

STRENGTH AND KINDNESS

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)



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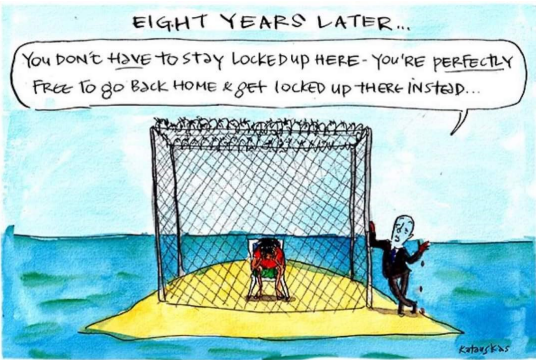
I was a stranger and you made me welcome ...

Newsletter 102 August 2021

The Project aims to:

- * provide hospitality and practical support for people seeking asylum
- * actively network with like-minded individuals and groups who are working for justice for asylum seekers
- * promote advocacy for the rights of asylum seekers
- * raise awareness of asylum seeker issues and concerns through a range of activities

And they are still locked up—8, 9 10 years later



It is 8 years since the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, announced that asylum seekers arriving by boat would never be settled in Australia. UNHCR said Australia's offshore processing regime has undermined the rights and damaged the physical and mental health of those seeking protection, and urged Australia to

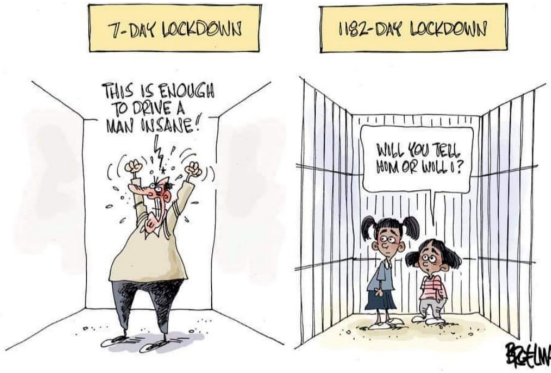


108 PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY HELD ON NAURU AT A COST OF \$3.2 MILLION PER PERSON P.A.

THE GUARDIAN, 21 JULY 2021
#GAMEOVER
#8YEARS TOO LONG

end the policy and provide solutions for around 1,400 people who remain in limbo as a result. Some 137 people remain in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and 108 on Nauru after being sent for offshore processing by Australia.

The photos here remind us of the desperate people held in detention.



Refugee Voices 12 hrs · 🌐
Credit: Peter Broelmann



Donations to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project are tax deductible



Caravan of hope



City of Melbourne

One man's paintings of hope

Nasser Moradi is a 32 year old man who has spent the last six plus years in MITA, having previously spent several years in detention after arriving in Australia in 2013. He was in the community for a while before being re-detained over six years ago because his visa had not been renewed. In an effort to stay positive he began to draw and paint.

Nasser is a self taught artist. Brigid has visited him in MITA many times and recalls seeing his first fumbling attempts at painting.

It seems quite ironic that Nasser's painting are in bright colours—as if he is willing the world to be better and more interesting than inside the walls of a detention centre. He paints the city of Melbourne—he is a resident of a city he can't visit or walk around or enjoy.

Nasser is a gentle man. It is almost incomprehensible that he and over 1000 others are still being detained in immigration facilities for so many years.

An exhibition of his paintings at the Mercy Hub in Carlton entitled The World Next Door will be launched on August 23rd (lockdown restrictions permitting) with an opening night event featuring live music, canapés and guests speakers – most notably comedian Tom Ballard. Postcards of Moradi's works will also be available to purchase. Entry is free.

Abbas asks that his story be shared

Abbas and his family were brought to Darwin from Nauru 18 months ago for medical reasons. Of those brought down from Nauru, they are the only ones left in the Darwin Centre except for one family who are going to the US as soon as they can get their final tests etc.

Dear Australia!

Listen up, I have a story to tell you.

My name is Abbas and I'm 34 years old. I am just like any man my age on most accounts.

I like to spend time with my family and friends, watch movies and go to the gym. I would love to spend a summer in Paris to learn more about Philosophy, poetry and politics. I also enjoy Russian literature and South American music and dance.

