

STRENGTH AND KINDNESS

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP)



54 Beaconsfield Pde, Albert Park 3206
Ph: 96962107; barthur@basp.org.au
Website: www.BASP.org.au

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

Newsletter 108 December 2022

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

The Labor government that assumed power in Australia in May of this year has been very busy. They are trying to put in place new policies and fulfill their election promises. In significant areas such as child care, industrial relations, integrity and privacy, relations with the indigenous peoples and more, new directions have been established. One can't help thinking that policies to amend our national shameful treatment of asylum seekers has been put at the end of the list.

We had an expectation that the cruelty surrounding the treatment of people seeking asylum, particularly those people who arrived by boat, would quickly change. In particular, we have been watching for the fate of the 31,000 people who sought asylum by sea between August 2012 and January 2014, including children born to these families, who have been denied the ability to rebuild their lives in Australia. These women, men and children who are part of the community have been forced through the so called 'Fast Track' determination process established by then Prime Minister Tony Abbott. This process is slow, defective, and has not provided procedural fairness for many subjected to it.

We welcomed the Labor government's commitment to abolish 'Fast Track' and temporary protection visas. However, the lack of a timeframe for when people subjected to this cruel system will be provided permanent protection is concerning. As time drags on with no announcement, refugees are unable to properly rebuild their lives in Australia, and face significant barriers to access education, stable work and to see loved ones. The lack of an announcement or information has added significant distress to refugees in our community.



As of September 2022, there were nearly 20,000 living on Temporary Protection Visas (TPV) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEV), around 1,900 people who are still at the review stage and close to 10,000 who have been failed by the 'Fast Track' process.

The entire regime designed to deter anyone from coming by boat —from its beginning—tried to brutalise and destroy refugees. The way Australia has treated people seeking protection over the past two or more decades is having the results one could expect.

Most who are caught with no visas or short term ones, no money, destitute and desperate, have serious health issues. Why is the promised change taking so long to implement?

Donations to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project are tax deductible

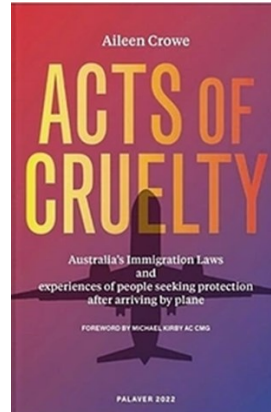
Dr Aileen Crowe is a Franciscan Missionaries of Mary Sister. Aileen is a well respected Asylum Seeker Pastoral Care and Advocacy worker. She has written a book entitled Acts of Cruelty. The attached information relates to a refugee who arrived by plane and has suffered, in her words: “the most serious miscarriage of justice that I have ever experienced in my more than twenty years helping people who arrived by plane to gain permanent residency”.

Aileen has advocated for many. One of her excoriating accounts is of a young man we will call Ali.

In Aileen's words: In 2009 Ali (not his real name) who was still at school, fled Afghanistan because he was found by his uncle to possess Christian literature and the uncle was committed to kill him.

He arrived by plane as a 16-year-old in June 2009 with no identity documents and was detained for a short period before receiving a visa recognising his refugee status in September 2009.

As a 17-year-old on the advice of his parish priest, he came to me to get assistance to bring his parents and brother and sister to Australia. We submitted all four applications in March 2010 and soon after (August 2010) his siblings were abducted – his brother murdered, and he still doesn't know the whereabouts of his sister. He went into deep depression. The Dubai office cancelled his siblings' applications and expedited his parents' applications and they were granted visas in March 2013 arriving in Australia soon after.



Ali worked and studied and qualified for a costly Builders licence establishing a construction business for which he was accepted for a one-million-dollar loan and had engaged a number of contractors.

When he was about to receive his citizenship in June 2018 he and his parents were given notice to show why his permanent visa should not be cancelled. He responded but the decision maker insisted that he was the brother of his former flatmate and cancelled all three permanent visas and took away work rights.

Prior to the AAT in August 2019 Ali, the person he was supposed to be related to, and his parents all underwent DNA testing that revealed there was no relationship. The AAT did not accept this evidence.

