

NEWS OUT WEST

The New Out West Newsletter May 2008



Haft Sin Table Decoration



Beautifully decorated eggs

Iranian New Year (Norouz) Celebration

More than 6,000 Iranians living in New Zealand celebrated Iranian New Year (*Norouz*) on 20th March.

Norouz, new day or New Year in Persian language is a celebration of the Spring Equinox. *Norouz* has been celebrated more than 3,000 years and is deeply rooted in the rituals and traditions of Persia. These days, *Norouz* is celebrated in Iran, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and a part of Turkey.

One of the major traditions of *Noruz* is **Haft Sin** (seven S's) table decoration with items starting with the letter "S" or *Sin* in Persian alphabet. The items symbolically correspond to seven creations and holy immortals protecting them.

Haft Sin items are;

- *Sabzeh* – wheat, barley or lentil sprouts – (Rebirth)
- *Samanu* – wheat germ sweet pudding – (Affluence)
- *Senjed* – dried silverberry – (Love)
- *Sir* – garlic – (Medicine)
- *Sib* – Apples – (Beauty and Health)
- *Somaq* – sumac berries – (the colour of Sunrise)
- *Serkeh* – vinegar – (Age and Patience)

Other items on the table (see picture above) may include; Coins (Wealth), Candles (Happiness), Mirror (Cleanness and honesty), Goldfish (Life within life) and national colour for a patriotic touch. Also beautifully decorated eggs are made for each member of the family or newly married couples who wish to have children. (If you want three children, put an extra three eggs on the table) because eggs symbolises fertility.

On the day of *Norouz*, families and communities gather to celebrate life and friendship followed by a night long party of dancing, live music and time consuming efforts of delicious traditional Persian dishes.

Refugee Support Volunteers Training



Your chance to make a world of difference!!

Refugee Support Volunteers;

- Provide practical support for refugees' initial six months here
- Help out people who have left everything behind
- Learn about new cultures and explain about life in New Zealand

Register now!! RMS Refugee Resettlement is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation. Our NZQA-accredited 20-hour volunteer training program equips you with the skills and knowledge needed to give practical support to refugee families.

Contact: chandra.yogeswaran@rms.org.nz or (09) 621 0013



Free Job Search Workshop **for Migrants and Refugees by A.R.M.S**

Meet the agencies that can offer you job search advice and follow up individualised consultations

Location; ACE Space – 12 Railside Ave, Henderson

Date / time; 30 (Wed) April 9:30 to 2:30 (bring your own lunch)

Presenters; Migrant Action Trust, WINZ work broker, Career Service, HR advisor- Waitakere City Council etc...

To register; email to reception@arms-mrc.org.nz or call (09) 625 2440

Venue: Waitemata Room: Council Chamber / Level 2 Waitakere Central – 6 Henderson Valley Rd, Henderson @ 2pm

A new Forum Series, organised by Waitakere Libraries' Multicultural and Migrant Services, offers Waitakere residents an opportunity to meet locally with three distinguished and highly talented guest presenters.

Taking place in Waitakere City during May, the Forum Series will feature eminent author and historian, **Dr. Manying Ip**, whose recently published book examines historical and contemporary relationships between Chinese settlers and Tangata Whenua in New Zealand.

Mervin Singham, Director of the Office of Ethnic Affairs will be sharing his perspectives on the opportunities and challenges that New Zealand face as an increasingly multicultural society in the 21st century.

Founder and publisher of SPASIFIK magazine, **Innes Logan** has come a long way in the media world. As a Westie himself, Innes may be modest about the numerous awards that he and the team at SPASIFIK have collected, but his achievements have made him an inspiration for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Su Scott, Manager of Waitakere Library and Information Services, is looking forward to this unique, interactive Forum Series.

"Having such high profile guests sharing their stories with us right on our own doorstep is wonderful. Each speaker is a major draw card in his or her own right and as a free, public event this will be a major attraction in Waitakere City during May," Su said.

Programmes for the free Forum Series, starting on 7 May, are available at your local library, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Council's Customer Service Centre at Waitakere Central.

For more information contact: **Brendon Hickey**; Migrant Information Coordinator / Waitakere Library & Information Services

brendon.hickey@waitakere.govt.nz or call (09)8368000 ext 7817



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHĪTANGA TAIAO

**Environment Initiatives
Fund (EIF) Workshop
in Waitakere**

EIF aim to support community to care for their natural, cultural and physical environment in order to;

- Restore eco systems and local places
- Connect people with nature and each other
- Protect cultural and historic heritage places
- increase awareness about the environment and how to live more sustainably
- support action and long term behaviour change that benefits communities and the environment

EIF previously funded community groups, ECE groups for project such as purchase of worm bins, compost bins, gardening tools, composting and gardening workshops.

Funding round will open Monday 5 May and close 5pm Wednesday 9 July

To find out more and how to apply, come along to a free workshop;

Venue: Waitemata Room, Waitakere Chamber (council)

Date and Time: 6 May (Tue) 10am to 12pm

To register for this workshop, contact Rosanne Taraia (ARC) by **25 Apr (Fri)** on Rosanne.taraia@arc.govt.nz or (09) 3662000

IRD Seminars by **Abdul Rafik** (IRD officer)

NZ Ethnic Social Services (NZESS)

56a Covil Ave, Te Atatu South

29 April (Tuesday) 10.30am - 12.30pm

Topics: Business Taxation plus GST & Provisional Tax

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

Every Monday, 1.30pm - 3.30pm – General Tax information

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



Job Seekers on the Bus

- Where to work and live...

Settlement Support Waitakere present "Free Auckland Bus Tour for job seekers" project.

This bus tour is designed for new comers to know where they want to work and live. People new in Auckland may not be familiar with residential areas and industrial / commercial areas. We will take you around Auckland to give an idea where job opportunities are for your target occupations. People eligible to be on the bus must;

- Be a permanent residence (less than 5 years in New Zealand)
- Living within Waitakere City
- Actively looking for a job
- Have a good level of English

Itinerary;

- 9:00am depart from Waitakere City Council
- Arataki Visitors Centre
- Botanic Gardens (Manurewa) – include lunch
- Drive through housing development
- Hear to Takapuna Beach (short break)
- Drive through CBD then to Mt. Eden summit
- 2:30pm return to Waitakere

Because this is strictly employment purposes, partners and children can not be included. Bus tour will be held on a weekday, out of school holidays and the time table is set for those have children who can drop and pick children up.

We are unable to schedule actual date until get an idea of interest from people. Contact Settlement Support if you are or know someone interested in this project.

Email to ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz

Reminder; New Out West (NOW) meeting is on Last Thursday in each month.

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