Unfortunately, my life is different to most other 34 year old men because I have had almost nine years stolen from me. As an Arabic man, I had to leave my country. It was forbidden for us to celebrate our culture or even learn our language. If we were caught doing this we were brutally punished and abused by the government. My sister and I grew up living in fear and shame. When I was 25 years old, my parents, older sister and I came to Australia seeking safety and refuge. We looked to a beautiful future where we did not have to hide our culture.

The Australian government were not what we expected. They did not offer us safety, refuge or even a slither of compassion. Instead they sent us to a tiny little island. My family spent 7 years on Nauru. We were kept behind fences and treated like criminals. We were forced to live without housing, food and healthcare. While we were there, many of our friends lost their minds and some even lost their lives. I now feel very guilty about encouraging my parents to leave Iran. I have watched them in their elderly



**Yaghoob and Malakeh @ The Fence.
Darwin Detention**



state lose their hope. My father, Yaghoob, age 61 no longer jokes like he used to. He was always the most lively person at any event. Now after almost 9 years being tortured in detention, I feel he has lost that.

My mother Malekah, age 58, was always the kindest person. She was my best friend and the person who I could tell anything to. Now when I see the suffering through her eyes, I feel shy to share with her any of my feelings and more suffering. So I keep all my pain inside.

My sister Hajar, age 35 is a primary school teacher. She loved her job back home and always had a passion for working with disadvantaged children.

How can my family be a threat to Australia???

All we are asking for is our freedom. I would like to ask the Minister to please let us have our freedom. Please show kindness and compassion for innocent refugees.

10/7/2021

If I can just drive out to the airport and see them get off the plane ...

These are the words of a man who has four sons by themselves in Quetta, waiting for them to come to join him in Australia. He initially put in an application for a visa for his wife and children. The family come from a village in Ghazni Province. The father fled to Australia after being threatened by the Taliban. He then arranged for his immediate family to move to Quetta in Pakistan. This is a very familiar story. We met four other families recently who had the same experience. Just lately the other four families were reunited—eight years after their applications for family reunion were filed.

Each came with partners and children. Our friend has four children who are without a mother and an orphaned nephew he supports and the first application (before the mother died) was also in 2013.

And they came from Afghanistan

It is generally conceded that Afghans who have worked closely with either the US or other countries involved like Australia are now in extreme danger from the Taliban. Their prompt resettlement to the countries that they have assisted is vital. However there seems little appetite for family reunion for those who fled the same Taliban extremists years ago. It is impossible to track any time line for the processing of these applications. They are in the Australian embassy in Dubai. Emails and attempted communication with the DFAT office there are met with silence in the main.

There is fear of a renewed civil war in Afghanistan. Women in particular fear that the gains they have made since 2001 in terms of some rights to education and freedom could be lost under the Taliban.

The difficulties involved in the process are extreme

S is a man who has been supported by BASP, in particular with a family reunion application. He has a Permanent Visa in Australia. S is a hardworking man of good character, and a loving and supportive husband and father. He has worked for years at demanding jobs, taking extra work during holidays, in order to support his family, with the hope that they would eventually be reunited. His first application was 8 years ago.

He has a wife and 2 sons in Saudi Arabia where he was born and lived all his life in spite of always being regarded as illegally there. He is seen as a national of Chad in spite of never having been there. Two of his sons had to go to Chad to get paper work for the application and they are 'stuck' there. S is particularly concerned for these two boys. He worries that he cannot provide

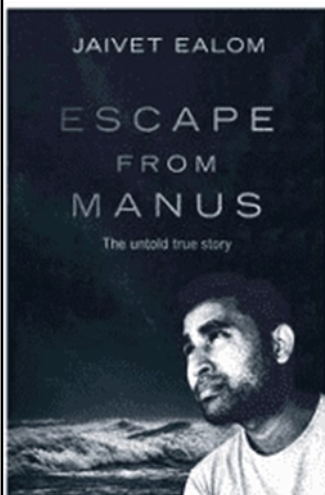
enough emotional support or adequately send his love to them in their lonely difficult circumstances. He grieves for them constantly and worries about their survival. When will this nightmare be over for this small family?

It would take only a stroke of a pen to ensure these and other families reunite after the trauma they have suffered.

Escape from Manus is now available in bookshops (price is \$34.99). Even for those of us who have listened to many people who have sought protection in Australia, this is a stark reminder of the reality of what, as a nation, we are inflicting on other human beings. Originally from Myanmar, detained on Manus for years, Jaivet is a Rohingya man who escaped from Manus and eventually found freedom in Canada.



The empty house left in a remote area of Afghanistan—all just a memory for our friend waiting for his children to come from Pakistan where they have been for years now.





Online Trivia Night – Fri 8 Oct

Get your friends together either at home (if COVID restrictions allow) or in a distributed online team for the BASP Online Trivia Night presented by St Mary's Hampton.

Friday 8 October 2021 7.30pm - 9.45pm

Suggested \$30 per player.

Register and donate on the [BASP Trivia Eventbrite event page](#).

You can register now and add additional team members later.

When you register, if you're playing as part of a team, we'll ask you for:

1. a witty **team name** or who your team host is
2. an **email address** for Zoom invitation (if you are forming a [distributed team](#), one email address per location)

And this is following the very successful Trivia night on the 16th July!

About \$5000 was raised **and** we had a lot of fun! The team Sister Act were the winners on the night.

Would you have known that the Village People did not include an airline pilot? Every team got that right.

And what about :How many statues of women are there in the city of Melbourne? (You would probably be surprised or dismayed.

BASP would like to thank the whole Foxworthy family and all who helped. The 'tea towel' pictured was given to each member of the winning team and this was designed by Trish Foxworthy. We believe Colette and Paul dreamed up all the questions and Nicola and Paul ran the online event. Thanks Julie for being the BASP contact.



Most of the people BASP helps are on Bridging Visas or no visa

Currently there are **9,989** people on Bridging Visa E (BVE). This is the figure as at 31st March, 2021.

They are barred from applying for temporary or permanent protection because they came by boat on or after 19 July 2013. 45% are in Victoria, 36.6% in NSW, and 8% in Queensland. Approximately **1,800** are children (970 in Victoria and 460 in NSW). Source: Department of Home Affairs.

There are **2,205** people living in the community who are waiting for their expired BVEs to be renewed. When a visa expires a person's work and Medicare rights are suspended. Source: Department of Home Affairs.

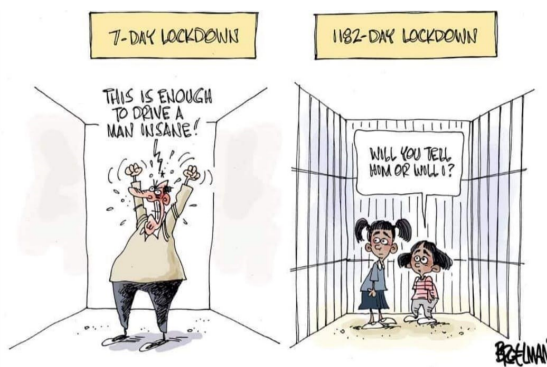
A very typical story is that of S, a young woman with a husband and three year old. They were managing well while waiting for their first interview and the subsequent appeal process when they were rejected after the interview. S's husband was a painter, S was studying English and they were able to pay all their expenses and save some money. Now they have used all their savings, have no work rights or study rights or Medicare. BASP is currently helping them. However S with tears in her eyes said 'We just want to work and get a visa to stay. We would be good citizens. I worry for my daughter.'

The law doesn't always work towards justice

A 29-year-old refugee from Syria (named in the court as AJL20) came to Australia in 2005 as a child and was detained in 2014 after his visa was cancelled on character grounds.

After repeated applications for a visa, his lawyers filed a habeas corpus case in May 2020. Habeas Corpus has been part of common law for centuries and says that a person cannot be kept in prison unless they have first been brought before a court of law, which decides whether it is legal for them to be kept in prison. The Federal Court in September 2020 ordered the man be released and compensated. This potentially could have provided grounds for many asylum seekers in long term detention to be released. The Government appealed against this decision in the High Court.

In May the Morrison government rushed through legislation that will allow it to lock up refugees in detention centres, potentially for the rest of their lives. The legislation - one of the first laws passed under new Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews – continues the previous Minister Peter Dutton's legacy of punitive action towards refugees. This law was passed with the support of both major parties. This leaves many of us outraged and disheartened.



Refugee Voices · 12 hrs · 🌐

Credit: Peter Broelmann

Then, on June 23rd the High Court quashed the previous Federal Court decision that found the refugee had been unlawfully detained by Australian authorities. This effectively means that by law people can be detained indefinitely by immigration authorities. The young man in question can be returned to detention and kept there indefinitely until a way is found to remove him from Australia.

