

NEWS OUT WEST

The New Out West Newsletter August 2008



Muslim Women's Day Celebration

On a sunny day on the 29th of June 2008, women from all parts of Auckland congregated in the Mount Albert War Memorial Hall. They had all come to celebrate the birth of *Fatimah az Zahra*, daughter of the Prophet Mohammad and Muslim Women's Day, a celebration held annually by the Islamic Women's Association of New Zealand (IWANZ). Women and girls from various backgrounds, ethnicities and races arrived dressed in colourful clothes. The programme consisted of rhymes in Arabic, Farsi and Urdu, speeches in English, the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, and a prize giving ceremony for girls and women who have either assisted the community in various ways or have begun wearing the headscarf. There was also a guest speaker, Marilyn Waring, a feminist who gave both the young and old encouragement not to let gender or ethnicity get in the way of achieving their goals. Her speech captivated the audience with message, "...you can't take my dreams away from me".

To the delight of many, including the guests, the theme of "Unity and Diversity" was once again reinforced with a buffet with a wide range of dishes, from Afghani to Middle-Eastern. Overall, the women and their daughters left the programme refreshed and eager to return next year.

IRD Seminar (Monthly)

Free Business TAX workshop by IRD officer covers everything you need to know about start your own business! Last Tuesday in each month at NZESS; 56A Covil Ave, Te Atatu South. Next workshop: **19th August 10am to 12pm**
For more information, email to nzess@xtra.co.nz or call 834 6668



CAB Language Link

New Name for formally known Multi-lingual Information Service

From July, Multi-lingual Information Service has been renamed to the **CAB Language Link**. Their location and phone number are remaining the same but roster for available language and new email address (language@cab.org.nz) has been set up. Contact *Durga* at above email and request new roster (26 languages) and their promotional materials.

acespace
The Waitakere Learning Shop

New, Larger, Brighter Venue
on 12 Railside Ave,
Henderson

ACE Space – The Waitakere Learning Shop provides a friendly, comfortable "one stop shop" to find out about the many learning opportunities available in Waitakere City. We are also the venue for Migrant Action Trust Employment Support groups, held once a week.

People of all ages are welcome to access education and training information.

We organise a wide range of courses, workshops, and other activities, for example, advice on parenting courses, ESOL, computer skills, learner licensing and much more.

Need assistance with preparing for a career? We can refer you to an advisor from career services.

ACE Space provides a welcoming place to sit and relax while reading and chatting with the staff.

Open Mon - Fri 9 am to 3:30 pm – Phone 837 0489

Email : acespace@xtra.co.nz

Auckland Regional Migrant Service (ARMS) **5 year birthday party!**

Staff and supporters injected a special spirit into the Auckland Regional Migrant Services Fifth Anniversary celebrations on 27th June. The clothes were bright and loud and so was the laughter. The crowd (made up of migrants and refugees, community members, staff from settlement support organisations and local politicians) were enthralled by Chinese Opera, danced along enthusiastically to Nimi Bedi's Funky Fusion and enjoyed some great humour courtesy of International Comedy Festival favourites Dave Wiggins (USA) and Hiroshi Nakatsuji (Japan).

There was plenty of time to talk, network and catch up with old friends while ARMS celebrated five long and eventful years of giving advice and information to individuals and communities settling in the Auckland area. Colin Dale (Chair of the ARMS Board of Trustees) passed on his thanks and appreciation to the staff and supporters who have propelled ARMS up along its steep learning curve from small beginnings to the hugely successful Regional resource it is today. Then the birthday cake was cut and people got down to the serious business of partying! As well as the entertainment and spot prizes, party-goers had been invited to cross (culturally) dress. Outfits, borrowed from friends or acquired on foreign trips, all had stories and memories attached. People heard fascinating tales from one another, as well as enjoying the fun, the colour and the glamour!



Waitakere Working Women (WWW)

The networking club for corporate women in Waitakere (The dub dub dub club);
Monday 18th August – 6:30 to 9 pm
At Krozzy's Family Bistro (18G Clark St, New Lynn)
2 course buffet for \$20 per person
Guest speaker: Lynne Pillay (MP for Waitakere City)
To register, call **Kay Lindley** at 837 8820 / 021 274 2280 or email to kay@healthwest.co.nz

MiBuddy – Youth Project

New project from Migrant Action Trust – MiBuddy aim to help recently migrated youth (13 to 17) with problems regarding school, relationship and relating to KIWI culture. 12 volunteers from Kristin School both boys and girls will act as "Buddies" for migrant youth of similar age. Communication between youth and Buddies will be phone or email and one of the Buddies takes responsibility as the coordinator to ensure rules are followed. If you know any migrant youth interested in this project, tell them to email a.granada@xtra.co.nz

Next months New Out West Meeting will be **Thursday 28th August**. Any items for the agenda, newsletter etc. please email :- ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz by 20th August



Flexible Work Boosts options for employers

As of 1 July 2008, all employers and employees have the opportunity to benefit from the new flexible working arrangements from the changes to Employment Relations (Flexible Working Arrangements) Amendment Act. This provides flexibility for both employers and employees

It is well established that flexible working arrangements can benefit most businesses employers to recruit and retain skilled staff. In today's tight labour market flexible working arrangements are an even more popular option for employers to offer employees.

Employees with caring responsibilities will have a specific right to ask their employers for flexible working arrangements. To be eligible for the right to ask for flexible working arrangements, workers must have worked for their employer for at least six months and be caring for someone. If they meet these minimum requirements, they can request flexible working arrangements that help balance their work and care.

The Act gives eligible workers the right to ask for flexible working arrangements but also recognises that it is up to the employer to consider in good faith whether the request can be accommodated. What these arrangements look like is entirely up to the employer and employee. Employers must consider and respond to employee requests within three months and employees can make only one application in any twelve month period.

The new provisions are unlikely to have any effect on existing flexible working arrangements which employers and workers have already.

For further information visit: www.dol.govt.nz/flexiworking

Listening Website – for adult new migrants

"*Listen and Learn*" is **FREE** listening in English website for migrants and others who;

- Speaks English as second language
- Find listening difficult
- Can't understand TV and Radio news
- Want to know what is happening in New Zealand
- Want to feel part of New Zealand society

It is a 3 or 4 minutes current New Zealand news item, read slowly, clearly and using easy vocabulary with written text to support the listening. This website aimed to help newcomers understand a little of New Zealand culture and to improve their listening. There are extensive links to other listening sites also. The website is updated about twice a week.

Interested? Log in to www.eslnews.org.nz



Employment Support Group

Next Employment Support Group in Waitakere starts on Monday 4th August from 10am to 1pm at AceSpace (12 Rainside Ave, Henderson). This group aims to help people learn basic skills to start their job hunting, such as preparing CV, interview technique and analysing skills. This is **FREE** and has been very successful. To register, call **Olga** at 021 854 858 or Email olga.b@ihug.co.nz