

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

Uniting Care NSW.ACT

Newsletter
October 2009

Honorary Chairperson:
Virginia Walker

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ABN 78 722 539 923

Our gratitude for your support

The Management Committee is extremely grateful to all those kind people who have continued to provide financial support to the Foundation during the Global Financial Crisis. We seem to have managed to keep afloat despite all our worries about not being able to keep going. However, as always, we struggle to provide funds to the asylum seekers in the community who need our help.

We are lucky to have a coterie of people who fund us on a regular basis and there are those who suddenly come to our aid when we think we might not be able to carry on much longer.

Some examples are the anonymous Foundation which gave us \$10,000 at the end of the financial year and The Sisters of Charity Foundation which gave us \$5,000. In addition Bennelong for Refugees Support Group held a theatre party and donated \$1,650 and Labor for Refugees held a forum during the National Conference in August and donated \$1,000 from this event.

Several wonderful people have been providing goods in kind such as toiletries, food for hampers and phone cards. These are very carefully distributed to asylum seekers in need.

Also we receive offers of furniture and household goods from time to time which can be given to refugees who are setting up accommodation. If you're in the Sydney metropolitan area and have items you think could be of use, please call Virginia on 0418 261 160 or leave a message on 9712 7784 to see if we could put them to a good use for you.

Who are we helping?

Currently, our number of recipients is down to just under 70. However, we are still able to provide only \$90 per week for a single person and \$70 for a member of a family group. The majority of these asylum seekers are awaiting approval of their claims for refugee status by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. A few others are awaiting results from Federal Magistrates Court Hearings or from the Refugee Review Tribunal. During this time they are unable to obtain benefits from government organisations such as Centrelink or Medicare, or to obtain work or study rights. In addition, they do not receive any assistance with travel on public transport. So life in the community is not easy.

Without access to Medicare it is very hard for asylum seekers to get medicines they need, which are often very expensive. In some circumstances we have managed to make supplementary emergency payments for

WANTED:

One hundred supporters: fifty for Lunch, fifty for Drinks!!

Soiree at Castlecrag

Jocelyn Chey is inviting you to her home for an evening of fine wines, delicious finger food and music

Enjoy exquisite vintage red wines from the cellar & festive champagne punch

Saturday 28th November 6pm to 9pm

10 Rockley St Castlecrag

\$70 per head

All Proceeds to Bridge For Asylum Seekers Foundation for urgent refugee support

Bookings: Kate 9810 5826 or katemaclurcan@hotmail.com

medications to a few of our recipients who are on special treatment programs.

Our largest recipient group is Chinese, with asylum seekers from the Middle East, North and West Africa, Afghanistan, Nepal, Aceh, the Indian sub-continent including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The Community Development Support Expenditure Program (CDSE) program is a shared State Government and Club Industry program, funded by a 1.5% gaming machine tax rebate provided by the State Government to those registered clubs with gaming machine profits in excess of \$1 million per annum.

Kate Maclurcan, the Asylum Seeker Project Co-ordinator, who is funded by Leichhardt, Marrickville and City of Sydney Councils, is responsible for preparing submissions for funding to those registered clubs in local government areas where our recipients live. The CDSE Committees, who decide which causes receive funding, comprise representatives of the relevant council, clubs, and the Department of Community Services.

This year we have been successful in attracting funds totalling \$45,300.00 from the following clubs:

Auburn RSL Club	\$12,000.00
City Tattersalls Club	\$10,000.00
Canada Bay Club	\$5,000.00
Balmain Tigers Leagues Club	\$5,000.00
Petersham RSL Club	\$4,000.00
Castle Hill RSL	\$3,000.00
Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL Club	\$2,800.00
Hornsby RSL Club	\$2,500.00
Burwood RSL Club	\$1,000.00

We are enormously grateful to each of these clubs for their wonderful support.

Virginia Walker, Honorary Chairperson
BASF

You are invited to Lunch

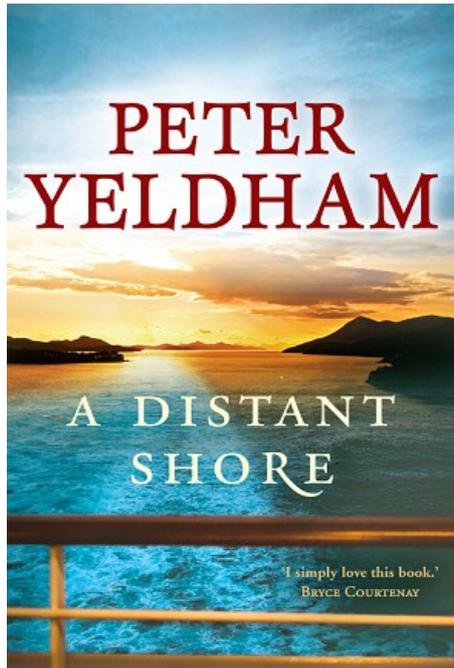
With highly awarded writer **Peter Yeldham** and his tenth novel **A Distant Shore**.

“The moving story of a young girl’s journey from Greece to Australia, and the life she builds - and love she finds - in a sometimes unwelcoming land.”

Peter consulted many refugee sources for this poignant and stirring story. ‘I just love this book!’ *Bryce Courtenay*

Wednesday 14 October, 11.30 for 12 noon

Circle Café, 344 Darling St, Balmain (opposite Short St)



\$50 per head for a delicious two course lunch with boutique wines donated by Bruce Haigh’s Guneemooroo estate, Mudgee

Please join us! Or if you are unable to come, please send us a donation

All proceeds to Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation providing essential support to refugees in Sydney

For bookings call **Kate** on **9810 5826** or e: **katemaclurcan@hotmail.com**

www.asylumseekersfoundation.com

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I would like to help Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation provide direct support for Visa “E” and special category refugees.

Circle if required: Please send me information about direct bank or credit card debits for regular donations.

I enclose a cheque/money order or credit card details for a donation of: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Visa or MasterCard. Card No: ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible