

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. The Bathurst Refugee Support Group has adopted a new Constitution, which has been officially lodged with the NSW Department of Fair Trading.
4. An Interest Free Loans Scheme has been established for migrants and refugees identified by BRSG or BINC's Migrant Support Worker, and as identified in the Appendix to the minutes of the September monthly meeting. Loans will be approved on a case by case basis.
5. Bathurst's Anglican and Catholic Bishops, Ian Palmer and Michael McKenna, have agreed to be joint Patrons for the Group.
6. A new Brochure for the Bathurst Refugee Support Group has been produced. This Brochure covers the Group's aims, planned activities for 2014-2015 including key speakers.
7. The Group is working with Mike Kesterton of 'Tribalise' to develop a Website which will accurately reflect the agenda and goals of the Group. The basic content to-do list for the website will include a Home Page (Overview of the Group's primary Charter, and Secondary Activities); Activities; Patronage; BRSG Structure and Governance, and Contact Us Details.
8. Provided support to BINC in applying for a Community Inclusion Grant of \$20,000-00. The proposal was to help publish a book of Stories and Recipes from people of different cultural backgrounds who have settled in Bathurst. Such a publication would tie in with the Bathurst 200 Celebrations.
9. The Group received \$1,800-00 from the Bathurst Regional Council Section 356 Grant program to assist with its respite and education initiatives.
10. The Refugee and Migrant Sunday Service was hosted by The Catholic Parish Centre on Sunday 22nd June. The address, given by Paul Bottrill Executive Officer of the Sydney House of Welcome, described the increasingly harsh policies of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and how policy changes are destroying hope for the asylum seekers whom the Sydney House of Welcome seeks to support. It was encouraging to see a range of ages taking part and donations of \$320-50 were given to the House of welcome.
11. Representatives of the Bathurst Refugee Support Group met with the Mayor and Councillors at a Community Groups Session on Wednesday 14th May. A briefing paper was provided to Council prior to the meeting outlining the Group's aims and how these are being achieved. At the meeting BRSG representatives spoke to the paper and answered questions. BRSG Representatives have been invited to attend a similar meeting on Wednesday 12th November to further discuss the current projects being undertaken by the Bathurst Refugee Support Group.
12. A Youth 4 Youth Forum was held at St Stanislaus Performing Arts Centre on Sunday 31st August. Youth from Bathurst and surrounding areas were invited to attend with the aim

- of raising awareness for young asylum seekers and to support Youth in Detention. Around 80 young people participated in a range of activities with the guest speakers relating well to the young people. Pat Linnane, Anne Wenham, Sue Lyne and the Youth Organisers are to be congratulated on this successful initiative.
13. Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission spoke at a Public Lecture at Charles Sturt University on 12th September. This was preceded by a Mayoral Reception in the Bathurst Regional Council Chambers to which BRSG members were invited. Professor Triggs spoke with authority on human rights and children in detention, and after the lecture was generous with her time in talking with people.
 14. Planning is underway for the visit of Phil Glendenning, President of the Refugee Council of Australia, to visit Bathurst on Wednesday 10th December, World Human Rights Day, with the possibility of Malcolm Fraser, former Prime Minister, also being present.
 15. The BRSG will be involved in the Bathurst 200 Celebrations during 2015. The Mayor, Councillor Gary Rush, outlined plans for Bathurst's Bicentenary Celebrations at the Group's August meeting. Arrangements are in hand with STARTTS for a number of Burmese refugees from the Karen and Kachin ethnic groups to provide ethnic songs and dances on Sunday 3rd May after the Multi-Faith Ceremony.
 16. The Kath Knowles House of Welcome has been renovated and extended by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. BRSG will be entering into a Licence Agreement with the Institute for the provision of short term holiday accommodation for refugee groups. BRSG has appointed a sub committee to manage the Cottage.
 17. It has been agreed that BRSG and RAFAS will continue as two separate groups but will be working together as much as possible, publicise and support each other's events.
 18. BRSG resolved on the following donations:

• The Refugee Council of Australia	\$550-00
• The Asylum Seekers Centre, Sydney	\$500-00
• Mercy Refugee Services Detention Centre Program	\$500-00
 19. The Group sent a letter to Bathurst Regional Council supporting a notice of motion that Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 be retained.
 20. Media contacts have continued to be maintained through the local print media and 2BS. Members of the Group were interviewed and articles published relating to their volunteer activities. Favourable articles and photos have been published in the Bathurst LIFE Weekly. Members have also been interviewed by Journalism Students from Charles Sturt University on Refugee matters as part of their university studies program.