

NEWS OUT WEST

The New Out West Newsletter April 2008



Handling tiny seedlings...

FROM RICE TO KUMARA – GARDENING CLASSES FOR REFUGEES

A Sustainable Gardening workshop for Burmese refugees was held at the Botanic Gardens recently.

About 30 Burmese refugees, already gardening enthusiasts, were involved in the gardening classes, which were supported by the Auckland Regional Council and RMS Refugee Resettlement.

James Nyan, who works for RMS Refugee Resettlement as a Cross-Cultural Worker says new food and planting vegetables in a different climate are some of the things that the refugees have to get used to.

"Some of the vegetables they had never seen before, and herbs such as rosemary and thyme just looked like pretty plants to them," he said. Concepts such as worm farms and composting were also something very new to the Burmese, who in Burma fertilized the soil with animal manure, and by burning the field after harvesting.

Joanna Biss, Auckland Development Coordinator at RMS Refugee Resettlement says there were many other things that many of us take for granted that refugees have to cope with.

"Simple things like getting the bus or using an ATM machine are completely new for some refugees. One of the biggest challenges however, is getting to know people in their community, and to achieve a sense of belonging. RMS Refugee Support volunteers give practical assistance to refugees but also help rebuild the sense of community that the refugees have left behind by offering friendship and introducing them to the services and their host community."



Kiwi BBQ...yummmmy!



Take this opportunity to become one of our volunteers supporting refugees in their resettlement, and gain new friends and experience in a cross cultural environment.

NZQA-accredited 20-hour training program starts 16th April.
Contact: *Chandra* at 621 0013 or chandra.yogeswaran@rms.org.nz



Settlement Support Waitakere is Back!

Ayumi and Liz are looking forward to helping new comers to Waitakere to settle in to the community. "We are looking forward to helping anybody who is new to



Waitakere and is struggling to find the information they need. We can help you find the right people who can help you with employment, language issues and many other areas that will help you to settle in to your local community."

Make an appointment to see them by calling your local CAB on 0800 367222 or call 8374273 / 8376271.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (LDC) ELECTION 2008

There are 37 LDCs throughout New Zealand. They are made up of volunteers who consider and make decisions about applications from organisations within their local communities.

Now is the time for community organisations to nominate a candidate or register their community organisation to vote in the Local Distribution Committee Election 2008.

There are seven positions on each of the following committees, except for the Great Barrier Island COGS committee which has five positions.

Nominations and registrations close on 4 April 2008

NAME OF COMMITTEE	OFFICE ADDRESS	CONTACTS
1. Manukau	Level One, ANZ Building 3 Osterley Way PO Box 76 451 Manukau City	Leba Davis (09) 263 7372 leba.davis@dia.govt.nz
2. Papakura/Franklin		
3. Auckland/Waiheke		
4. Waitakere	Level One, All Seasons Centre 288 Te Atatu Rd South Te Atatu PO Box 83209 Edmonton, Waitakere	Lawrence Lugg (09) 834 9701 lawrence.lugg@dia.govt.nz
5. Rodney/North Shore		
6. Great Barrier Island		

Further Information and Election Forms can also be obtained from www.dia.govt.nz or call 0800 824 824



ESOL Home Tutors West Auckland Training Course

ESOL Home Tutors: New Zealand's largest settlement agency

Who we are: 200 staff and 3,000 volunteers working with 6,000 refugees and migrants in 23 New Zealand locations

What we do: Provide a range of voluntary and paid, one-to one and group, English language tuition and settlement support services

ESOL Home Tutors has been running for over 30 years. For more information: www.esolht.org.nz

Our next training course in West Auckland is 30, 31 May and 21st June. Phone Lynne on **846 0398**

Waitakere Wednesday Walks

Wednesday 30 April (Grade: EASY)

Gibbons Point Tunnel - Follow the route of the logging railway from Karekare and see some relics of the kauri logging era including a tunnel through a headland.

Meet: 9.50am, Karekare Beach car park

To register phone Kay Lindley on 837 8800 or 027 274 2280

Email: kay@healthwest.co.nz

Job Opportunities

Here is the exciting job opportunity to work for The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI). The position title is "Asian Public Health Coordinator". We are looking for an energetic person who can take over this role. It's a part time position and working hours can be flexible. Please contact **Virinder** for more information.

E-mail to vipagg@paradise.net.nz

THE LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING THE APPLICATIONS IS:

31st of March (Monday); 5pm.

IRD Seminars

Enterprise Waitakere, Level 2 - Central One,
4 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson

Every Monday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Topics: Getting started, setting up a cashbook, How to complete GST/PAYE returns, claiming expenses, Keeping wage records, assistance with overdue returns and all business tax enquiries

No appointment is needed, just go and talk to our friendly team.

New Zealand Ethnic Social Services,
56a Covil Avenue, Te Atatu South, Henderson

Tuesday, 29 April, 10.30 am -12.30pm

Topics: Business taxation for self employed, sole trader or small business enterprise

To register for this workshop, please contact NZESS on: (09) 834 6668 or email to

nzess@xtra.co.nz

Waitakere New Settler Safer Stronger Families

This is the first New Settler Family Violence Prevention seminar in Waitakere. Organised by a group of people from different organisation both government and community such as police and women's refugee who deal with family violence issues. **10 May (Sat)** at **Kelston Community Centre**. This is an all day event. For more information and to register, contact **NZ Ethnic Social Services (NZESS)** on 834 6668 or email nzess@xtra.co.nz

To be on the mailing list or to contribute to **NEWS OUT WEST** email ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz