

# Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



July 2008 Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam> Email: [AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com](mailto:AHIE.Stewart@bigpond.com)

## This Month's Meeting Friday 18th July at 8pm Eltham Living and Learning Centre. This Month's Meeting will be a Business Meeting

Our July 18th meeting will be a chance to catch up on business matters, and to organize upcoming events such as the Book fair.

At our August 15th Oxfam - D.V. meeting, there will be a short presentation from Donna Parker from the **The Fair Trade Nillumbik Project** about the campaign to see Nillumbik recognised as a "Fair Trade Community".

A second speaker will tell us about **World Vision Australia's campaign Don't Trade Lives**, focusing on the connection with the chocolate trade. The speaker will touch on Fair Trade, which, as you know, Oxfam supports.

The information below comes from the **Don't Trade Lives** website:

**Don't Trade Lives** is a new campaign by World Vision to unite Australians against human trafficking and slavery. Human trafficking is a modern day slave trade. The buying and selling of people for exploitative labour is the third biggest crime in the world today behind drugs and arms. Every sector of Australian society can impact on human trafficking in our region.

Take chocolate, for example. About 70% of the world's chocolate is produced using cocoa beans farmed in West African nations. In the Ivory Coast and Ghana, children are routinely forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions to help harvest the beans. Some of these children are taken or enticed from their homes. Others come "voluntarily" to cocoa farms, only to find themselves enslaved.

This is one of the most appalling kinds of exploitative labour. And it's all because corporations, middlemen and farm owners are eager to profit from the world's insatiable appetite for chocolate on the one hand and easily exploitable labour on the other.

## Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Thankyou for the many scarves and hats brought for asylum seekers. There was also a large amount of food at the Centre. Now there are more requests:

### Art Materials and Volunteers Needed!

The Social and Recreation team are running '**Light On The Path Ahead**' creative arts, music, drama and dance workshops at the ASRC, on a Sunday from 12.00 till 4.30pm, from July 27 for 6 weeks. We welcome new volunteers to our next meeting, on **Monday 30th June @ The Spot, 133 Sydney Road, Brunswick, 6:30 - 8pm**. It would be lovely to have volunteers help prepare the lunch, assist with the art work or activities like drum making and weaving and help clean up afterwards. Please contact our Social/ Recreation Coordinator, Michelle Newton, if you think you can come on one or several Sundays. The aim of the workshops is to give asylum seekers the opportunity to use and show their creativity.

We are also looking for donations of these materials:

- \*Old Sheets, material (preferably plain)
- \*Yarn, buttons etc
- \*Screen printing screens and equipment
- \*Paint (Acrylic and Fabric)
- \*1000 x bamboo skewers
- \*10 rolls x greaseproof paper
- \*pink, red, orange, yellow tissue paper
- \*1 roll x 1.25mm wire
- \*5 lts x PVA glue
- \*10 mt x plastic table covering
- \*1 x very large, old tarp to cover floor
- \* Musical instruments - drum, guitar etc.

If you can help out in a workshop or by donating any of these goods, please contact Lou on 0423775571 or email: [louisepianta@yahoo.com.au](mailto:louisepianta@yahoo.com.au)

Many thanks!  
Social & Recreation Team

**P.S.** Michelle, our Soc/Rec coordinator tells me that already the interest and enthusiasm shown by a number of our asylum seeker members and volunteers are a promise of exciting things to come.

### ASRC Material Aid is seeking:

- New socks (unisex)
- baby bottles
- new or second hand (in good condition and clean) sheets

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## Hamper sent to a good cause:

Recently, Pat Cameron offered our Oxfam group a hamper for a raffle, but there didn't seem to be a suitable occasion to conduct one, so the hamper went to a Burma Relief Concert in Warrandyte. Pat said it had gone to a good cause and hopefully would raise some money to help where much help is needed.

## ANTaR (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) Victoria News & Events

### NAIDOC week –

Walking talking living black 6-13 July  
Check out the NAIDOC Calendar

<http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/documents/NAIDOC2008Calendar.pdf>

And, don't forget the NAIDOC Day march on 11 July, leaving at 10:30 from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (186 Nicholson St, Fitzroy) to Federation Square.

### \*NAIDOC Cabinet exhibition\*

7 - 31 July, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlise St. A display of local artists' works and looped screening of What Makes Me Feel Free? photos taken during this year's Yalukit Wilam Ngargee: People Place Gathering festival.

### \*A lost year\*

The Northern Territory intervention's primary accomplishment has been to demonise Aboriginal people and diminish Australia, writes Jeff McMullen in the National Indigenous Times

<http://www.nit.com.au/opinion/story.aspx?id=15310>

### \*Indigenous Human Rights Forum report\*

The full report from this forum held in February by the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services is available online.

[http://www.humanrightsccommission.vic.gov.au/publications/reports\\_and\\_discussion\\_papers/indigenous\\_human\\_rights\\_report.asp](http://www.humanrightsccommission.vic.gov.au/publications/reports_and_discussion_papers/indigenous_human_rights_report.asp)

### \*Position Vacant - The Torch Project\*

The Torch Project is one of the most respected Community Cultural Development organisations working in the Indigenous / non-Indigenous intersection. They are currently seeking a Community Development Manager with a passion for social change to be part of the company

<http://www.thetorch.asn.au/?q=positionsvacant>

### \*Getup! online petition:

#### Help prevent another apology\*

It's one year since the announcement of John Howard's 'NT Intervention' - but what exactly has been achieved since then? That's the question faced by the Rudd Government as they consider the controversial 'emergency measures' they have inherited. Sign the petition online.

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/RollBackNotRollOut>

Read the fact sheet

<http://www.getup.org.au/blogs/view.php?id=1335>

### \*Volunteer during NAIDOC Week\*

Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport and Recreation (MAYSAR) are holding a BBQ event in Fitzroy on 11 July following the NAIDOC march, if you can spare a few hours between 1:00 and 5:00, please contact ANTaR for more information (9419 3613).

### \*\*Gone for a song' Authors' talk\*

Tuesday 15 July, 6:30pm,  
Solidarity Salon, 58- Sydney Rd Brunswick\*  
Geoff Waters, journalist, and author of "Gone for a Song" a book telling the full story about the death in custody of Mulrunji Doomadji on Palm Island in 2004, and calling for the full release of compelling evidence being kept secret, will be talking about this new book. A Q&A session will follow. Free entry, a collection will be taken to help fund an upcoming Melbourne speaking tour by Lex Wotton.

### THE POWER OF IDEAS

Tuesday 15 July, 6 - 7.30pm: entry from 5.30pm  
BMW Edge, Federation Square,  
Cnr. Flinders & Swanston Streets

How ideas serve to assist in understanding, forming & renewing Australia.

#### Speakers:

Professor Larissa Behrendt,  
Professor of Law & Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning  
Mr Julian Burnside, QC,  
President, Liberty Victoria, & Barrister  
Dr Richard Dennis,  
Executive Director, Australia Institute  
Mr Rodney Hall, OAM –  
Writer & Musician  
Moderator: Ms Ramona Koval,  
ABC Broadcaster, Journalist & Writer