

1. Our Group continues to be active in the Bathurst community, particularly in relation to the hosting program. It is a delight to welcome new and younger members.
2. Current and topical issues affecting Refugees continue to be circulated to Group members via email. During 2011 at the close of the meeting members enjoyed soups from various cultures prepared by Ross Macindoe and were able to discuss issues and socialize.
3. Stories which have been shared have included:
 - Malinda Cuttiford re her trip to Cambodia with Global Aid Network to use her nursing skills.
 - Greg Hyde told of his grandmother's refugee experience coming from Russia to settle in Australia. He very generously donated 5 sets of etchings with 4 in each set depicting the different modes of travel to Australia including by boat for the Group to use to raise funds.
 - Eva Engelmann provided the Group with her story coming to Australia as a refugee from Prague.
 - Bob Smith on his recent visit to Bangladesh, being his 8th visit to support people in Bangladesh.
 - Monique van Toor gave a presentation on the "Refugee Women's Dialogue" which she attended in Orange.
4. Further letters were sent to both the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, at the 2nd August 2011, and to the Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, at 4th February 2012 requesting a meeting to talk about resettlement of refugees and the future possibility of the resettlement of refugees within the Bathurst area. No reply has been received.
5. A letter dated 14th December 2011 to the member for Calare, The Hon John Cobb MP, asking if he could arrange a meeting with either the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary received a reply recommending that contact be made with the Parliamentary Secretary.
6. The Group is very pleased that both the Catholic Bishop of Bathurst, Michael McKenna, and the Anglican Bishop of Bathurst, Richard Hurford, agreed to be co-Patrons of the Group.
7. The Group hosted very successful visits during the year from:

- An African Women's Cultural Group, 29th April – 1st May
 - Chaldean Women, 29th – 31st July
 - A Spanish Speaking Women's Group, 26th – 28th November
8. Our Group was involved with a group of young people of Iraqi background who stayed at Rahamim on 4th June. They were referred from STARTTS and came for leadership training.
 9. The Group hosted in the House of Welcome a Fijian couple with their baby daughter for a week's respite. The couple are asylum seekers from Fiji and were referred by STARTTS.
 10. This year BRSG are currently planning visits from the Spanish Speaking Women's Group in November again; and also probably the African Women's Cultural Group.
 11. BRSG received \$550-00 from Bathurst Regional Council under their Section 356 Donation Program in July 2011 towards the cost of hosting visits. A cheque for this amount was presented by the Mayor at a function at the Council. BRSG have again this year submitted an application for funding under this program.
 12. Refugee Sunday Ecumenical Service was hosted by All Saints Cathedral on 28th August. The Guest Speaker was Dr Sev Ozdowski, a former Australian Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner.
 13. BRSG hosted a very successful fundraising and awareness dinner on Saturday night 27th August at which more than 220 persons attended, rfrom a wide cross section of the Bathurst community. The Special Guest Speaker was Dr Sev Ozdowski, a one-time refugee and former Australian Human Rights Commissioner who stated that refugees' human rights are being ignored and "it is time to tell our government that we wish to be fair to people who seek our protection."
 14. Representatives of the Group met with the Mayor, Cr Greg Westman, on 12th October; and with the Director Cultural Affairs, Annabel Miller, on 30th November.
 15. A visit to STARTTS in October enabled our ongoing contact to be maintained with Gary Cachia, Daniel Zu and others at STARTTS.
 16. Representatives of the Group participated in a teleconference with the Refugee Council of Australia on the subject of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program.
 17. BRSG hosted a Twilight Gathering at Rahamim on Friday 2nd December with Phil Glendenning from the Edmund Rice Centre as the Guest speaker. A short documentary called "The Hungry Tide" which highlights the plight refugees face was shown.
 18. The Group gave a donation of \$1,000-00 through the Edmund Rice Centre for phone cards for refugees.

19. A very successful Workshop organized by Ross Macindoe was held on 6th March under the title "Bringing Refugees to Bathurst - What is; What if; What could be?" Gary Cachia, Virginia Lee and Daniel Zu attended from STARTTS. From this Workshop a Sub-Committee has been formed to further develop a plan of action.
20. The Kath Knowles House of Welcome has been utilized by groups from Sydney. It is being maintained by the Group which pays all utility charges. The matter of ongoing maintenance is an issue which needs to be addressed.
21. A new updated brochure was produced and distributed at the Dinner in August.
22. Media contacts have been maintained both through the local print media and Radio Station 2BS. Articles included information relating to the Dinner in August, the Twilight Gathering in December, Refugee Sunday Service, International Volunteers Day and We're Here to Help.
23. Individual members of the Group have also had letters published by the Western Advocate in relation to refugee issues.