

Number 21
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Communities Newsletter



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Events Coming Up



Women's Craft Group

First Saturday of every month

1pm-4pm Wellington

St Anne's School Hall,
Green St, Newtown

Last Saturday of every month

4pm-7pm Lower Hutt

NaeNae Community Centre,
Treadwell St, Naenae

The next ChangeMakers
Community Forum is on
Sunday 22 May,
4:00 to 6.30pm, at MSC

How's your life been in past 10 years?

ChangeMakers is looking for Eritrean, Vietnamese, Somali, Sudanese, Iraqi, and Assyrian youth who were 8-13 years old when they arrived in NZ between 1993-1999. We'd like to find out it's been like for you to live in NZ.

If you are aged 18-29 and can attend a focus group on **Monday May 9 at 5:30pm** then contact alia@crf.org.nz or phone 801-5812 or text 021 151 5074. We can pay \$50 koha plus travel costs.

Dancing brings women together



Women from many ethnic backgrounds celebrated through dance at the Women's Festival in January 2011.

This is the second time the Festival for women from refugee background communities from Wellington, Porirua and Hutt Valley has been held. About 100 women enjoyed the chance to share food, dance and spend time together.

Equity status for refugee background students

ChangeMakers is part of a new campaign to have refugee-background students recognised as an equity group in government policy and at NZ universities and polytechnics.

The aim is to enable greater numbers of refugee background students to enrol and complete their studies.

Success would mean they would be able to access additional study support and resources. A campaign paper will include information about

the impact of stopping the refugee study grants in 2010, research from current refugee background students on the challenges and barriers they face, and a look at the impact on the achievements of Pasifika students who are an equity group under the current system.

The National Refugee Network, Association of ESOL Teachers and Victoria University academics are also involved in the campaign.

For more information contact Ali Bloom, phone 801 5812 or email alia@crf.org.nz

Youth collabor8 for World Refugee Day drama

Collabor8 is the name youth have given to their drama group preparing a performance for World Refugee Day on 20th June 2011.

Refugee background youth from Wellington and the Hutt Valley are developing a drama about their schooling with the support of Voice Arts Trust and ChangeMakers.

They want to share and understand the differences between the education in their countries of origin or the refugee camps where they had their initial education. They also want to help their parents understand schools in New Zealand and how they can support their children.



Youth from six different refugee backgrounds learn to tell their stories about their schooling using drama

Sudanese NZer takes up nursing job



Christine Gabriel has recently achieved a major milestone in her and her family's life — she qualified with a Bachelor of Nursing. This was quickly followed by a nursing job.

Christine and her family arrived as refugees, originally from Sudan, in 2000. Not only has she succeeded in a language and culture that is different from her own, she has also raised three children. Christine joins a growing number of graduates from refugee backgrounds who are successfully graduating from universities around the country.

Share your story

We would love to publish your story in our newsletter.

Contact glenda@crf.org.nz or phone 801 5812 .

New course on public speaking skills

A new group of refugee background speakers are learning the art of public speaking.

Trainer Allison Webber is teaching four people the skills of speaking about their experiences before arriving in NZ and the challenges of resettlement.

“Our aim is for NZers who are not from a refugee background to have a greater understanding of their fellow citizens who are now living here.” said Tim O’Donovan, ChangeMakers’ General Manager. “We have had funding from the UNHCR office in Canberra to train speakers.”

If you would like a speaker for an event please contact Tim on 801 5816 or tim@crf.org.nz

Refugees into Business review

Since August 2009 ChangeMakers has been supporting people from across refugee background communities to start their own business.

Zerai Mewos, who is responsible for the initiative says, “The programme has enabled former refugees to explore whether their business idea is feasible and to get advice and support from experienced, practical, business people.”

ChangeMakers and the Advisory group, which is made up of professionals with business experience, reviewed the programme. “The review will ensure that the programme continues to meet the needs of people from refugee backgrounds who are wanting to start a business,” says Zerai Mewos.

If you are interested in starting your own business please contact Zerai on 801-5812 or zerai@crf.org.nz