

NEWS OUT WEST

The New Out West Newsletter July 2008



Libraries
Your place of discovery

World Refugee Day

20th June 2008

"Waitakere City, a place to call home"

New Zealand has been accepting refugees for resettlement since the end of the Second World War. In 1987, the government established a formal annual quota for the resettlement of refugees. A refugee is defined as;

"...a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, in outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country." (The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees)

Every year on June 20 the world honours the courage, resilience and strength of refugees. Global attention is focused not only on the plight of refugees and causes of their exile but also on their determination and contribution they make to their host communities.

As one of their host communities, Waitakere City, Waitakere libraries' Multicultural and Migrant Services released a publication with four stories from refugees living in New Zealand – from Burundi, Burmese Chin and Afghani backgrounds. The publication also gives information on refugee service providers, such as Refugee Services (formally RMS), Refugees as Survivors, Settlement Support and ESOL home tutors. This booklet is available at Waitakere City Libraries. There are a number of events being organised throughout the country from welcoming new communities, exhibitions, cultural performances and sharing settlement experiences. On 19th June, a Kowhai tree was planted at the Mangere Refugee Reception centre in acknowledgement of World Refugee Day. Representatives from local Maori community, Refugee Services, Manukau City Council and a representative of the refugee communities made a speech at the ceremonial event.



At the Tree planting



Earthquake Scare!?

Recent news of earthquake disasters. Yes, they were in some other countries not here in New Zealand. But this is useful information you may be interested to have a look at. Earthquake Commission issued brochures in a number of languages, "People, Property and Natural Disaster in New Zealand". It provides information such as; role of Earthquake commission, New Zealand's overall disaster preparedness, disaster areas, historical damage etc...

Available languages are; English, Chinese, Samoan, Tongan, Korean, Arabic and Hindi.



See Earthquake Commission's website; www.eqc.govt.nz for more information.

English Course Semester 2

Certificate / Diploma in English



The semester 2, 2008 timetable for both programmes will run 9am to 1pm Mon - Fri at Unitec Waitakere Campus, beginning July 21. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and be a Permanent Resident or have proof of refugee status. Refugee or Pacific student may be eligible for a full or partial study grant. For more information, contact **Sandra Beagley** at 815 4321 Ext 5002

Vacancy at the Waitakere Community Law Centre

If you are familiar with refugee and migrant communities and networks, dedicated to community service development, experience and qualifications in community action research. Please contact **Cissy** on 835 2130 or email cissy@waitakerelaw.org.nz By 4th July



Settlement Support Update !

National campaign starts in July!

Nation wide Settlement Support New Zealand campaign starts in July. Campaign is not expecting to be in big or major media such as NZ Herald or advertised on TV but in local media. A part of campaign, Settlement Support has a new national 0800 contact number. **0800 SSNZ 4U (0800 776 94)**, anyone calling this number within Waitakere is automatically diverted to local SS contact number. (We have tested and its works!)

Request from Settlement Support

Thank you for sending interesting news/story/articles to News Out West. As a monthly newsletter, we are always looking for any news to go on the next issue. All stories are welcome (except commercial advert) especially bright photos to accompany! Send to :- ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz

Walking Waitakere Wednesday Walks

30th July (Wed) – Fairy falls

Enjoy a walk through mature forest to the secluded Fairy Falls on the Eastern flanks of the Waitakere Ranges.

To register, contact **Kay Lindley** at 837 8820 / 027 274 2280 or Email; kay@healthwast.co.nz

Native English speaking volunteers are needed!

In New Lynn, Avondale and Blockhouse Bay areas there is a large population of senior Chinese who are willing to learn survival English desperately. New Lynn Activity Centre and Grey Power (Asian group) organised an English class at New Lynn Community Centre weekly and ends up at having more than 60 people attending (see photo) Any organisations who are able to help, please contact **Tanya Suin** at 021 0497051 or Email to;



Tanya_yuan@hotmail.com



Next Training course starts July

Our next training course in West Auckland is July 10th and 11th. Phone **Lynne** on **846 0398**.

More information about ESOL Home Tutors, see our web site; www.esolht.org.nz



Welcome Olga

Ministry of Education's new Migrant Education Coordinator for Northern Region is *Olga Pascan – Milovic* who deals with Early Childhood and Regional Education. If you have a migrant/refugee client and have any question about education, Olga is the person you should contact. Olga took over the role of Jason Tsui who moved on and is now working for Department of Labour. You'll see Olga at our NOW meeting

now and then. Olga is looking forward to working closely with the community. Olga.pascan@minedu.govt.nz



MEDIA STATEMENT: 17

JUNE 2008

Police are urging all sectors of the Asian community to be increasingly vigilant after a surge in bag snatching incidents in West Auckland and North Shore.

Sergeant Todd Bartlett says officers from the Law Enforcement Team [LET] are investigating numerous thefts where women have had their handbags stolen.

"More than twenty bag snatching incidents are being investigated in various locations that include Henderson and Takapuna. We believe there are other handbag thefts that are yet to be reported to us," he said.

"Our enquiries have established that a gang of criminals are targeting lone Asian women soon after they use an ATM cash machine, or while they are walking to their vehicle that's located in the local shopping mall's car park."

"In some cases a car has stopped behind a victim's vehicle blocking them in their park. Often the victim has just got into the car and placed their handbag on the front passenger seat. The thief has then rushed forward, opened the passenger door and snatched the handbag."

"The LET team's investigations include details of similar crimes in both Auckland and Counties Police Districts. The offenders appear to be working in groups, selectively targeting lone female victims, many of whom are Asian."

"Police officers are regularly patrolling popular shopping malls and car parks on foot providing community reassurance as well as educating the public about how to best prevent their personal handbags or purses being stolen."

Police offer the following suggestions to those in the Asian Community:

1. Where possible have a person accompany you when conducting activity such as exiting a bank, or accessing an ATM cash machine.
2. Where possible avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
3. Where possible refrain from openly carrying handbags or purses.
4. Before you enter your car place the handbag at your feet.
5. Be vigilant to everybody and be aware of your surroundings.
6. Call Police immediately whenever you see a suspicious vehicle.
7. Where possible advise a friend or relative of your movements
8. Be aware – do not take anything for granted
9. Be careful – satisfy your own safety when alone
10. Never hesitate - to call Police 111 in any emergency

Anyone with information on handbag thefts can contact Sergeant Todd Bartlett of the Police Law Enforcement Team on 09 481 0359.

Next Months New Out West Meeting will be Thursday 31st July. Any items for the agenda please email :- ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz