



# Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc

A community based refugee support group

PO Box 1146 Lismore NSW 2480

[www.sanctuary.asn.au](http://www.sanctuary.asn.au)

[info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)

## Newsletter

# April/May 2010

### From the President's pen:

### Beautiful days in Mullumbimby

A few Sundays ago, I had the privilege of spending a Sunday morning in Mullumbimby. It is a community that holds something special at any time, and yet when I left a few hours later, I felt deeply moved – not just the blessings of the sun, and the beauty of the environment of Mullum, but by the deep and palpable joy of the newest Congolese arrivals. In their words, they have found “paradise”, and in their presence, I shared their find.

The transition is momentous: from squalid, peri-urban slums to a fresh and homely abode; from fractured families and flight from fear, to unity and security. And here, in their new refuge that has become their home, a profound sense of hope and light is conveyed – in each conversation, and in each embrace.

On that Sunday morning, I witnessed the excitement of grown men, the welcoming nature of wives, and the playfulness of their children, which extended in unity to their neighbours. I witnessed the support of the community fold – Michelle helping fill out more forms, Adrienne dropping in on the way to feed the horses, Gill and Barry with a lawnmower, Jenny off to pick pumpkins. Here was the ‘paradise’ of their hopes – a neighbourhood of freedom, of support and concern.

Welcome Bertin and Eudoxie, Jean-Pierre and Helene, Kizito and Beatrice and your bountiful children for your graciousness and joy. Your presence has again revealed the deep vein of respect and love and generosity that prevails within the community, for you and undoubtedly, for people from all walks of life.

Thank you Mullumbimby, for a powerful expression of what a community can be.

*Michael Douglas Dec 2009*

Michael's recommended reading:

The press release from the Refugee Council of Australia this week on government obligations to refugees: web link:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100506\\_People\\_Smuggling\\_report.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100506_People_Smuggling_report.pdf)

**Fundraising** – there is a need for anyone with ideas or enthusiasm with fundraising to call Brian 02 6629 1692 or Jayne 02 6629 1540 . There will not be a ‘gala’ event this year, but rather a number of smaller events to promote the cause and to hopefully generate some much needed funds.

### *Families Arriving 19th May*

Name	Nationality	Family size	Family Names	Volunteer Support
Mukarwema Emilienne	Rwandan	4	Nzaramba Sibomana Pheneas (husband), Janine (female, 10 years), Igiraneza (female, 8 years)	Alan and Nicky, Pam and Margo

### *Applications Lodged in the last month*

Name	Nationality	Family Size	Family Names
Ms Kazarooho Flavienne Cimanuka			

### *Impending Visa Approvals*

Name	Nationality	Family Size	Family Names
TBA	Sudanese	TBA	TBA
TBA	Congolese	TBA	TBA

### *Families offered Sponsorship*

Name	Nationality	Family Size	Family Names
Aschalew Bekele Zeleke	Ethiopian	2	Asfaw, Tigist Beyene
Chareles Mavaga Tubalole	Congolese & Rwandan	2	Joselyne Uwineza

**How shall we celebrate World Refugee Day???**

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.au>



**Scrabble Champ!**

**Congratulations to Adeyemi Johnson**



## Protection for the weak and vulnerable

Originally from the war torn country of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pierrè (not his real name) arrived in Lismore (Australia) just over one year ago. The previous 9 years were spent in one of the most notorious refugee camps in the world, Kakuma Camp in northern Kenya. Kakuma is the Swahili word for “nowhere”, which describes the plight of so many in the camp.

Kakuma is a temporary home to 70,000 Africans from the length and breadth of the continent, each fleeing war, famine or political persecution. The camp is notorious for its violence, particularly against women. United Nations officers leave the camp at 5.00pm each day and the hours of darkness are controlled by the strongest and most brutal of the camp’s inhabitants.

Shortly after Pierrè arrived in Lismore he discovered that 3 of his siblings – 2 brothers and a sister aged 18-22 – were in Nairobi, Kenya. Pierrè had not heard from them for several years. Their conditions are squalid, there is no work for them, they are actively discriminated against by the general population and the authorities, and they are destitute. However, going to Kakuma camp would actually be more dangerous for them.

Recently Pierrè discovered that their dire situation had put his 18 year old sister at the mercy of organised sexual exploitation operators in the slum area of Kawangware, a suburb of Nairobi. Pierrè is broken hearted, and particularly fearful that she will contract AIDS, normally a death sentence in Africa and a condition that would put her chances of asylum in Australia in deep jeopardy.

Pierrè’s Australian friends are seeking to raise enough money to keep the three young people in safety while their visa application for refugee asylum under the 202 “Refugee & Humanitarian” visa class is processed. This process can take up to 2 years and a minimum of 1 year.

Through the sister of a Kenyan-born Australian resident, the three young people have been taken to a place of safety in Nairobi. Margaret is caring for them, but needs support to do this.

We are seeking help to raise around \$8,000 this year to support the three young people with education, housing and food. In particular the young woman needs a great deal of medical treatment to ensure that what she has experienced does not ruin the rest of her life.

Donations may be made through the Sanctuary Northern Rivers web-site and are tax deductible. Simply go to [www.sanctuary.asn.au](http://www.sanctuary.asn.au) and click the “Make a donation to our group” button in the middle of the home page. This will direct you to a secure site. Follow the prompts to give your desired amount. **Important:** click the “Special Message” button after entering your account details and note the donation as “Kenya” in the “other” line.

More information is available from David Noble, [northcoastnobes@gmail.com](mailto:northcoastnobes@gmail.com) or by phone on 0402 73 44 95. David is the Treasurer of Sanctuary and would be happy to process your gift and ensure you are sent a receipt.



To donate, just visit our website:  
[www.sanctuary.asn.au](http://www.sanctuary.asn.au) and click  
on this blue button:

**Make a Donation  
to our Group**

using the secure engine  
of [ourcommunity.com.au](http://ourcommunity.com.au)

[CLICK HERE](#)

### **Positions Vacant**

Coordinators for the assembly of raffle prizes to be raffled during Refugee Week 2010.

Criteria:

Volunteers must confidence to approach various businesses for to donate prizes to Sanctuary.

Must be able to assemble an attractive array of prizes.

Connections with businesses will be an advantage.

Many volunteers can fill this position concurrently.

Start time: Immediately or sooner!

Collection/storage point can be Lismore Neighbourhood Centre in the Sanctuary Office on Thursdays.

## **Norco Community Cash Caps**

Norco contributes 10 cents to our fundraising for every specially marked Norco Community Cash milk cap we collect.

**We have half filled our laundry basket!**

Drop your collected caps into the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre  
(or to a Sanctuary Board member).

Let's make it a great effort. To fill up our laundry basket by June.

Remember every cap counts!

### **Fundraising effort during Refugee Week 2010 needs volunteers**

Sanctuary is the designated **Charity of the Day** for the Lismore Car Boot Market on June 20th. We need approximately 20 volunteers to collect donations in buckets as people arrive at the entrances to the market or to be on a stall promoting Sanctuary – perhaps selling raffle tickets, merchandise, doing hair wraps, drumming, playing music etc – or in some other way to encourage people to join our organisation.

The market runs from 8.00 am to 3.00 pm. We would like people to commit to shifts of 2-3hrs.

Please send an email to Cherie to register your interest in participating and any ideas you would like to initiate: [info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)



#### Admin Officer News:

I must apologise for the lateness of this newsletter issue. It certainly is a challenge to complete two days worth of work in one! As a consequence, I would love to invite some admin-minded volunteers to come in for a shift on Thursdays for some data-entry, filing, website updating and other exciting tasks!

A two hour shift in the morning from 10am-12pm and a two hour shift in the afternoon from 2pm-4pm would be most helpful. Please give me a call or email or just turn up if you are available those times.

Cheers from Cherie

### Update on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights project

As of the end of 2009, Sanctuary NR had donated wall hangings of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to 11 schools with a further three having requested the wall hanging during 2010.

During the first term of 2010, we donated a further seven UDHR wall hangings including Collins Creek (Kyogle), Teven-Tintenbar, Corndale, Albert Park (Lismore), Durrumbul (Mullumbimby) and Coorabell Public Schools and Mullumbimby High School.

Many of these requests came from our offer to provide the wall hanging to schools in the region from Wardell to Mullumbimby which had not been directly offered them previously.

Term 2 already has a further four requests with the first being made to Wardell Public School on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Each wall hanging costs between \$130 and \$180 depending on the size of the hanging. Donations towards this project can be made either by sending a cheque made out to Sanctuary NR and with the envelope specifying 'for the UDHR project' or on-line (see our website under Projects / Universal Declaration of Human Rights / How Can You Support This Project?). All such donations are tax deductible and will be receipted accordingly.

If you want further information on this project or would like to get a wall hanging for your local school, contact Russell Trebilcock on 6624 7458 or via email on [rjtreb@tpg.com.au](mailto:rjtreb@tpg.com.au).

#### Membership Update

We approach the end of 2009/2010 financial year with 109 members: exactly three times the membership we had last year!

With sign-ups in the past month we now have 15 members already for 2010/11.

Our goal for this next financial year is to double our current membership.

This is of course *very* possible if all of our **current members renew** and **recruit one other** to join. With this in mind, we have included a membership form at the end of this newsletter. Please make a copy and strongly advocate that one of your acquaintances becomes a member.

