeavored to respond to these directly and personally—can you help? It can be emotionally burdensome, yet it is a critical role in touching on the lives of those in difficult circumstances in a very positive way.
- Sub-committee representation: with the new board, we are currently re-vamping our committee structure - anyone who would like to be involved (fundraising, settlement /volunteer, communication etc) are most welcome. We are a community group that needs community input!

Exploring and responding to settlement support needs: needs emerging from the Community Education Grant:

As part the work of a recent short grant that Sanctuary received, which aims to improve settlement outcomes for the African community in the Northern Rivers, we have been developing a 'Safety Card' to be offered to each household (we are aware that many recently arrived families have such info already thanks to Julie, but need to cover all families and individuals) - this will show some emergency info, and also be showing a DVD re life in Australia. Some of the families have seen parts of it before leaving Africa, however it's info that is easier to understand when people have already begun dealing with life here.

We are seeking volunteers to help with taking these DVDs and safety cards to people's homes, to sit through the viewing (to answer questions) at a time that suits the families, most likely a weekend afternoon. You could see a few families or just one, depending on the time you have available. At

To accommodate volunteers who work through the week, we aim to have a training **session on a Saturday afternoon - probably the 13th November.**

Please let us know via email or phone if this is something that would interest you. (If unable to assist with this, it would be good to know if you might be available for other volunteer tasks with Sanctuary at another time, e.g. homework support, driver training, English tutoring, fundraising).

Please call Katherine: 0407 282 946, or email kathrcosy@yahoo.com.au



Our early days . . . Bev Herbert organising young children of the Matoc family.

A Trivia Night to fundraise for Sanctuary Northern Rivers-

Friday 3rd December. put it in your diaries.

Prize seekers welcome! also snack and cake makers.!

Please contact Kathryn Boorman on 66859948, or Katherine Morrison on 66853921.

MULLUMBIMBY GROUP SIX MONTHS ON

Six months after arriving in Mullumbimby the 3 Congolese families are adapting well and growing in confidence. Their high motivation levels and keen humour perhaps make this inevitable.

They received acceptance, welcome and assistance from across the whole community, which has done much to ease the economic challenges of settling them in this rather expensive town. Bergin's family is in excellent and secure accommodation. Kizito and Jean-Pierre's families have a comfortable – if small – house; both in convenient locations.

Their language skills are now very effective, to which they are adding another TAFE course designed to assist in **finding employment**. Bertin has a driver's licence and now a car also. Kizito and Jean-Pierre are working towards getting licences also, with help from outside the original support group.

At school the children are settled and involved. The girls stand out in movement – especially in dance, Jonathon, Belange and Belone have played in soccer teams and Belone has been selected to represent the region at the state primary athletics next week for shot put. Jonathon has participated in a vacation drama workshop and presentation of Roald Dahl's "Fantastic Mr Fox".

The families have gained considerable independence, making new friendships on their own, these cross the common social divides. While strong friendships have been developed and life shared, the dependence on our volunteers has lessened. They ask advice, we do things together, they sometimes ask assistance, but increasingly we hear what they have been doing, not cries for help. We thank the Sanctuary Board for allowing and encouraging us to embark on this great experience, which has enriched our community and opened awareness of another world for many.

Gil and Barry Lomath, Pam and John Morris
on behalf of the Mullum committee,
11th October 2010

The Refugee Council of Australia has provided a list of 10 points that encourages the development of policy as a matter of priority

The areas of priority include:

1. Employment -
2. Housing -
3. Education and training
4. Young people
5. Families -
6. Regional settlement -
7. Settlement services
8. Migration advice and legal assistance
9. Positive promotion of humanitarian program and multiculturalism -
10. Planning for a larger resettlement program

Full details can be found at:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/current/2010_Settlement_priorities.pdf

The International Rainbow Club (multicultural club) will hold a luncheon on Sunday 14th November at the South Lismore Bowling Club, Wilson Street, 12:00-4:00 pm.

Tickets are for sale @ \$10.00/person (food and entertainment inclusive). Please purchase your ticket/s before 09 November so that we may know how many are coming (for catering purposes).

For more information please call
Luz Besanes Press
Public Relations Officer
6622 4041

Happenings

Connect Australia Foundation Grant: Community Education: progress

The scope of the grant is intended to cover several areas: the main themes are to increase access to work and appropriate career education, improve safety in the home, improvement in knowledge of nutrition and sexual health and an understanding of our systems (government and non-gov agencies) that can give support when needed.

Currently undertaking an audit—interviewing a number of those who have been settled in the community. The audit is exploring service gaps generally, asking about safety concerns, access to work and appropriate career advice, as these are the things often mentioned as a need.

