



Centrelink
Regional Multicultural Service Officer:
Caz Pilgrim
122-124 Kite St, Orange NSW 2800,
Tel. 6392 6506.

Caz travels from Lithgow to Condobolin and is more than happy to speak with you by phone or meet with you at a Centrelink office in your area.

You can also phone the Centrelink Call Centre on **131202** and speak to someone in your language



WE CAN HELP!

If you have recently arrived in the region or have lived here longer and wish to find out more about local services and social groups, your local Information & Neighbourhood Centre is a good place to start.

Bathurst: Monique van Toor, Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre, Tel. 6332 4866

Cowra: Kim Withers, Cowra Information & Neighbourhood Centre, Tel. 6342 4900

Dubbo: Gwen Young, Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre, Tel. 6882 2100

Lithgow: Sonia Cox, Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre, Tel. 6352 2077

Orange: Anni Gallagher, Orange Community Information & Services Centre, Tel. 6393 8625



Every second month the **International Friendship Group** of Bathurst is holding a social evening with a guest speaker, who usually gives a presentation about their country of origin or a country they have visited. Supper is provided. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Dates for 2011 : 7 September and 2 November.

Time: 7pm

Venue: HACC (Home and Community Care) meeting room, 55 Seymour St, Bathurst.

For more information please contact Ruth on 0449 143 762

Multicultural News is a free newsletter produced and distributed twice a year (usually February/March and July/August). It is compiled by the Migrant Support Worker based at:

Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre,
96 Russell Street PO Box 1469 – Bathurst NSW
2795 Tel: 6332 4866 -Fax 6332 1244
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Department of Immigration & Citizenship (DIAC)



PLANNED VISIT BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN MID TO LATE SEPTEMBER

At time of printing the planned visit to the region by officers of DIAC could not be confirmed. Please contact your nearest centre in the list below to check for dates and times.

If you have any questions about family migration, citizenship and other immigration related matters, these visits are a great opportunity to speak to qualified officers without having to go to Sydney.

Bathurst
Bathurst Information & Neighbourhood Centre
96 Russell Street, Bathurst
6332 4866

Orange
Orange Community Information & Services Centre
79 Kite Street, Orange
6393 8600

Cowra
Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre
15 Vaux Street, Cowra
6342 4900

Dubbo
Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre
213 Brisbane Street, Dubbo
6882 2100

Parkes
Parkes and District Neighbourhood Centre
80 Currajong Street, Parkes
6862 3757

Lithgow
Lithgow Information & Neighbourhood Centre
1 Padley Street, Lithgow
6352 2077



“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela

Multicultural News

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for the Central West and Beyond

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Dear readers,

I hope you will enjoy this August edition of the multicultural newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article or a photo please don't hesitate to contact me. Officers of DIAC are planning to visit the region again in September. To confirm their visit and to check local dates and times see back page. As always, feedback is welcome!

Regards, Monique

Ph. 6332 4866

email: migrantsupport@binc.org.au

SURVIVORS, PROTECTORS, PROVIDERS



A Refugee Women's Dialogue was held in Orange in June. Most of the women attending live in Orange, 2 in Cowra and 2 in Bathurst. Their countries of origin are Sudan and Iraq. The dialogue provided human rights training and a platform for the women to share problems and develop solutions. The storyboards and a report of the women's discussions, as well as photos of the day, were shared with the Centre for Refugee Research at the national Women's Dialogue held at the University of NSW, which was the culmination of more than 30

dialogues hosted around Australia March – June 2011. The dialogues enabled refugee women and girls to speak about their problems and concerns; about what they and their families have found helpful in settling in Australia, and their ideas to improve the lives of refugee women and girls. Australian dialogues were part of the larger Regional Dialogues project which has been commissioned by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as part of the commemorations for the 60th anniversary of the Refugee Convention.



The report can be found at: <http://refugeecon2011.arts.unsw.edu.au/program/womens-dialogue.html>

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Valangha Khoza, guest presenter from Melbourne, leading the African Singing and Drumming workshops for Refugee Week in Orange. Over 50 attended drumming and over 100 attended the singing workshops, including many children.

News from the region — Orange

“The secondary migration of Sudanese to Orange means that 70 adults and over 180 children now call Orange home” said Migrant Support Officer, Anni Gallagher. “Sudanese families are involved with nearly each school in Orange, and also most generalist services, such as Health, Housing, and Education. Adjustments have been made to utilise Interpreter Services to offer best practice to this newer client group for the area; this also benefits the many other migrants and refugees that have also moved to the area. The increased diversity is of great benefit to this growing region”.