He appealed in the court in November 2020, but the judge on 8 September 2021 found no jurisdictional error.

He submitted a request to Minister Alex Hawke in October 2021, in whose electorate he resides.

Four years ago he had to close down his business because his work rights were taken from him.

We fear that if this is not resolved soon this young Afghani man will again descend into deep depression. He arrived as a minor and has just turned 30 years of age and, along with his parents needs to be safe, secure and working productively.

You can get a copy of Acts of Cruelty by getting a bookshop to order it.

There are many countries where asylum seekers in Australia cannot be deported to. The Afghan Embassy in Canberra advised the Immigration department that they do not process any travel permit applications for detainees. Since the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban militia on August 15, 2021, the Embassy has discontinued all communication with Kabul.
... as observed in the current situation, Afghanistan cannot process such applications until further notice. As this is true also for a number of other countries such as Sri Lanka, which are judged to also be unsafe for people to travel, the question is:

Why doesn't Australia grant permanent residence to people seeking asylum from these countries?

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

Christmas 2022

UNFORTUNATELY WE CANNOT HOLD OUR USUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BASP THIS YEAR.

The building we use here at Albert Park is having some repairs and we have a few competing events just before Christmas.

We are also mindful of the ongoing risks of Covid.

Know that we really appreciate you all. We would love to see you. Maybe we can organize some smaller gatherings during next year.

The Ecumenical High Tea

at
St. Paul's Hall
122 Jasper Rd Bentleigh

A joint fund raiser for BASP
and Cottage by the sea in
Queenscliffe.
Raised \$1130.10 for BASP.
Thanks.



Planning Refugee initiative (St Kevin's Parish Templestowe & some other Parishes)

In some ways Zoom is not as effective as face-to-face meetings but a session organized by St Kevin's Social Justice Group in October was very successful in attracting a large online audience from across several parishes to discuss the current situation for asylum seekers. Thanks to John Costa for leading this initiative.

St Georges in Malvern continues to support BASP in many ways. Recently they had a meal and a restaurant in Malvern—a Spirituality Café. The group invited Brigid to speak. The feedback was very positive—people enjoyed the chance to actually meet after Covid, the food was good and one of those present expressed thanks for *reflections on the current situation for asylum seekers, what BASP is doing to alleviate their parlous situation and what the new Federal Government might do differently. And your call to action was well received.*

Housing

This continues to consume much of BASP's time - both with requests for help with housing and /rent as well as the maintenance and routine checks of the 60+ houses for which we are responsible.

Two houses made available in April when the 36 men were housed from hotel detention were only for 6 months, requiring locating alternative housing to be made. It is a much harder market now than it was even 6 months ago. We secured one after 20 inspections and applications and were fortunate to be able to take up a short term offer from the Columbans for one man.

Any connections to agents or owners with a one bedroom unit, for low rent, would be welcome!

In November, 7 men, originally from Bangladesh, were released from Melbourne detention after 7-10 years. No explanation was given for why they were held and why they were now released. They were housed for 6 weeks in a motel while other options were found. Three have moved into a BASP house, recently vacated by men now able to pay for private rental.

Of the other 4, one has moved to Canberra and BASP will accommodate the other 3 in the remaining 3 spare places we have.

Uncertainty continues for Offshore people

For the people who were on Manus Island or Nauru after August 2013 and later brought to Australia, they continue to live with uncertainty. Over the past four years, BASP has found housing for about seventy of this group. These men are named 'transitory' persons and have been told they will never be able to settle in Australia.

Kevin Rudd and subsequent Prime Ministers have asserted that this group will never settle in Australia, despite many being found to be refugees already.

In recent months, the Department of Home Affairs sent a letter to some of these folk reminding them they had to go to a 3rd country such as US, Canada or NZ. The Minister, Clare O'Neill quickly made a statement rebuking the department for sending the letter and its tone, but did not step away from the message. Many of the families and individuals affected by this position are defiant, saying they have been in Australia for extended periods of time, they have established relationships and employment here and the children have connections with Australia. These people have been treated so poorly by Australia, surely allowing them to stay is the most and only humane response.

