



# Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

UnitingCare NSW.ACT

**Newsletter  
February 2009**

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Virginia Walker**

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**ABN 78 722 539 923**

## A Special Thank You

The Management Committee wishes to thank all those wonderful people who have provided financial and in kind support to us over the last five and a half years. My belated best wishes to you all for 2009.

I would like to note here the donations made by supporters of A Just Australia and the NSW Nurses' Association – Delegates' Conference to purchase phone cards.

The phone cards provided by A Just Australia were given to asylum seekers on BVEs who are living in the community, who have no rights to access Centrelink benefits, Medicare, and no work or study rights. The funds provided for phone cards by the NSW Nurses' Association were used to purchase a variety of phone cards for Villawood Immigration Detention Centre detainees who are awaiting finalisation of their claims. In addition, phone cards were given to us by UnitingCare NSW.ACT supporters and Mosman Uniting Church parishioners.

In addition to the phone cards, A Just Australia supporters and UnitingCare ACT. NSW staff and friends provided funds and food hampers for asylum seekers. These donations were very gratefully received.

## Who are we Helping?

We have now provided supplementary funding to over 400 people. During the last quarter we were assisting 131 people from a variety of countries. I am happy to report, however, that recently many of our recipients have been given Permanent Protection or work rights, so the recipient list has been reduced to just over 70 people. Of course, these people still require our ongoing financial support.

Unfortunately, despite your past generosity, the current economic slowdown means that we are still only able to provide \$90 per week for an individual and \$70 for a member of a family. Our largest group continues to be Chinese,

## Singing the Spirit Home

**celebrating the songs of Eric Bogle  
Benefit Concert**

**2pm Sunday, 5 April Seymour Centre**

although we are also assisting asylum seekers from the Middle East, North and West Africa, Aceh, the Indian sub-continent including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. While most of these asylum seekers are awaiting acceptance of their claims for asylum by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship; some are awaiting Tribunal or court outcomes.

## Apprentice Seeks Work

Jenny Toisuta, a member of Balmain for Refugees, who assists Acehnese refugees, has asked that we seek out an electrician who is able to take on an Acehnese apprentice. This young Acehnese man has undertaken various part-time positions in kitchens and factories during the period he was studying English at TAFE. In Aceh he started learning the electrical trade at a vocational high school and wishes to continue with the trade. If anybody can help with employing an apprentice, please contact Jenny Toisuta on 02 9555 4594 or by email at [jtoisuta@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jtoisuta@bigpond.net.au).

## Transport Relief

The Management Committee of Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation would like to thank the Hon David Campbell, Minister for Transport for the \$5,000 in funding for public transport fares for asylum seekers living on BVEs in our community who do not have access to transport concessions. Adults were given \$50 each and children were given \$25 each for those children who were required to pay fares. This meant that during the Christmas/New Year period, recipients were able to report to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (to comply with visa conditions), attend medical and psychological appointments; as well as keep in touch with their advocates.

### Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation Donation form

I would like to help the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation provide direct support for Visa "E" and special category refugees.  
( ) more information about BASF, or ( ) information about direct bank or credit card debits for regular donations

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone  Email

Herewith by cheque/credit card - Visa/Mastercard \$

Card number  Exp date

Signature

**DONATIONS of \$2 or more to Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation are fully TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

## Singing the Spirit Home celebrating the songs of Eric Bogle

This is our **BIG** fundraiser for the year. We need to pack the York Theatre (over 700 seats).

If you can't come *PLEASE* send a donation or buy a ticket for one of our supporters who simply cannot afford it. As you know we have no money for publicity. We rely on you, our wonderful supporters, to spread the word. Please pass this on and invite all your friends. If you can distribute fliers to colleagues/friends/local library/church/pub/book or sport group please call us.

An outstanding songwriter and entertaining performer, Eric will be joined by the enormously talented Adelaide band Colcannon. Awarded the 2009 "Best Folk Duo in the UK", Chris While and Julie Matthews. Believe it- these women will stir your soul! Martyn Wyndham Read: a favourite on the folk scene for many years. We are delighted to be staging him on his farewell Australian tour. John Williamson - iconic 'true blue' Australian bush balladeer - loved all

around Australia! Graeme Connors a sensitive writer and singer of beautiful songs. Judy Small - a master of her singing and songwriting craft. We are so excited to have this stellar lineup of artists! Go to our website for links to these performers.

We need money to cover the myriad costs of staging an event of this size: performers airfares/ sound engineering/ programmes etc.. We need helpers - both leading up to and on the day of the concert. Billets for interstate guests, filming & photography, office jobs, selling CDs at the concert etc. If you have any goods or services to donate, we would love to hear from you.

To help in any way, call Kate on 9810 5826 or [katemaclurcan@hotmail.com](mailto:katemaclurcan@hotmail.com). Helpers meeting on Monday 23 Feb 10am Balmain or 6pm Mosman.

**"It's not often I urge you to see a concert but this one is going to be quite an event. Please buy tickets and make everyone you know buy tickets!"** Warren Fahey, *Larrikin & Folklorist*

# *Singing the Spirit Home*

*celebrating the songs of Eric Bogle*  
**Refugee Benefit Concert**

**2pm Sunday, 5th April 2009**  
**York Theatre, Seymour Centre**

*featuring*

**Eric Bogle & Colcannon**  
**Chris While & Julie Matthews (UK)**  
**Martyn Wyndham-Read (UK)**  
**John Williamson**  
**Graeme Connors**  
**Judy Small**

All these **sensational, world class** performers are donating their time to help refugees. Please help **us** and honour **them**. We are in **real need** of your support.  
If you can, **please buy a \$140, \$240 or \$540 ticket. Thank you.**  
*You will be receipted a fully tax deductible donation for all but \$40*

### **Tickets: Standard \$40**

Supporter \$140 (\$100 tax deductible)

Keen Supporter \$240 (\$200 tax deductible)

Big Heart Seats \$540 (\$500 tax deductible)

Bookings: [www.seymourcentre.com.au](http://www.seymourcentre.com.au) or (02) 9351 7940

Enquiries: Kate Maclurcan 02 9810 5826

**[www.asylumseekersfoundation.com](http://www.asylumseekersfoundation.com)**

**supported by UnitingCare NSW.ACT & Leichhardt Council**