Parkes Meet and Greet Group

The Parkes Meet and Greet Group, continues to grow attracting new members at each of its bi monthly meetings, especially those new to Parkes from any background. The topics vary and this year have included: Gardening at Viki’s place; preparations for a display at the Quota International Women’s Day (IWD) forum and in July Sue Clarke from Netwaste came and demonstrated recycling and some fun activities for the school holidays making beautiful beads from recycled magazines.

Meet and Greet enjoy a shared multicultural lunch at the Parkes Information and Neighbourhood Centre, 80 Currajong Street and participants are always welcome. The next meetings will be held on: 2 September and 4 November 2011.



Harmony Day Forbes, 40-50 people attended a morning tea, and enjoyed food, singing and hearing from the multicultural participants.

Article and photos on this page provided by Anni Gallagher Migrant Support Worker Orange

For further information about any activities in Orange, Forbes or Parkes please contact Anni Gallagher (contact details on page 4)

Important Notice to all people on our mailing list

We are asked from time to time to pass on addresses to local councils, the Community Relations Commission or other organisations involved with multiculturalism to enable them to send out relevant information and invitations. If you do not wish your address to be passed on, please let us know by calling 02 6332 4866



Parkes International Women's Day

Forbes Multicultural Group

Forbes Multicultural group meets once per term and this year the focus has been for Harmony Day at the Forbes TAFE Library with 45 participants who enjoyed a sumptuous morning tea, singing and introductions. Forbes will host a luncheon in the coming months, call 6393 8625 for more

Orange Sudanese Sewing Group

A group of six Sudanese women recently attended Judy Haling’s Sewing Studio at Clifton Grove Orange to learn to use sewing machines. This group will form the leadership for a new sewing group soon to start in Orange at the Senior Citizen’s Centre, on a fortnightly basis.

“The women have been asking to learn sewing and the opportunity came up to make use of some sewing machines from Ms Haling’s studio, a very generous donation” said Anni Gallagher, Migrant Support Officer with Orange City Council.

“The new group is planned for Term three, meeting at the Senior Citizen’s Centre on Friday fortnightly, and will enable coffee and conversation as well as learning some basic sewing techniques”, said Ms Gallagher.



Sudanese Sewing group, teacher Judy Haling, Kloum Arga and Sayeda Gumeiz

Bathurst Celebrates Philippine Independence Day

The Filipiniana Friends Group of Bathurst and the Central West organised this festive event in cooperation with the Bathurst Regional Council and the Bathurst Lions Club which was supported by the Philippine Community Council of NSW and the Philippine Consulate General of Sydney. The event took place on Saturday 4 June in Berry Park, near the Evans Bridge, the Filipino Australian Community celebrated the 113th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence from Spanish Oppression.

The highlight of the ceremony was the raising of the Australian and Philippine Flags by Bathurst Lions Club and the singing of the National Anthems of both countries. Inspirational speeches were made by the Bathurst Mayor and Member of Parliament, and longtime supporter of the Filipino Community and hugely popular The Honourable Paul Toole, the Philippines Consul General, The Honourable Anne Jalando-on Louis, and Nenita Weekes, President of the Filipiniana Friends Group of Bathurst and the Central West.

The speeches emphasised loyalty towards Filipino traditions and their adopted country of Australia, where they have proved to be model immigrants, law abiding and hard working.



From Nyngan and Central Coast to Bathurst celebrating 113th Philippine Independence at the Evans Bridge (L-R): Linda, Josephine, Alice, Menchie, Mayet, Nancy and Agnes



113th Philippine Independence and flag raising ceremony with Consul General Anne J. Louis and Paul Toole MP

A short prayer was delivered pointing out the importance of freedom and praying for the end of political, social and natural calamities in the Philippines.

The flag raising was followed by a traditional Filipino Feast at the St Michael and John Parish Hall and some local entertainment. The event is an annual affair which has been running for the last seven years thanks to Bathurst Lions Club who provided the huge flag which they also help to raise during the Historic Philippine event. Bathurst Philippine Independence Celebration and Flag Raising is held at approximately the same time next year. All are welcome to participate in this significant multicultural event.

Article and photos by Nenita Weekes

Disability Information Advocacy Service (DIAS)

DIAS is an independent information & advocacy service for people with disability, their families & carers.

We can refer people with disability to activities and services of their choice in the community.

Problems we can assist with includes: access to accommodation, aids and equipment, education, employment, financial, family and social supports, health, independent living, abuse and neglect, respite, rights etc.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our website www.dias.net.au where you will find useful information and our Disability Community Services Guide.

DIAS is a free service and outreaches to all communities from Lithgow to Dubbo.

To make an appointment contact our office in Bathurst

6332 2100

or email

admin@dias.net.au