A few of the men have gone to the US and others have their names down to go to Canada or New Zealand. Most are fairly determined they won't go anywhere –understandably because they have been in detention or on short term visas for over ten years.

About two hundred of the more than three thousand sent to Manus Island or Nauru are still in PNG or Nauru.

It is almost a year since the tennis champion Novak Djokovic was detained in the Park Hotel and then deported. Djokovic will reportedly be allowed to compete in the 2023 Australian Open with authorities about to overturn his three-year ban and grant him



A new beginning





Putting the fun into fundraiser

From the organisers

We'd like to thank all attendees and donors for their generous support of the October 2022 BASP Trivia night. To date, **just over \$6026.62 was raised for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project** (We would like to acknowledge St Mary's Community Foundation who have made a significant contribution to that total.)

That's really impressive, and we know that BASP will make very good use of every dollar to assist Asylum Seekers currently finding it very hard to survive. It also means that we've raised more than \$11,074) for BASP this year. Well done all!!

Big congratulations to our winning team, Sisters Galore. For anyone who'd like to see details of the final results, they are available on our [BASP Trivia Website](#).

Finally, our thanks to Sr Brigid for sharing some insights into the work BASP does and the impact it has on asylum seekers as part of our zoom event, and to Libby, Julie and everyone else involved with the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project. We're in awe of the excellent work you do and really pleased to be able to support it.

The next BASP trivia event will be on Friday 5 May 2023. You can find further details and buy tickets at cohdig.au/trivia. Please spread the word to your friends and family. The more the merrier!

Thanks again
Colette, Paul, Nicola and Trish Foxworthy

Message from BASP:

Thank you again to all who participated. We are so appreciative of your support. We are being asked to help more and more with ever increasing utility bills as well as rent and basic needs.

The funds raised through the Trivia night help us help more people.

With thanks and best wishes,

Libby and Brigid



Sisters Galore, managed to win on the night by one point from the Waterman team! Not that there was any rivalry.

Tragedy and courage

A Sri Lankan couple came to the office a few weeks ago. They brought with them their beautiful thirteen month old baby daughter. They told us they had waited 19 years for this baby. Two years ago they lost their work rights. Prior to this both had been working and were coping well except for the lack of a secure visa status. They believed they should keep 'the law' so they lived on their savings and didn't do any paid work. However they are now absolutely desperate having no money even for baby formula or nappies.

The father has shrapnel wounds from the civil war, his brother was killed and the mother's parents have disappeared.

In spite of all this, this couple have extraordinary courage and have decided that the father will now work at whatever is available.

It is a matter of urgency that Tamils from Sri Lanka have their cases reviewed. Currently there is no way to do this.

Increasing number of people needing help.

BASP is being challenged with new families applying for help with rent and utilities. Many of these new applicants come from the south-eastern suburbs—Dandenong, Pakenham, Officer and surrounding suburbs. A significant number are from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The increasing costs of electricity and gas are also very concerning. Bills mount up when families can't pay and the amount owing becomes really large.

BASP relies only on donations. In the past years, these donations virtually matched the requests for help. Unfortunately this is not happening at present. We want to support as many as we can but we know that life in the wider community has become difficult for many.

While we hope for Government change, we are grateful for ongoing help from our supporters.

Reza left Afghanistan in 2011 and, as an unaccompanied minor, came on a journey through Malaysia and lived in Indonesia before he left on a boat to Australia. He arrived at Christmas Island where he was kept for a couple of months. He was detained in Leonora Immigration Detention for a month and a half and then moved to community detention in Melbourne. After this he came to the BASP accommodation as an eighteen year old. That was ten years ago.

So far as we know all the other young men who came on the boat with Reza now have Permanent Visas. Reza has no visa—no work rights or Medicare..



A suicide bomber attacked a Hasara study centre where girls were preparing for university entrance in Kabul, Oct. 1, 2022. 53 people were killed, mainly young women. Among these was Reza's eighteen year old sister, Samira.

The only survivors of Reza's family are his mother, his 12 year old sister and his six year old nephew. His father was killed by the Taliban some years ago and his brother was killed 2 years ago.

