

Number 22
April-May 2010

ChangeMakers Refugee Forum Communities Newsletter



Phone (04) 801 5812 Email: info@crf.org.nz Website: www.crf.org.nz

Events Coming Up

Women's Network regional meetings

17 April—Lower Hutt

1 May—Upper Hutt

For more information see story at bottom of page or contact Naomi, ph 801-5012

Maori Culture

Learn about Maori culture

Tuesday, 20 April

8.30am-1pm

Waiwhetu Marae,
4 Pukekapu Grove,
Lower Hutt

AGM, MCLaSS

Thursday, 17 May, 5.30pm
Level 1, MSC

The Mixing Room, Te Papa (Museum of NZ)
Cable St, Wellington

10am—6pm every day &
10am—9pm Thursdays

Entry is free

The next
ChangeMakers Forum
is on

Wednesday 12 May
5.30 to 7.30pm, MSC

If you have a story or a photo about your community we would love to have it in the next newsletter.

Please phone Glenda, ph 801-5816 or email glenda@crf.org.nz

Youth tell their stories at Te Papa

The courage and determination of young people from refugee backgrounds was celebrated at a very special exhibition opening on 10 April.

The exhibition is called The Mixing Room and was organised Te Papa staff with support from ChangeMakers. Over 70 young people tell stories of the joys and difficulties of their lives. They do this through art, film, poetry, performance and new digital media.

You can see their work at Te Papa or online at <http://sites.tepapa.govt.nz/refugeesblog/>

Top photo: Abdalla Gabriel reads poetry at the opening of the Mixing Room exhibition.

Bottom photo: Burmese youth impress the audience with a song



Women get together to share their crafts

Last year we had a very successful Women's Festival. Now women want to get together in their local area, this time to teach each other their special crafts.

There are three events coming up.

Lower Hutt

Saturday 17 April, 4pm - 8pm
Naenae Community Hall,
Corner Everest St / Treadwell St

Upper Hutt

Saturday 1 May, 12.30 - 4pm
Trentham Masonic Centre

Wellington - May (date not yet decided).
It will be held at Newtown School Hall.

The Porirua event was held over Easter. The women who went along enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new friends from other communities.



Bawk Mai and her children were at the Porirua event on 5 April

Update on Hutt Community Learning Centre

ChangeMakers is working with communities in the Hutt Valley because they want a centre to help families support their young people at school.

Robert Byer, one of ChangeMakers Community Workers, is leading this project. He is working with ChangeMakers staff Alia Bloom (Research) and Tessa Johnstone (Youth Worker). They are helping him to assess the needs of the communities and the young people who will use the Centre.

A Steering Group with fundraising, education, management skills and an understanding of communities, is being set up.

We will keep you updated.

For more information contact Robert, phone 528 4027, email robert@crf.org.nz



Young people helped plan the new Community Learning Centre. It will be a place students and their families can go to get help with their studies and understand how schools work.

ChangeMakers employs Research and Youth advocates

We are very pleased to announce that Rahwa Hagos will be joining ChangeMakers as our Research Advocate. She will work 15 hours per week. You may already know Rahwa through her work in her own Ethiopian community.

Rahwa will be working closely with our Research Coordinator, Alia Bloom. They want to make sure that refugee-background communities are active participants in refugee research, and to work with communities and agencies to develop new systems of research and ways to share information. To find out more, email us at alia@crf.org.nz

We're also very lucky to have youth worker Soul Naisali-Ramese joining us for 15 hours a week. He is an experienced youth worker from Wellington, of Samoan and Papua New Guinean descent. He will be working with young men in the Eastern Suburbs, including Newtown, to get them busy creating good lives for themselves.

Chance to support MCLaSS

MCLaSS needs more Society members. It elects its Board from the Society, so it needs a strong membership from all the community groups that use its services.

Society members need to go to the AGM and to vote. They may also nominate others to be Board members, or stand for nomination themselves.

To find out more ring Mary, the MCLaSS manager, 384 3693 ext 203.

New book tells community stories

A new book about refugee communities was launched on 1 April. It tells the stories of the friendships between refugee communities and the mentors who support them.

For a free copy contact Naomi at ChangeMakers, phone 801 5812, email naomi@crf.org.nz

Get Set Go workshop

An essential workshop for organisers of community programmes and events.

Tuesday 27 April 9am—12.30pm

Seniors Room, Wellington Library, Victoria St

No charge for community members.

Contact Naomi or Annie, phone 801 5812

Visit ChangeMakers' website

www.crf.org.nz

for the latest news