Article 9 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights decrees that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile"; that is, no individual, regardless of circumstances, is to be deprived of their liberty or exiled from their country without having first committed an actual criminal offense ...

Australia signed the Refugee Convention in 1951 but unfortunately the provisions of the Convention are not part of our domestic law. So we can indeed flout the provisions of the Convention if it pleases our Parliament.

Visiting detention centres

Since 2000 BASP (at that stage a very small group) has visited the detention centres in Melbourne. It used to be MIDC (the Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centre) and then MITA (Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation). Virtually no visitors have been allowed over the past 18 months. In between COVID lockdowns there was a short time when we could visit but we spoke to the person detained through a 'grill'. It was awful. People who are visiting family members must be traumatized.

The restrictions imposed on visitors have escalated every year—until the experience now is quite painful for everyone. Detention means loss of freedom and that is always one of the harshest things that can be done to a person. However, visits can alleviate the trauma a bit. Once we could bring in home cooked food, celebrate birthdays, bring flowers for Mothers' day, bring special food and gifts for times like Eid and Christmas. We bought small TVs for those detained and blankets when people were cold. This brought an element of normality to visits, allowing detainees to maintain relationships with their community-based family and friends. None of this is now allowed. Restrictions were introduced one by one years before the pandemic - purportedly to ensure the safety and security of detention spaces by minimising risks such as food poisoning. During the pandemic, detainee isolation has become even more pronounced. Blanket bans on fresh food have been enforced, and detainees and visitors are required to sit on assigned chairs under constant surveillance.



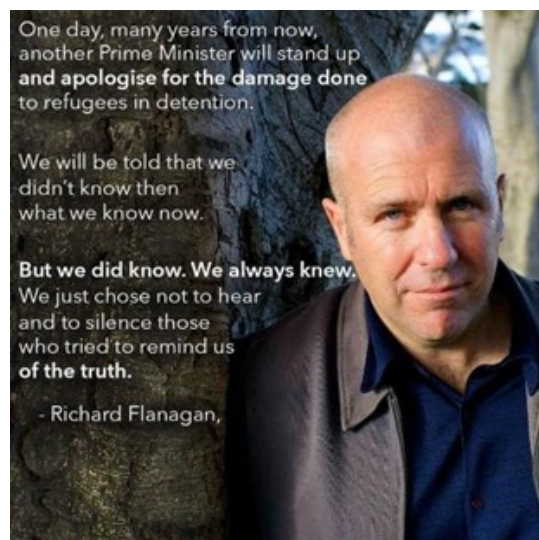
Advocacy—and the need to keep going

Trying to bring about change in the interests of human rights can be tiring. However we cannot afford to stop. It is not exaggerating to say that many lives depend on it. Indeed we believe our credibility as a nation is at stake.

BASP has strong connections with many groups, to name a few: Grandmothers for Refugees, Rural Australians for Refugees, many church groups, Refugee Advocacy Network, Refugee Council of Australia, and the other groups in Victoria providing material help for asylum seekers—Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, Bapcare, Uniting Care, Catholic Care, Red Cross. New groups emerge relatively often—for example recently the Catholics for Refugees in Sydney—and that is good. Across a wide variety of social, religious, political divides, many are united in wanting change in Australia’s policies and practices in the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Some argue that the groups are not united enough. BASP maintains it is a miracle we have so much in common in the changes being demanded.

We can get tired continuing to write letters, talk to our neighbours, friends and family and despair at the seeming lack of any movement towards compassionate and humane results for those we advocate for. Only a Pollyanna would say we have moved the goal posts much! However we do believe that the power of the people will bring change when there is enough momentum.

Sometimes we don’t hear of the ongoing advocacy from different organisations and individuals. All efforts are important whether they become front line news or not. Richard Flanagan reminds us that, in time, history will relate how civil society responded to the cruelty meted out to people seeking asylum in our country.



Catholic bishops in PNG and the Solomon Islands wrote an open letter to the Australian government saying the refugees and asylum seekers remaining in PNG have become destitute and have lost hope of resettlement outside PNG. They said people there whose lives have been used to deter other people seeking asylum, “and whose acute suffering we see every day”, should be able to access “a reasonable and acceptable level of freedom and dignity in Australia”. They urged Australia to “erase any trace of past colonial demand and fully implement a new style of compassionate and participative leadership in the Pacific”.

And the **Catholic bishops of Australia** have joined the bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in calling for detainees on Manus Island and Nauru to be resettled in Australia – eight years after the advent of mandatory offshore detention. They wrote: “We understand that most of these people have already been recognised as refugees, while others are in complex situations – including those whose refugee status is still being determined. “The indefinite detention of people, many of whom pose no threat or have not been convicted of serious crimes, is an affront to human dignity and a breach of international law.”

More than two dozen Anglican bishops wrote an open letter to the Government calling for the return of the young family back to Biloela. We were very impressed by the message of Angela Fredericks (who has been spearheading the move to get the family back to Biloela) “When I returned home to Bilo from Perth in June, which was an emotional trip leaving me feeling exhausted and deflated, my spirits were buoyed upon seeing a hand-written card from Bishop Jeremy Greaves which he had mailed to me while I was away.” This is a good reminder that one part of advocacy is to encourage those who are speaking out, to encourage them to continue.

We live with the reality that much needs to change and with the conviction that change is possible.

Accommodation and BASP

Housing continues to occupy a lot of time and thinking at BASP. There are so many people seeking either a place to live or help to cover their rent. Last month we assisted 258 people with housing.

We have been fortunate to have some generous offers to help with this ongoing crisis.

The Brigidine Sisters have made available a unit in Bon Beach for a family who were unable to pay their private rental. They have been delighted by the opportunity provided to them. They had a volunteer visiting them in Sunshine, who was also delighted for them and she wrote: "Thank you so much for this very special news, Bon Beach looks like a beautiful place for this family and surely they will enjoy the beach since where they live now is literally on the very busy Ring Road. You couldn't get anything more different!

I hope and pray that this move will bring Sara the chance to give her daughters the life that she so much wants to give them and too that she will have a chance to spread her wings as well. My impression was that she would really advance in every way once the right circumstances were there."

The Columban Priests in Essendon contacted us to offer the use of a 3 bedroom house in Essendon. Almost immediately, we had an urgent request for housing for a mother and her 3 children. They have moved in with the help of many, including Father Peter, who even drove the children to school one very wet morning.

We have offers from community hosts for housing with them and are in the process of matching for these places. Additional rental properties have been secured, mainly for a few more of the men who were part of the medevac cohort, detained offshore for 7 years and a further 15 months in a motel.

One man was released from on shore detention after 10 years. His health is not good after all these years and he is having to learn how to navigate life in Melbourne, including how to do internet banking, how to use and top up a myki.

It is always heartening to see those we have housed take their next steps. One family who arrived in December 2019 with no English and no money have been in a house BASP leases. The husband is now working and he is now in the process of having the lease transferred into his name. Another woman with a daughter in high school secured full time work which enabled her to get her own unit and become independent.

One woman who moved into a BASP house said it had relieved a huge stress on her. "I have peace being here." Another woman with a 12 year old son was referred for help with rent, following her SRSS benefits being stopped. She also needed money as she was going through dumpsters for food. One of the BASP team visited with money and food. She cried and cried and her son said "Mum we can eat some food now." How can this be happening?

Volunteers.

BASP is blessed with the number and quality of its volunteers.

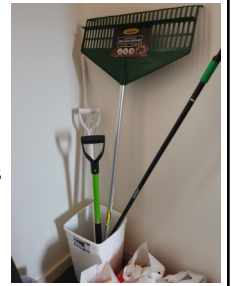
We had a request from another organisation for a volunteer to visit an isolated vulnerable client of theirs. The counsellor said she was calling because another of her clients- a Sri Lankan family- "has a beautiful relationship with BASP volunteer Helen and this has been so important to the family and their general wellbeing."

Another couple of volunteers have been assisting a young mother with English for some time- disrupted by lockdowns but persevering as best they could. They gleaned she was struggling with her rental, following her SRSS benefits being stopped and let BASP know. We were able to assist with rent and emergency relief but would not have known without the volunteers being "our eyes and ears".

Parish and community support

Despite the trials of last year and this with Covid, we continue to receive wonderful support from parish and community groups alike.

Port Phillip Lions presented us with a wonderful array of household essentials, such as bins, dustpans, brooms, garden forks, spades. These were most welcome as they are necessities in each house we have.



