

1. The Bathurst Refugee Support Group continues to be active across the Bathurst community with many of its members being able to share their experiences in other community groups.
2. Topical issues affecting Refugees and Asylum Seekers, particularly from refugee advocates, continue to be circulated to Group members via email.
3. STARTTS (NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) conducted an excellent Training Day on Saturday 20th April. The group was assisted in identifying a strategic plan underpinning focus areas for the remainder of the year.
4. A very successful Community Forum was held at St Stanislaus College on Saturday 3rd August focusing on the human rights aspect of Australia's refugee situation. The key speakers were Ellen Hansen, a Senior Protection Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Paul Power, the CEO of the Refugee Council of Australia.
5. Stories which have been shared have included:
 - Susan Meyer, a volunteer with Balmain for Refugees and Bridge for Asylum Seekers, shared stories from her experience including an enlightening case study.
 - Sister Pat Linnane reported on her visit to Curtin Detention Centre and described some of the needs of the people housed there.
6. The Kath Knowles House of Welcome has continued to be utilized by groups coming from Sydney to enjoy some form of respite. These groups are being referred from the Sydney House of Welcome, Mercy Refugee Service and STARTTS. The Cottage is being maintained by BRSG which pays all utility charges.
7. The Sisters of Mercy have been reviewing the usage of all their properties, and are currently looking at a proposal for redevelopment of this Cottage.
8. The Refugee Sunday Service was hosted by the Presbyterian Church on Sunday 23rd June. The Speaker was Paul Bottrill from the House of Welcome in Sydney. Some African refugees who came with Paul attended and the Refugee from the Congo read the key Bible sentence in French. Also Margaret Kanongovere took part, twice reading in her Shona language.
9. RAFAS (Rural Australians for Asylum Seekers) held a successful Refugee Week Function on Saturday 22nd June in the Macquarie Plaza.

10. Bathurst Refugee Support Group remains keen to investigate the various possibilities of resettling refugees within the Bathurst Region.
11. The Group is still in the early stages of discussion with the Red Cross relating to a co-operative proposal for Asylum Seekers on 5 years bridging visas coming to Bathurst.
12. BRSG has resolved to adopt a new Constitution which has been customized for the Group. It was agreed that the AGM for the Group will be held on the fourth Thursday of every October beginning with the 24th October 2013.
13. BRSG resolved to donate \$500-00 to each of the following three Agencies:
 - The Refugee Council of Australia
 - Mercy Refugee Service Detention Centre Program
 - United Nations High Commission for Refugees Syria Appeal
14. BRSG will be considering what type of Celebratory Event would be most appropriate for it to promote for the Bathurst Bi-Centennial Celebration in 2015.
15. Media contacts continue to be maintained through the local print media and 2BS. Articles included good coverage relating to the Community Forum and Community Services information.