



Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc

A community based refugee
support group

PO Box 1146 Lismore
NSW 2480

Newsletter October 2009...

Presidential ponderings...

The emergence of issues concerning asylum seekers again dominates media. This has no direct effect on our work here in the Northern Rivers, but does serve to bring out an opportunity for awareness of the refugee story, and the moral, ethical and legal obligations that we (community and government have). Much community discussion still reveals a profound lack of appreciation of the condition that refugees emerge from, and the courage that it takes to flee for the benefit of personal or family safety.

“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”. (Article 14.1, UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951”)

I know you always give me hope and courage otherwise it could be something else; maybe I could have already gone to Zimbabwe refugee camp to suffer with others there. I am still here because of this. And the chance of a good result allows me to be patient here, even if I don't like to continue to be here.

KA, October 3

Demand for settlement into the local community still remains very strong. This creates a continued tension on how many of those who ask that we can help – which makes for animated discussion at the Board level! For now, we have established to support those in most need, within the scope of our capacity to assist in housing, service support and volunteer assistance. During this month we have welcomed the delightful Giselle and her daughter, Jemima, who are Congolese by background, contributing to the growing and wonderful Congolese in Lismore.

In mid November, Sanctuary Northern Rivers will conduct its fifth Annual General Meeting. I encourage all to come along and hear of progress and give comment to the direction of the coming year. Importantly, we will further strengthen our capacity to administer the settlement program – critically, establishing several subcommittees to assist in the broader operations of what we do. We encourage newcomers to these committees and to consider standing for the Board. While there are indeed commitments to these tasks, it provides the opportunity to shape how we do things, and ensure that we ‘get it right’ for those we assist. The current Board have deliberated over a range of issues to ensure adequate governance is undertaken with due responsibility. This has allowed a wealth of wisdom and insight to shape how we work.

My gratitude continues to go to those many volunteers who support the work of Sanctuary. There is still much to be done – and we would welcome any new volunteers who may find themselves with a few hours each week to support administrative and/or personal support tasks. We are also in need of more funds. The past year has been our most busy with settlement, thereby depleting funds (until such time the revolving pool is replenished by repayments). We are looking for ideas and assistance with fundraising. We now also have a facility to allow deposits online. Shortfalls in funds currently stand as the most significant constraint in sponsoring those who seek assistance.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and interest.

Michael Douglas Oct 2009



Sanctuary's Criteria for Supporting Refugee Settlement

The Settlement Forum back in May gave unanimous support for our work in supporting refugee settlement. Views were more mixed on the scope of this support and on criteria to determine who is of highest priority. Since then, we've come up with agreed criteria to guide us with future settlement support. The criteria will enable us to support those most in need while ensuring our community is not overburdened in our capacity to support successful integration.

The criteria's key principle states: *"Our sponsorship will support a diverse and cross-generational mix of applicants so that the settled community is reflective of the broad spectrum of family groupings and ages that any community routinely has, while maintaining a capacity for rich cultural heritage."*

We will support requests for family reunions - where some family members are already successfully settled in our community but other immediate family members are still in Africa. We will also support requests made by families already settled here for support for their cousins or friends.

In the case of 'unsolicited requests' - letters and emails that we receive through word-of-mouth contact - we will support requests from females who are considered vulnerable, as well as families with young children. The latter, we believe, have the greatest potential to integrate well. We will consider on a case by case basis, unsolicited requests from young men providing they show initiative in seeking further education. We will not support unsolicited requests from unaccompanied minors.

We have also agreed to begin a program of support for refugees from Burma. Support criteria for these people have yet to be decided.

Any member wanting to view the full Agreed Criteria policy document will find it in the members section of the website under policy documents.

New Arrivals

Gisele Ngabo Dhungula aged 30 and her Daughter Jemima Dhungula Kayoyi aged 1 arrived in September originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo



"The community of Lismore proudly welcomes you to a new home of peace and prosperity.

