

# NEWS OUT WEST

The New Out West Migrant & Refugee Newsletter

December 2008

## Settlement Support Coordinator Appointed



Tao Chen, Settlement Support Coordinator

Full service of Settlement Support in Waitakere has been resumed with the appointment of a new Coordinator, Tao Chen.

Tao, who lives locally, has until recently been employed as a Chinese Advisor by Parliamentary Services, based in MP Chris Carter's electorate office in Henderson. She will be working in the role full time and replaces her predecessor Ayumi Shibata who will be returning from maternity leave in May 2009.

Tao is available to confidentially discuss your settlement-related enquiries and can provide assistance in organising community workshops for new settlers in the Waitakere area. Phone Tao on 837 4273 or email her at [ssnzwaitakere.govt.nz](mailto:ssnzwaitakere.govt.nz)



### New Tenancy Information and Advocacy Service in Waitakere

A new, free information and advocacy service for tenants has just started in Waitakere. HNZ and private tenants can come to the free weekly 'walk-in' clinics for advice and support, hosted by Waitakere Community Law Service in Henderson.

The service has been set up through Waitakere City's Housing Call to Action Network, which includes community housing and social service organisations, as well as Waitakere City Council and central government agencies. Tenancy issues and rental housing has been identified by the network as a priority area for action. The Service has been made possible with funding from Waitakere City Council and support from Waitakere Community Law Service.

"It's reported that tenants in Waitakere experience poor quality, sub-standard housing, insecure tenancies and lack of information relating to tenants rights and responsibilities," says Sigrid Shayer, the service coordinator. "Not only are we providing a much needed service, but we are also offering free tenancy law training to community organisations in Waitakere, in order to strengthen the knowledge and skill base amongst the wider community." The Network aims to monitor and evaluate the issues being presented at the Clinics, and undertake information and education campaigns, both to tenants and landlords. The free walk-in advice sessions take place on Wednesdays 1.30pm – 3.30pm at the Waitakere Community Law Service, 1a Trading Place, Henderson (behind the Library).

For further information, contact:

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Waitakere Tenancy Action Network

c/- Waitakere Community Law Service

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[tenancy@waitakerelaw.org.nz](mailto:tenancy@waitakerelaw.org.nz)

## Congolese Achievers Recognised



Kafeba Mundele, President of the Congolese community officiating at the awards ceremony.

At a recent ceremony in Henderson fourteen people from the local Congolese community were presented with certificates for completing an employment training programme. Angela Yatri of the Auckland Regional Migrant Services Trust organised the course which was conducted in English and French and hosted by Unitec at their Waitakere campus. Around 100 people attended the ceremony and afterwards guests were treated to a delicious dinner featuring Congolese cuisine.

## New Law for Immigration Advisors



New Zealand is getting ready to license immigration advisors and from May 2009 all advisors in New Zealand will have to be registered with the Immigration Advisers Authority (some agencies will be exempt from this requirement). To be licensed, immigration advisors will have to meet competency standards and adhere to a code of conduct.

Many people have experienced the terrible downside of con-artists acting as experts and charging extortionate fees. It is hoped that the new legislation will put an end to a lot of these shameful practices. The Immigration Advisers Authority puts out regular newsletters and explains answers to frequently asked questions. More information can be found at:

<http://www.iaa.govt.nz/latest-news.html>

## Diwali & Rangoli 2008



The Diwali Festival held at the Trusts Stadium in Henderson on 26 October proved yet again what a major event this is for Waitakere. Thousands of spectators were treated to fantastic performances and got to enjoy sumptuous food throughout the day with the Festival of Lights culminating in a gigantic fireworks display.

As part of the festival, Waitakere Libraries' Multicultural & Migrant Services organised a Rangoli competition for children throughout Waitakere City. The beautiful and decorative art form of Rangoli has reached a new audience with the colouring in competition and also gives local children an insight into Indian culture. The competition had two age-group categories, 5 to 8 years old and 9 to 12 years old and the enthusiasm, creativity and attention to detail shown by the 300 entrants deeply impressed the panel of judges. Prize winners were selected from children at each of the city's seven libraries and the grand prizes were awarded to Alessandra Jussa (in the 5 to 8 age group) and to Tanmay Mohini (in the 9 to 12 age group). Generous sponsorship was received from Radio Tarana and the competition was supported by the Waitakere Indian Association.

## Pacific in the Park

Hot on the heels of the Pacifica Living Arts Festival comes another free event featuring top performing artists. Che Fu, 3 Houses Down, Lil Saints, Julie Taale and Vince Harder are featured headline acts. Pacific in the Park takes place at Moire Park in Massey on Friday, 28 November and runs from 3.00pm to 9.00pm.

