



NEWS OUT WEST

February 2009

The New Out West Migrant & Refugee Newsletter

Volunteering Makes a Big Difference for New Kiwi

Hye Jung describes becoming involved in volunteering as a "pure accident" – she was looking for other information in the newspaper and an advertisement about volunteering for the Citizens Advice Bureau caught her attention.

Hye quickly made up her mind to become a volunteer, only realising later that she might just want to return the kindness she had received during her earlier days as a newcomer in New Zealand. She cannot forget how nicely her home-stay family treated her.



A former teacher from South Korea, Hye has been working as a volunteer at Massey CAB for the last five years. In 2002 she met and married her Kiwi Mr Right and her role as a CAB volunteer is both rewarding and a significant source of happiness.

"You can keep your knowledge updated by constantly learning information from the people you meet in the CAB. There is the pressure of providing professional service, but the pressure enables you to learn more," says Hye. For Hye this is the best way to improve her understanding of the host country. Because of her accent and the language barrier, Hye sometimes got unfriendly reactions and this was unsettling for her at the beginning. But the more she learnt in her role at the CAB, the more confident she felt and the more comfortable she became.

Hye's volunteer experience enabled her to become employed part-time by CAB Language Link and she also hosts a Korean radio programme on Planet FM, a community access radio station in Auckland.

What suggestions does Hye have for newcomers? "Language is not the number one thing. Understanding the culture is more important," said Hye, "and follow the rule of Rome."



CAB Volunteers Wanted

Applications for the next volunteer training programme can be made at your nearest CAB or phone 0800 367 222. This is a great opportunity to gain knowledge and work experience and to be involved in your community.

Have you got a story to share?

What was it like when you first came to New Zealand? How are you doing now? Would you like to share your settlement story with us? Contact your Settlement Support Coordinator!

Mentor's Training

If you are well settled and wish to make a difference in the life of another migrant, you are invited to be a Volunteer Mentor. The Migrant Action Trust will be having a Mentor's Training Day session on **28 March 2009**, 9 to 12 am, venue to be confirmed. Kindly register by emailing a.granada@migrantactiontrust.org.nz

New to Waitakere?

Settlement Support Waitakere is Keen to Help

Tao, the Settlement Support Coordinator is looking forward to helping newcomers to Waitakere to settle in to the community. If you are struggling with finding information about employment, education, health services and many other aspects of living in NZ, make an appointment to see Tao by calling your local CAB on **0800 367222** or call **0800 776 948**.

A Wonderful Resource for Positive Parenting – Team-Up

Are you having difficulty in helping your children settle into a new learning environment? Do you want to find out more about what they learn in a New Zealand School? Team-Up, part of the Ministry of Education, has produced a series of **FREE** handy booklets for parents of children from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The booklets are available in Chinese, Korean, Hindi, Arabic, Somali and Dari languages and are packed with tips, ideas and information to help you get more involved in your child's learning. Copies can be obtained from **Brendon Hickey**, Migrant Information Coordinator, Waitakere Library and Information Services (phone 8368000 Ext7817 or email brendon.hickey@waitakere.govt.nz) or visit the Team up website at www.teamup.co.nz

New Youth Information Service has it sussed!

A new facility in Henderson promises to be a mine of information for Waitakere youth. Located adjacent to the Global Café youth facility in Alderman Drive, SUSS-IT is a space where young people can go to seek information on a wide range of issues such as housing, budgeting, teenage parenting and health.

SUSS-IT is a partnership between the youth services sector in Waitakere, Waitakere City Council and the Ministry of Youth Development.

SUSS-IT will be open Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm.

What's Hot?

The following research reports have recently been released by the Families Commission and the Asia New Zealand Foundation:

Migrant and Former Refugee Families Talk about Their Early Childhood Care and Education Needs
<http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/files/New-Kiwis-Diverse-Families.pdf>

New Zealanders' Perceptions of Asia
<http://www.asianz.org.nz/files/Perceptions%20of%20Asia%20report08.pdf>

Free Job Search Workshop in Waitakere for Migrants

Come and meet the employment agencies that can offer you job search advice and provide follow-up individualised consultations.

Auckland Regional Migrant Services invite you to participate in this informative and interactive workshop. Held in conjunction with Work & Income NZ, Career Services, Auckland Chamber of Commerce and Waitakere Library and Information Services. The next course starts on **Thursday 26th February**, 9:30am to 2:30pm at Ace Space (12 Railside Ave, Henderson). For more information or to register phone **09 6252440** or email reception@arms-mrc.org.nz



Employment Support Group

Often participants find that they can be successful in finding work just by changing their CV to a 'Kiwi' style CV, or improving and practising their interview skills, or learning more about New Zealand culture.

The next Employment Support Group in Waitakere starts on **Monday 27th April**, from 9am to 1pm at Ace Space (12 Railside Ave, Henderson). This group aims to help people to learn a set of skills to start their job hunting, such as preparing a CV, interview techniques and analysing skills.

This is **FREE** and has been very successful for large numbers of participants. To register, call **Olga** on **021 854 858** or email her at olga.b@ihug.co.nz



Free IRD Workshops

Want to know more about rebates, income tax, Working for Families, or the new "Independent Tax Credit"? Free TAX workshops presented by an IRD officer cover everything you need to know for better handling of your money and managing your business. To register your interest please email ssnzwaitakere@waitakere.govt.nz or nzess@xtra.co.nz

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