Other dimensions to the project are broad. It will include food - - are people feeling they have enough knowledge about the food available in Australia that may be similar to some traditional foods from the various countries in Africa. We are aiming to have a Cultural Event/Christmas party early December and hoping that some of our new settlers would be interested in making larger amounts of food to sell to the public, so that Lismore residents have the chance to experience African food.



The Sanvura 'children' on their first day of school in Australia in 2009

Bottle Caps Still Needed!

A big thank you to everyone who brought in Norco milk bottle caps for Sanctuary Northern Rivers in the Community Cash Caps fundraiser.

We have raised \$139.70 for 4.34 kilos of caps, so far!

This fundraiser is still running so please keep the bottle caps coming in.

Eligible caps are the specially marked Norco Community Cash caps on 2 and 3 litre Norco products.

Caps can be dropped into the Sanctuary Northern Rivers office at the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre in Carrington St, Lismore (opposite the RTA) .

If the office is unattended just drop them into the white plastic laundry basket.

Employment Opportunity

Sanctuary Admin Support Officer

7 hours / week – on contract through Lismore Neighbourhood Centre

Sanctuary Northern Rivers has a part-time Administrative position for one day a week – to commence as soon as possible.

The role is

- To provide secretariat support for management Board and its sub-committees;
- To be the primary point of contact for enquiries regarding Sanctuary and its role
- To facilitate Sanctuary in its communication with its members.

A full Job Description and Selection Criteria are available from either the Sanctuary website or on email request to Russell Trebilcock (rjtreb@tpg.com.au).

Applications by email will be accepted up to this Friday (5th November).

Save Mothers Save Babies– Fundraiser to support reduction of Maternal Mortality in Ghana

Fabulous music night
starring
Mick McHugh
African Dancer
And more
Delicious African Feast

When: Friday 19th November 5.30 pm

Where: Old drill hall, Mullumbimby.

Cost: \$10 adults \$5 children to 18 years
\$25 family. Food extra. Tickets on the night.

Profits raised go to buy a second hand 4WD ambulance for a birth Centre in impoverished Sra, Ghana.

Contact Karan 6684 9461 and 0425 224 004

Remember and Healing Old Wounds (RaHOW)

RaHOW is a Lismore based group committed to a dialogue that brings a lasting and positive legacy for both those who have been victims and those who have served in war and war-like settings. Lismore film maker and artist Sho Wakejima, along with associated Annie Benzie and James Smythe, have produced a short documentary of the RaHOW events of ANZAC weekend 2010. The film was launched in Lismore on October 14. It is a moving and evocative piece that probes the depth of spirit that is yielded when acknowledgement of pain and love, and reconciliation is allowed to find its voice. Copies of the film are available on DVD through RaHOW (RaHOW@internode.on.net). Highly recommended!



Sanctuary Northern Rivers, November 2010

Working for Refugees Worldwide



Lismore Neighborhood Centre
PO Box 1146
Lismore NSW 280

Contact:
02 6621 7397
(Please leave a message if the office is
unattended)
info@sanctuary.asn.au
www.sanctuary.asn.au

www.sanctuary.asn.au

Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc is an organisation committed to the betterment of the life and welfare of refugees throughout the world. It accepts that persons flee their home and country for fear of persecution – be it for their race, their religion, their nationality, political opinion or because they belong to a particular social group. Many of these people are unable to return home. Frequently, they remain in intractable situations, in makeshift shelter, dependent upon inadequate sources of food and water, living with prevailing hostility and daily vulnerability. Their fundamental human rights of freedom, and their aspirations of hope are elusive, their lives seemingly without opportunity for a future of stability and joy.

Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc brings together people and institutions of all persuasions and common interest, in an effort to better the lives of refugees in a compassionate and just manner.

Membership is now (over) due . . . annual renewal is needed!
Thank you to everyone who has renewed already

Membership helps us all! It allows those at the organisational end of Sanctuary Northern Rivers to gain input, seek support and provide a conduit into community feeling; It supports the member by providing the chance to shape who we are, and keep in close contact with the evolution of a core social justice concern in our community.

And it confers voting rights, insurance, provides this newsletter, and brings you into closer fellowship with a very special group of people.

We value your support!

There are three levels of membership:



We need you to become a signed up member—it helps us help our friends

Individual—\$30

Family—\$45

Corporate—\$100

If you cannot afford the annual fee, please let the Admin officer, or any of the Board members know and we can organise a subsidy

Membership form can be found on the website, or by calling the Admin officer on 6621 7397, who will happily post a form to you.