We met with St Dominic's Camberwell which continues to support BASP with food and other items as well as the rental and contact with members of one household.

St Georges in Malvern continues to support BASP with food and financial help.

St Mary's Williamstown also supports BASP with rental support and met with us to look at additional options.

St Martins Hawksburn, St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians Montmorency, St Mary's Greensborough, Our Lady of Good Counsel Deepdene, St Columbas Elwood, the Ormond Anglican Mothers Union and others including schools all regularly donate grocery items to keep our pantry well stocked.

Macedon Ranges gathered donations across their community and brought a large load of food items.



A community group from Woodend continue to support families they met several years ago, providing friendship and material assistance when needed.

A local resident collects food donations from the other residents in her housing block.

All of these initiatives and more keep our pantry replenished for those who come to the office for food and for those to whom we deliver food parcels each fortnight.

Noelle has worked through the lockdowns to stock and restock the pantry and the people delivering continue to do their runs each week remaining safe as they do so.

One of the volunteers who is an unsung hero is Patrick O'Connor. Patrick has been our accountant for many years. He is always on hand if we need him (even with 'silly' questions). And he oversees our finances—all on a pro bono basis.

We have just had our yearly audit and these times remind us of how much Patrick does to ensure that our finances are in order.

Mark Northeast is the treasurer on the BASP Board. He liaises with Patrick and they are both of great assistance to BASP.



Complying with public initiatives is very difficult for people who are new to systems the rest of us take for granted. **The Census** is one of these. Thanks to the volunteers who have helped quite a number fill this in.

Another way we have been able to help is to arrange with Star Health, for **vaccinations against COVID** to be offered to some of the asylum seekers at the BASP centre in September. We are very pleased to be able to help in this way.



It is always such a thrill when we meet some people who came to us as people seeking asylum and support, and years later they are settled and happy and able to enjoy life in this country.

Mary, a young Ethiopian woman from Kakuma, a refugee camp in Kenya, lived with the Brigidine Sisters in Albert Park for quite a while before moving on to being independent. She has since married and has this beautiful baby daughter Enya.

Determination and endurance

Three sisters started planning some years ago ... planning about how to escape their home in the middle east where they were restricted 24/7.

They arrived safely in Australia just before Covid. To gain work experience the sisters volunteered in hospitality and were set to get jobs when Covid struck. To use lock down constructively they studied Certificate 111 in Aged Care, mostly by Zoom.. They successfully completed their studies early this year. And just recently they have gained work at a local aged care home.

It's been a long and at times isolating time. Thankfully they have had each other for support as well as support from BASP and other organisations.



Students at Star of the Sea College collected a lot of food and household necessities for BASP

The magic of breaking the cycle for a young person

Mark who is one of our BASP team, assisted a mother who was grappling with a teenage son and fearing he was going astray. After much discussion, the lad agreed to attend a Boot Camp organised by Veteran Mentors for a week. What a successful venture it was. Before leaving he realised he needed to change and worked hard to prepare for a gruelling week. He did and heard things he had not encountered before and he shared things he had never opened up about. He says he doesn't want to go back again now but would like to be a mentor in the future to help kids like him.

Some time ago we had a message from Samantha in Castlemaine. She and some friends had bought some paintings from an Iranian artist Mahya. Another friend of theirs had met Mahya, in detention on Christmas Island.



They donated this painting to BASP. We decided to give it to an Iranian family who are having a hard time.

One of the groups supporting BASP is the Xavier Social Justice Network.



On July 15th, this group held a dinner and one of the entertainers for the night was Endalkachew, a musician and a comedian. It was amazing to see his ability to 'woo' the crowd and engage everyone. So if you are looking for someone to

liven up an event ...

BASP has housed Endalkachew since June 2020. He tried fruit picking in Mildura over Christmas and has since been learning English, getting his licence and a car and doing gigs when not in lockdown. He now has work with a caravan company.



Awareness raising opportunities

Brigid met with a teacher and 4 students from St Columba’s College in Essendon for a day. They met at a home in Glenroy, spent some time with the family living there and did an audit of furniture BASP stores in their garage. They then visited a share house where 5 men live, again having an opportunity to talk with asylum seekers directly and preparing them a meal in a slow cooker. The day really struck a cord with the participants, one writing *It was such a nice and eye-opening experience away from the stress of school. I'll be honest, at the start, I didn't think that I was going to be taking much from today BUT after just a couple of hours away from the retreat and spending time with everyone, I've talked to a couple of my friends and have been able to tell them about the stories and lives of the people we met. Going to the asylum seekers program really put things into perspective for me. Being able to physically go to the places and see the organisation first-hand is so different from just hearing about it and being asked to donate. On a call with a friend, she said she wished she had known about these ministries and programs more because they aren't talked about often. I really hope you carry on this great program, I think a lot of people will take more from it than they realise!*

As well one of the parents contacted Fiona, the teacher to say

Hello Fiona,

Apologies for interrupting your evening. Carla is not long home from school and has been sharing her day with us.

Days like today are important in shaping who the girls are and the fully formed adults they will become.

Give Now – Crowdraiser;

Main Contact Ryan.healy@clonard.vic.edu.au

It looks like Ryan set up a ‘crowd raiser’ page called Clonard Cares – A Little Change Makes a Big Difference. 20 people contributed; \$1,148.04

Letter from RAR Mansfield

Please find our cheque for \$800. This money was raised by the sale of bunches of flowers arranged by our President Maree Mielnik and her friends for a Mothers Day fund raiser.

Thanks to Port Phillip Council for their ongoing support. Grants to help provide food for many of the people who are assisted by BASP have been really helpful. We value our relationship with the Council.

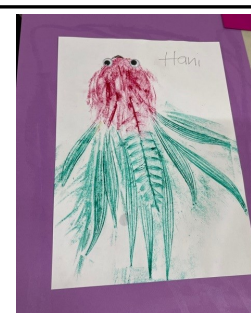
Marisa and her helpers are planning another amazing **Doxa camp** experience for families in November. We hope all restrictions will be eased by then. Many ask ‘When is our holiday coming’?



Presentation Family Centre’s amazing help

One young woman who lives in one of our shared houses greatly misses living with her younger brother. BASP arranged for them to have a holiday together at Presentation Family Centre in Balnarring over the last school holidays. Peter, a volunteer drove them down, with sister and brother very uncertain as to what lay ahead. After 4 days of having a wonderful time, Liz, another volunteer collected them and brought them back. What a difference

Hani and her brother the stay had made. They were beaming like we had never seen before and the sister talked all the way home.



Hani’s drawing

Having seen the place, Liz sought a holiday for another woman and her 3 children which PFC could accommodate. Again great delight at the experience- a treat from the day to day. “They have come back so excited and very happy and rested. Staff there gave the mother a wonderful rest and she made some friends that delighted her.” Both groups are booked in for January.

We are grateful for any of the following food (or vouchers to buy food and household necessities).



The following are still very much appreciated:

Sugar, cooking oil, Cans of fruit and tomatoes.

Herbs and spices

Blocks or individual wrapped cheese. Eggs. Peanut butter.

Long life milk, tea and coffee, cheese, **honey is a most appreciated food**, noodles, tuna, basmati rice, dates, jam

Gladwrap, tinfoil, pegs for hanging out washing,

Sweet and Savoury Biscuits, Snacks for school lunches (even when home!), Salt and pepper, Spices: coriander, cinnamon, ginger, Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream and shavers, Toothpaste and toothbrushes. Soap, deodorants

Garbage bags (small and large)



We seemingly never have enough washing powder, dish washing detergents and household cleaning products.

For anyone wishing to make a donation, the Project Bank details are: Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account: bsb: 083-004; a/c: 56-924-6603; NAB.

Please put your name on the entry and please email us at contact@basp.org.au after making a donation so we can send you a tax deductible receipt. We will send a newsletter but feel free to tell us that you don't want one.



We thank all those who have supported us in any way. The donations we received in June were the highest ever! This has been extremely helpful—as we watch the bank balance go down and then up (like a miracle!)



Many individuals and groups organise fund raising activities for BASP. Sometimes this is a birthday party or a trivia night or a film session. Whatever the source of the donations we receive we are very grateful. Please send us an email if you are putting money in the bank so we can acknowledge the gift and send a receipt. If you don't get these, know it is an oversight and tell us.

We do feel quite humbled by the scope of BASP's work—due to the generosity of all our supporters. Making Australia a more humane place for those who have sought protection here is something we can all be proud of. That is not to understate the work still to be done—both in policy change and help extended.

Brigid Arthur

Libby Saunders

(BASP Coordinators)