How much more can this family endure?

NOTHING can justify this.

Meanwhile the Albo government is paying MTC, a notorious private US prison operator more than \$47.3m for 2 months to provide "services" to just over 100 people living in the community on Nauru.

\$6750 per person
per day



A company that has been accused of gross negligence, bribery, unlawful detention and egregious security failures. Nice.

Fortunately the option to go to NZ is now finally open to the refugees on Nauru but many of them are too sick (from being detained by Australia) to apply.

A new life for a family and a new perspective for a town.

In June 2018, Nicole Dilubenzi's husband, Chicco, disappeared from the unit where he resided whilst working as a doctor in a Hospital in Namibia. Nicole and her family were also threatened, so she organized to bring her three children to Australia where the family been planning to seek asylum. Chicco and Nicole are from the Democratic Republic of Congo and it was never going to be safe for them to return to that country.

Soon after Nicole and Andrew (9), Celeste (8) and Bryan (18months) arrived in Melbourne, a woman Nicole chanced to meet in Footscray suggested they seek help from Sr Brigid at the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project in Albert Park. Hearing Nicole's story, Brigid asked the Brigidine Community in Echuca if the family could come and live in their spare unit. The next day the Dilubenzis arrived at the Echuca station and were warmly welcomed by Srs. Margaret, Cletus and Cecilia. For the next four and a half years they would become part of our community.



Nicole modelling her creation

Those bare facts tell us nothing of what must have been churning around in each of the hearts of this beautiful family. What had happened to Chicco? Were they safe here? Would they be acknowledged as genuine refugees? Would they ever feel at home in this very monocultural Australian country town so different from their African home?

Within a couple of days, Andrew and Celeste were warmly welcomed into St Mary's School and Nicole began the huge adjustment of running a household without the women who had assisted her in cooking and cleaning for her family in Namibia. She learnt to drive a car for the first time and navigated the endless requirements of our Immigration system. Andrew and Celeste became actively involved in all aspects of their school life and Bryan went from being a toddler to a school boy. It has been a delight to accompany them on this phase of their life journey.

Nine months after being forced to leave Namibia, Chicco was finally able to contact Nicole and we hoped he would come to Australia but he was refused a visa. In time, he was given permanent residency in Canada and this week Nicole and their children flew to Montreal to join him. A sad indictment of our Australian refugee policy!

Nicole is a professional Dress Designer and Seamstress and with the assistance of a group of local women she established the Molato label and set up a small business. Through her involvement with her customers and the School and Parish communities, Nicole quickly made many friends and worked very hard to support her family. At a very well attended Fashion Parade of her costumes, and through a number of local Newspaper articles over the years, many people in Echuca and beyond heard the story of Nicole's family and for the first time were made very aware of some of the harsh realities facing someone seeking asylum in our country.

Over the years recurring questions from the people of Echuca have been "Why is it taking so long for the Dilubenzis to be given permanent visas in Australia?" and "Why can't Chicco come to Australia and be united with his family and practice as a doctor here?" Sadly, it is very difficult to provide an answer to those questions and paints a very punitive picture of Australia's Refugee Policy.



The Echuca Brigidine community and the Dilubenzi family

The resilience and hope that Nicole and Chicco have shown throughout these years is heart-warming. There is no bitterness, just gratitude and optimism for their future. As Chicco awaited the arrival of his family in Montreal he emailed: *"I personally thank you and your congregation being there for us throughout those 4 years. It will ever be engraved in our heart and memories. May the Almighty God bless you and your community for taking care of us during the toughest period of our family life."*

A wonderful tribute to Cecilia, Cletus and Margaret and the Echuca people for their care and love for this little family.



Another car gift.

Oh and aren't they such lovely men! It was a real pleasure to meet them both - unfortunately it was raining so we just had a brief chat in Mum's car. I gave them a photo of Mum and they seemed to appreciate that.

I feel so happy and so sad all at the same time. Mum would be delighted that Mohammad will now have a car to get him to work.

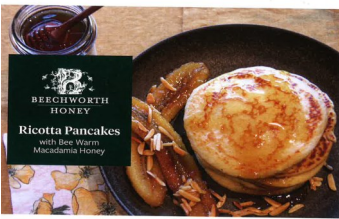
We took a couple of photos for our family and thought you might like them too.

Thanks for your help In making this transaction possible Brigid.

All the best,

Clare (who gave her mother's car to an asylum seeker)

Ricotta Pancakes with Bee Warm Macadamia Honey



This recipe came to us from Jess McCaughey of Beechworth Honey with jars of the honey for our pantry.

1. Beat 1 cup ricotta, 1 1/2 tbsp honey and 1 egg together in a bowl. Stir in 1 cup milk, then 1 cup sifted flour and salt. Heat a non-stick frying pan and add a little butter. Use 1/4 cup of batter for each pancake and cook in batches over medium heat for 2 minutes on each side, until golden.

2. Place pancakes on a plate and cover to keep warm.

Wipe pan with paper towel between batches, adding remaining butter and cook remaining batter.

3. Serve warm pancakes, drizzled with extra Bee Warm Macadamia Honey and a dollop of whipped cream or ice-cream and your favourite seasonal fruits. You could go that extra step and add caramelised banana in honey.

Javad was one of the men who got released earlier this year from hotel detention. Javad has previous work and barista experience from his hometown of Iran and during his short time of freedom here in Australia. He had found a job serving coffee a couple of days a week at a local organisation. He enjoyed working there and improving his customer service skills. Once he gained more confidence, he began looking for more hours of work in the hospitality industry.

An opportunity came up through Accommodation Association that involved training in bar skills, coffee making, setting tables and housekeeping. Javad applied and successfully worked alongside mentors to complete five days of paid training. He was matched with the Vibe Hotel Melbourne upon completion and is now working five days a week. He is very excited to have this opportunity to expand his skills and progress his knowledge in the hospitality industry.



Two of our volunteers have been visiting a young man, helping him become familiar with Melbourne. How lucky was he when these 2 fanatical Demons supporters were able to take him to one of the finals?!

Its all the 'over and beyond' contributions from BASP volunteers that make such a difference.



Michael, another volunteer, assisted a man and his young lawyer prepare material for his hearing at the AAT, strengthening his case for protection by Australia. His efforts were not in vain. The man won and will now become a permanent resident.

We never cease to be impressed by what volunteers do for those they visit. 2 examples in recent times went way beyond what we thought was possible. Robert Webb has been a support to Ameer for some time. Ameer was seeking compensation for a work injury, representing himself in court and Robert has helped throughout this process. After an initial hearing and an offer to settle, which Ameer refused, they persevered with Robert's dogged support and Ameer won a much greater settlement. Once completed, Mark Northeast, one of BASP's Board members, helped sort out the tax implications. A wonderful outcome.

Many of the people we see who were originally from Iran, have been deeply affected by what they are seeing and hearing about the protests in Iran. The internet has been cut so it has been difficult for many to contact family at all or only intermittently and briefly. One family feeling this distress greatly had the opportunity of a weekend away with members of the Mariana community in Millgrove. It was perfect timing and both husband and wife called us as soon as they arrived home to say how wonderful it was and how important for them to have had this get-away. Many thanks- yet again- to Cheryl, Mary and the Mariana community.

Food
 We continue to be so appreciative of the groceries donated to us at Albert Park. As well as this food we deliver, we also get fresh fruit and veg from Second bite and from Port Phillip Council. However, the many people who come to the centre and / those we visit at other times, also need fresh food.
 BASP applied for a South Melbourne Community Chest grant for fresh food vouchers and was successful, receiving a grant of \$9000 for this purpose. The South Melbourne Community Chest raises money through its Op Shop and was able to support many creative and essential services through these grants. Very impressive and much appreciated.
 Another volunteer/supporter contacted us to sponsor the delivery of 10 fresh food boxes to vulnerable families. This was greatly appreciated by all who were lucky enough to be on the list.

