



# Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

UnitingCare NSW.ACT

PO Box 483, Glebe NSW 2037  
Phone: 0418 261 160

Email: [asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com](mailto:asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com)  
Website: [www.asylumseekersfoundation.com](http://www.asylumseekersfoundation.com)

Newsletter October 2005

ABN 78 722 539 923

## Our Work Continues

Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation (BASF) provides support to asylum seekers living in our community under visa conditions which deny them the right to work, the right to study or to participate in voluntary work. These asylum seekers are also denied access to any form of government welfare, public education, Medicare or transport concessions. Asylum seekers must endure these conditions while their claims for refugee status are processed — which may take months, but often takes years. Without the support of Bridge For Asylum Seekers Foundation, these people would be destitute.

### Who does BASF help?

We are here to help those who have a legitimate claim as refugees and who we believe should be provided permanent protection in Australia. When

an asylum seeker asks us for help, one of our caseworkers, in conjunction with our pro bono legal team, scrutinizes their case. Before we can offer assistance we must be convinced that those asking for help are genuine refugees where return to their homeland constitutes a real danger.

### Who are we supporting now?

From our first payments on 18th August, 2003, to the present, BASF has provided constant and essential financial support to hundreds of asylum seekers. Many have needed support for over twelve months. Currently we are supporting around one hundred men, women and children on a regular weekly basis.

### Our supporters

BASF is funded completely by individual donations, with some office support provided

by UnitingCare NSW.ACT, and the Balmain Uniting Church. BASF has been assisted through the generosity of many people, including a number of Foundations who have provided donations of \$1,000 or more. We sincerely thank all those supporters who have helped us through donations and by supporting us at our fund raising events.

### What does the future hold?

BASF constantly receives new applications for help. We anticipate that many asylum seekers currently being assessed at Villawood and Baxter detention centres will be released without work rights or access to welfare. We are grateful that people are released from detention centres, but their visa conditions mean that the pressure to raise more money to help asylum seekers continues to increase.

especially Tom, Rosie and Christine for their inspirational and heart-felt speeches.

The evening was a wonderful success. We raised much needed funds and extended our **Circle of Friends** with a number of new volunteers now visiting refugees at Villawood.

## Another Country in Mosman

On the evening of 11 August, BASF held a book launch for *Another Country*, a collection of writings by asylum seekers who have been held in detention centres in Australia. The launch was held at the Mosman Community Centre and included talks by the book's editors, **Tom Keneally** and **Rosie**

**Scott**, as well as **Christine Rau**. Former detainee and writer **Cheikh Kone** was also there. As a declared "Refugee Welcome Zone", Mosman Council provided the venue free of charge.

BASF thanks all the supporters who came to the launch and

## Upcoming events:

**Theatre Party**  
28 October 2005

**Dance Outside the Wire**  
26 November 2005

**Glittering Fundraiser**  
February/March 2006

## Support from local clubs

This year we applied to local clubs in Sydney for financial assistance under the Community Development Support Expenditure scheme. We warmly thank the following clubs who have provided grants to BASF:

- Bulldogs Leagues Club - \$5,000
- Burwood RSL Club - \$2,000
- Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL Club - \$1,500
- Wests Ashfield - \$1,000
- Wests Sports Club - \$1,000

## Lunch at Renate's

One of our supporters generously hosted a lunch for 35 guests on 22 September. Sabine Erika was the engaging guest speaker who provided enlight-

enment on our current treatment of refugees. Both funds and friends were gathered. Sincere thanks to Renate Kelaher and all our supporters. If you can host

an event, no matter how small, we'd love to hear from you. Call Kate Maclurcan on 9810 5826.

## Coming Events

When BASF started, we hoped to be able to provide the equivalent of social security benefits to our recipients. Unfortunately, we have never been able to do this. We have recently increased our payments, thanks to the generosity of our supporters but those who receive our help still struggle to live. You are invited to support the following upcoming events:

### Theatre Party

We are having a theatre party at NIDA on Friday, 28th October. The performance will be *London Cuckolds*, a restoration

comedy, by Edward Ravenscroft, about three beautiful wives, three ludicrous husbands and one very ambitious rake. Sandwiches will be provided and drinks will be for sale. The theatre is small, so make your reservations early and don't miss the surprise guest speaker.

Tickets are \$50 and \$30 concession. The evening begins at 6pm and the play starts at 7.30. For **bookings** call Lyn Chaikin on 9371 1812 or 0409 661 924.

### Dance outside the Wire

Come along to our bush dance at the **Leichhardt Town Hall**

on Saturday, 26 November from 7-11pm. Music will be provided by **Bushwahzee** and food & drinks will be available. Gather your work colleagues and friends! Make this your work Christmas Party and help refugees at the same time!

Tickets are \$20 and \$10 concession. For **bookings** call Kate Maclurcan on 9810 5826 or [katemaclurcan@hotmail.com](mailto:katemaclurcan@hotmail.com).

A HUGE **GLITTERING Fundraising event** will be held in February/ March, 2006. Stay tuned!

## Support from local councils

We are grateful for the valuable ongoing financial support from City of Sydney Council and Leichhardt Council who fund Kate Maclurcan's role as our Project Coordinator.

City of Sydney Council has also donated \$4,000 towards a fundraising event.

## Theatre Party

See the *London Cuckolds* at NIDA on Friday, 28 October. For bookings call Lyn Chaikin on 9371 1812 or 0409 661 924.

## Dance Outside the Wire

Dance with Bushwahzee at Leichhardt Town Hall on Saturday, 26 November. For Bookings call Kate Maclurcan on 9810 5826.

### Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation

PO Box 483, Glebe NSW 2037

Tel 9810 5826 Mob: 0418 261 160 Email: [asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com](mailto:asylumseekersfoundation@bigpond.com)

Yes, I would like to help the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation provide direct support for "Visa E" and special category refugees and lobby for their better treatment. Please send me

- More information about Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation
- Information about direct bank or credit card debits for regular donations

I enclose a cheque / money order / credit card details for a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa

Name \_\_\_\_\_

MasterCard

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bankcard

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_