We recognise the trials of your journey and the hopes that you now share with us. May your lives be enriched by the future that now awaits you."Quote from

Welcome Certificate presented to new arrivals by Lismore City Council

We have just received word from the Australian High Commission in Nairobi that Balume Santa Mburano aged 32, his wife Aline Pendeza aged 22 and their daughter Janai Balume aged 6 months from the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been given approval for visa issue. They will arrive in Lismore within the next eight months



Members extend some Aussie-style hospitality

A Weekend at Lennox Head by Alison Lucas

On Friday 2nd October, two Congolese families were taken to Lennox Head to spend the night with the Lucas family in their home on 2 acres. The Bourke family (also from Lennox) came along as well, bringing the total to 19 people! A game of soccer soon



begun whilst a traditional Congolese feast was cooked up. Dessert was Aussie style with damper on a stick around the campfire.

Saturday morning, the visitors were introduced to pancakes followed by a walk along the beach. They then headed to Lake Ainsworth for a BBQ and swim. Squeals of delight attracted much attention! The kayaks and boogie boards were a big hit too.



All in all, the weekend was a great opportunity to share

some stories, develop new friendships and provide social participation within the community. It was also a wonderful cultural experience for the Lucas and Bourke families who hope to give this opportunity to other new arrivals.

on Tues the 27th October, Mullumbimby uniting church invited Sanctuary to speak about it's work at a community dinner. Board members Katherine Sue attended and explained some of the processes involved in sponsoring and settling refugees in our area.. John and Pam Morris and Barry and Beryl Lomath of Mullumbimby have been excited at the prospect of potential future settlements in Mullum and surrounds. They have called for a public forum to be held in Mullum asap. We will keep you posted on developments.

Corporate Support for Sanctuary

- Fusion Hair and Beauty Byron Bay Jonson St is hosting their first evening "Soiree" with Sanctuary as the feature charity of the night on 11th November. Board members will swank with local business owners, our admin officer will be Sanctuary's representative hair model, raffle tickets and donations will abound! Membership packages will be available and our Corporate Membership model will be taken for its first test run. Invitation only: Enquires to Fusion: 66856227
- The Mullum Music Festival has invited Sanctuary NR to fundraise during the 4 day music extravaganza on 26th - 29th November. This was a hugely popular event last year and Sanctuary is fortunate to be involved this year. Anyone wanting to be on the volunteer fundraising team for the weekend, please contact Tressa Kennedy who is coordinating rosters and bucket holders: tressakennedy@live.com



Sanctuary Northern Rivers Supporters' Club

For less than the cost of a cup of coffee and cake, join Sanctuary Northern Rivers Supporters' Club and assist us to support the settlement of refugees in our community.

A weekly \$5 donation will give Sanctuary an additional \$260 a year – which from 20 members or supporters means an extra \$5000 to our financial base. Any such donation is tax deductible.

How can you do this? Many of us are now familiar with on-line banking either from home or at the bank. All you need do is set up a periodic funds transfer where you designate the amount and how often you want this to occur. Coincide the payment with pay day and you'll never notice that \$5 or \$10 is gone. Sanctuary, on the other hand, will see the collective benefits at our end of the money trail.

To donate by direct transfer to Sanctuary NR you will need the following:

Name of Account : Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc

BSB Number : 802 222

Account Number : 2580 6710

If you want to make either a regular or a specific donation to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Project, then you need to specify:

Account Number : 2227 1671

For receipting purposes, please supply a short description or identifier with your transfer - an email address, phone number &/or a name is all that's needed. Remember, we can only receipt that which we can identify as coming from you.

Once the transfer is complete, we'd appreciate a short email (treasurer@sanctuary.asn.au) notifying us that a periodic transfer has been put in place or that a donation has been made (include the amount and date). We do not need any of your account details – the email will simply serve as a cross reference when checking our bank statement.

If you do make a regular donation, Sanctuary will send a formal notice of your collective donations for tax purposes at the end of the financial year. Individual donations will be separately receipted. All donations to Sanctuary Northern Rivers are tax deductible.

If you have any questions about this initiative please do not hesitate to get in touch with Russell Trebilcock:
66247458



Volunteering with Sanctuary

Positions Vacant:

- Fundraising team members for Mullum Music Festival weekend November 26th—29th
- 2010 Refugee Week Lismore Area Coordinator and team members June 20th-28th
- Copywriter for Sanctuary's website articles
- Positions doing the work that you love on a subcommittee of your choice: Expressions of Interest made at the AGM November 12th

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Project

This project has exceeded its annual target and has placed hangings in seven local schools and has orders from at least 8 more for this term alone!

If you would like more information on either how schools can access the offer or to contribute to the project please contact:

Russell Trebilcock: 6624 7458 or email: info@sanctuary.asn.au



HOMEWORK CENTRE

If you can spare a few hours on Mon or Wed to help tutor this eager bunch, please contact Community Connections:
Phone: 66223143
frontdesk@communityconnections.org.au
Drop in: 17B Keen St, Lismore

New things on our website:

- New policy documents including the selection criteria for sponsorship of refugees as developed from the public forum earlier this year.
- A calendar of board meetings and fundraising events
- Documents and agenda for the AGM (including proxy forms, expression of interest in sub-committees etc)
- Online donation facility with OurCommunity





Sanctuary's Christmas Appeal Activities

Nominate Sanctuary to be a recipient of your Christmas Cheer

with every card sent: This year if you want to send more meaningful Christmas cards, send a Giving Card, available from Our Community!

Giving Cards are available in packs of 10 for \$3 per card which includes the envelope and the stamp! There are five great designs to choose from.

Best of all, \$1 from every card purchased will be passed on to Sanctuary Northern Rivers if you nominate us as the recipient.

Giving Cards are high quality, environmentally friendly, and allow plenty of room for overprinting or personal messages. You can customise your cards with logos of your business and messages for free! (Colour printing of logos and messages is also available.)

You can find out more about the Giving Cards initiative at

www.ourcommunity.com.au/givingcards.

Or email : sevice@ourcommunity.com.au



Christmas Hamper Drive

Sanctuary will be raffling a number of Christmas Hampers during the next few months at various fundraising events. Please support our efforts by donating some non-perishable item/s of quality for us to include in the baskets or boxes. Items will be amassed at the AGM on Nov 12th at the Lismore Workers Club, or can be dropped in anytime at the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre Carrington St.
Enquiries: Cherie 0407855273





Up-coming Events

Sanctuary Northern Rivers Ordinary Board Meetings

November: Wednesday 18th, 6.30pm, Lismore Neighbourhood Centre

December: cancelled and replaced by Christmas picnic date to be advised

All members welcome and encouraged to attend!

Sanctuary Northern Rivers Annual General Meeting

Thursday 12th November
Lismore Workers Club
Keen St, Lismore

Refreshments at 6.00 pm
Meeting 7.00 – 8.30 pm

AGM

Please bring your
donation to our
Christmas Hamper
along!

Enquiries welcome:
info@sanctuary.asn.au
Sanctuary Office Wed and Fri: 66217397
or
Michael Douglas 0413 693900

Sanctuary Northern Rivers Board Members 2008/09

Executive:

President - Michael Douglas

Treasurer - Brian Nash

Vice-President - Russell Trebilcock

Secretary - Dave Noble

General Board Members:

Sue Darnell

Katherine Morrison

Paul Morreti

Contact Sanctuary Northern Rivers:

Administrative Support Officer: Cherie Mamet

(02) 6621 7397 (Wed & Fri)

Postal Address:

Sanctuary Northern Rivers, P.O.Box 1146, Lismore NSW 2480

Email: info@sanctuary.asn.au

Website: www.sanctuary.asn.au

Office Address: Lismore Neighbourhood Centre, 76 Carrington St

Attended: Wed and Fridays