We had 1 Corporate Member 2010 : Fusion Hair and Beauty in Byron.

We have 1 Corporate Member for 2010/11: Rhythm Konnections, also of Byron Bay.

We have a target of 20 Corporate Memberships by Dec 2010. Please advise the office if you would like to volunteer in the Corporate Membership drive in June/July.

[info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)



## Community Relations Commission Grant

Sanctuary Northern Rivers has been successful in obtaining a grant from the NSW Govt Community Relations Commission to employ a person for one day a week for 12 months to develop our policy and procedures relating to the coordination of settlement volunteers. This will involve determining our processes for volunteer recruitment, vetting, training, assignment, coordination and debriefing along with any legal obligations associated with using volunteers in the settlement of children etc.

While some of this has been done in the past, much of the information is scattered across a number of people and in a variety of files and locations. In addition, there is now a plethora of material around that outlines best practice methods for ensuring we get the right people into the right volunteer positions and don't then burn them out.

The purpose of the grant is not only to enable us to develop a sound procedural framework for the management and coordination of our volunteers but to foster closer relations between the settled community and the members of our wider community who come on board as volunteers.

Look out for our call for applications once the contract for the funding is in place and please encourage anyone you know who may be interested in the position and who has the skills to develop volunteer policy and procedures to apply. We are hoping to start the position sometime in June.

If you want to be advised of the Job Specification and application details once finalised, please contact Cherie either by phone (6621 7397 on Thursdays) or email ([info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)).

### The Federal budget: key points

(distilled from article by Andrew Jakubowicz, Institute for cultural Diversity):

#### Refugee intake:

Despite rising refugee pressures around the world, the government will hold the refugee intake to 13,750;

The main settlement will continue to focus on refugees from three key regions : Africa, Asia and Middle East;

Of particular interest will be those refugees in protracted situations (e.g. Bhutanese in Nepal) and others with critical need;

Vulnerable women will be a priority (last year 12% of refugee intake were of this category)

#### Settlement support:

There is a \$ 9.4 million reduction over four years to settlement service organisations (namely Adult Migrant English program, Humanitarian Settlement Services program and Grants for Community Settlement Services);

Increases in budget to several organisations: Adult Multicultural Education Services (\$3.5 million);

Refugee Council (\$20,000) and Community and Humanitarian Services (\$3 million).

#### Concluding comment from Institute for cultural diversity conclusion:

"Overall the impact on the most vulnerable and least articulate immigrant and refugee communities will be small but significant, eroding at the margins community services already strapped for resources".



## Up-coming Events

### **Sanctuary Northern Rivers Board Meeting:**

Thurs 20th May 6.30pm Lismore Workers Club  
All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Lismore Car Boot Market Charity of the Day 20th June (Refugee Week)**

We will need all hands on deck to collect donations, give information and to attract memberships. So please plan to be there! More details later.

### **Refugee Week in Byron Shire 20 26th June**

Fundraising activities and Celebrations.  
Sanctuary's involvement to be advised

### **Charity of the Day 1st August Byron Community Market**

#### ***Sanctuary Northern Rivers Board Members 2009/2010***

##### ***Executive:***

President/Secretary - Michael Douglas  
Vice-President - Russell Trebilcock

Treasurer - Dave Noble

##### ***General Board Members:***

Jean-Claude Mapatano

Katherine Morrison

Julie Webb

#### ***Contact Sanctuary Northern Rivers:***

***Administrative Support Officer:*** Cherie Mamet  
(02) 6621 7397 (Thurs)

##### ***Postal Address:***

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

***Email:*** [info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)

***Website:*** [www.sanctuary.asn.au](http://www.sanctuary.asn.au)

***Office Address:*** Lismore Neighbourhood Centre, 76 Carrington St  
***Attended:*** Thursdays

## Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc

Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984  
ABN 88 782 443 934



Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type (please tick)

Individual \$30  Family/Institution \$45

Students/Concession Card Holders \$15

### Membership Declaration

I/we, the undersigned, hereby apply to become a member/s of Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc ("Sanctuary"). In the event of my/our admission as a member/s, I/we agree to be bound by and comply with the constitution, regulations, policies and directions of Sanctuary as amended from time to time. I acknowledge that Sanctuary reserves the right to cancel my/our membership at anytime if I/we fail to comply with the rules applying under the constitution, regulations, policies and directions of Sanctuary; or if my/our conduct is unbecoming a member of Sanctuary or brings Sanctuary into disrepute.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Details

I would also like to make a Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are fully tax deductible.

Please forward your cheque or money order to:

Sanctuary Northern Rivers  
PO Box 1146  
Lismore NSW 2480  
[www.sanctuary.asn.au](http://www.sanctuary.asn.au)  
[info@sanctuary.asn.au](mailto:info@sanctuary.asn.au)