

# Oxfam - Diamond Valley Newsletter



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

**Next Oxfam-Diamond Valley  
meeting  
Friday 19th September at 8pm  
Eltham Living and Learning Centre.**

**Jeff Atkinson of Oxfam will talk on Fair Trade.**

For the past 25 years Jeff has worked as a campaigner, activist, policy advisor, lobbyist and campaign manager for development NGOs (Australian Volunteers International, Community Aid Abroad, Oxfam GB, Oxfam Australia, and Oxfam International). In the 1980s and 1990s the issues he worked on included the quality of government aid programs, the arms trade and Australian military exports, labour rights and 'sweatshops', and the activities of Australian mining companies in Indonesia. This latter was a joint campaign with an Indonesian NGO (JATAM) to directly support communities adversely affected by a large mining operation in their midst.

He was responsible for the Australian part of the campaign, which involved taking their complaints directly to the companies in Australia and the UK (with mixed success) and advocating for an industry-wide code of practice. Since 2001 his time has been spent exclusively on a large international Oxfam campaign called 'Make Trade Fair', which was run in both the North and South. This has had several 'sub-campaigns' within it:

1. making World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules fairer for developing countries;
2. pharmaceutical patents and access to affordable medicines;
3. ensuring a fair price for poor farmers who grow coffee beans;
4. defending the rights of women garment workers.

**Donna Parker**, our second speaker for the September meeting, will present a local project called "The Fair Trade Nillumbik Project."

The **Fair Trade Nillumbik Project** involves a group of local residents committed to generating awareness and a demand for the Fair Trade label via public education and local action within the local area. Their vision is to see the community of Nillumbik recognized as a "FairTrade Community" by Fair Trade Australia and New Zealand (FTAANZ). The group is campaigning for Nillumbik Council's involvement.

Donna will also talk about Fair Trade in general and show a DVD on Fair Trade sports balls and their impact on communities in Pakistan. In addition, she will advertize an acclaimed film on the subject, to be screened in October.

(Donna's talk was postponed from our August meeting to allow sufficient time for her presentation.)

## **Nillumbik Reconciliation Group AGM**

The **Nillumbik Reconciliation Group (NRG) Annual General Meeting** will be on **Tuesday 7th October, 7pm** at **Le Pines Meeting Room, 848 Main Road, Eltham.**

Following the AGM, the speaker at 7.30pm will be Reg Blow, an Indigenous leader who runs the Maya Healing Centre in Thornbury. He will speak about its work, with special reference to the health problems of urban Indigenous people.

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The Oxfam-Diamond Valley Book Fair  
Senior Citizens' Hall, Main Road, Eltham  
(Melway Ref 21 J5)  
**Saturday 18th October, 8am - 6pm.**

**Sorting of books** for the Book Fair is now ongoing in the 'dungeon' under and at the back of the Eltham Library on **Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 - 4.30pm.**  
Many hands make light work.

To **donate books**, please contact Beth Pender on 9439 1716.

**Bookmarks** and **flyers** are on the web site (see above) for printing out and distributing to friends, putting on shop windows, etc.

## Projects

At our August meeting, the group chose to support the last three projects in this list taken from the August 2008 Oxfam Australia Group and State Committee Newsletter:

PROJECT	Amount needed
Mining Ombudsman	\$40,000
Close the Gap	\$31,000
Resettlement Program - Mekong	\$30,000
International Crisis Fund	\$30,000
<b>Food Security HIV/AIDS - Southern Africa</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Indigenous Australia Yorgum</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Timor-Leste Nutrition and Community Health</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>

**India: Sunita Narain, on "Learning from the environmentalism of the poor to build our common future":**

**Ms Sunita Narain** heads the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)**, which monitors air pollution levels around India, studies the effects of climate change and campaigns on how to lead greener lives. She and the CSE led a successful campaign to compel all public vehicles in Delhi to switch to clean compressed natural gas, the first such city in the world. Her criticism of Coca-Cola and PepsiCo spurred some Indian states to ban sales of Coke and Pepsi in 2006 due to allegedly high levels of pesticide.

Awarded the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize for CSE's work promoting decentralized water management through rainwater harvesting, Narain travels the country advocating that natural resources, especially water, must be protected to benefit the poor. Presenters: Asialink & the Australia India Council, supported by Australia South Asia Research Center, ANU.

**Wednesday, 17th Sept. 1:15 pm sharp,** Charles Pearson Theatre, Ground Floor, ERC Building, University of Melbourne. FREE, RSVP essential by sending an email with "Sunita Narain" in the subject line to [events@asialink.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:events@asialink.unimelb.edu.au)

### **DIAMOND VALLEY OXFAM**

#### **VENUE**

8.00pm 3rd Friday of each month  
Living and Learning Nilumbik  
739 Main Rd Eltham, Melway Ref 21 J7

#### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Meeting Chairman - Stephen Lavender 9439 2063  
Meeting Organizers - Carole Wigg 9439 7272

Marguerite Marshall,  
John Kent, 9434 6882,  
Joan Pickard

Treasurer & Membership - Alister Rowe 9435 5958  
Publicity Officer & Webmaster-John Kent 9434 6882

Minutes Secretary - Elizabeth Stewart 9459 4429  
Book Fair Coordinator - Beth Pender 9439 1716  
Trade Winds Tea/Coffee - Val Byers