Visit from Monique Ryan
 We were delighted when Monique Ryan asked to visit our office. Informally over a cup of tea Monique asked about our experience regarding asylum seekers. She is obviously very keen to see significant changes—as are several of the Independent MPs. We look forward to ongoing discussion with these women.



Sadiq is one of the finest people you could meet. In spite of huge adversity and personal loss of family members he has managed to be reunited with his four remaining children. It seemed almost too good to be true on the 18th October at 5am in the morning Sadiq picked up his four children from Tullamarine.

Sadiq had been granted a Permanent Visa in 2013 and had been trying to be reunited with his family. In the meantime, his wife and eldest daughter died.

Mahatir is a 15 year old boy, who has made a good recovery from cancer.

Tamara, an 17 year old girl, hopes to become a doctor, so that she can heal people who have cancer.

Nasrim, a 19 year old girl, loves to study and listen to music, especially pop music.

Abbas, an 24 year old young man, loves cars, and airplanes even more; he would love to become a pilot.

In the couple of months since, they are all relishing the chance of a new life. Sadiq continues to work as a cook in an Afghani café, Abbas is studying English at TAFE and working in a car wash place, Nasrim is also studying English at TAFE and goes to the Sunshine library in the afternoon to continue reading and trying to learn more. Tamara and Mahatir are attending an English Language school in Braybrook.

One of our volunteer migration agents, Franco Del Monaco, kept persevering with the long and slow process of getting this family reunited. Sadiq will never forget the help he has been given.



There are good news stories—although we must always remember the long long time of suffering it has taken to get to this end.



Maryam lived in the Albert Park BASP house for some time. She has since been granted a Permanent Visa, has

worked in real estate and is pictured here with her partner.

Maryam lived with Yeshi (an Ethiopian woman) in the house. Maryam was able to tell us that Yeshi was also recently given a Protection Visa. Yeshi has been in Australia since July 2011—her daughter was about eleven when she arrived.

We hope that Maryam and Yeshi will be able to move on to a happy secure life after all these years..

Below is a message from a man who has been housed and supported by BASP since being released in July 2021 after 10 years in onshore detention. He recently mentioned he needed some good quality shoes and as luck would have it, a donor had given us a pair in his size. We don't usually accept donations of clothing due to space and distribution but this was a match which was meant to be.

“My language is unable to express the words or sentences that describe the inner beauty of Australian people. I really appreciate your help from the bottom of my being.”

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A tribute and thanks to David Spitteler

David Spitteler began an Asylum seekers Centre in Dandenong in 1997. Ever since then he has worked with volunteers to distribute food and other basic necessities to people seeking asylum. David and his wife Evonne visited BASP recently and it was a wonderful opportunity to chat about our mutual experiences and for us to acknowledge their work over many years.



Amazing supporters

We have been gifted 3 cars - one from the Brigidine sisters and another 2 from community members, easing the life of those who received them. One pictured here was donated to a man who can now get to work.



One was for a mother whose own mobility is slightly impaired and whose younger child requires a wheelchair. Catching buses and trains to the multiple medical appointments needed by both was exhausting. The car has made this so much less fraught.



Siobhan, a woman in the community, called to say she and her family were unable to use their 14 tickets to the circus and offered them to BASP for families seeking asylum. Zeynab is quite an organiser amongst the Iranian

asylum seekers, and she quickly harnessed some other mums and their children to enjoy the experience. It was obvious they had a lot of fun.

A GP contacted BASP about a family facing many issues and who just needed a break from their routine. Saltbush (formerly Presentation Family Centre in Balnarring) made a unit available during the school holidays for them. Wonderful feedback from the GP, the family and Saltbush which advised that ‘the family seemed to have a lovely time and joined in with activities. We had the most beautiful sunny days throughout the program week. Staff said that they had an amazing time at the beach and spent lots of time exploring the rockpools. They even had a visit from our friendly dolphins which was very special.’

The Lions club in Albert Park brought in gifts for men. Even though many of the people we support are single men we don’t actually get as many gifts for them so these bags of personal items are great.

We never cease to be amazed at the creative and generous ways community groups and individuals find to help.



For the first time since Covid began, St Brigid's Church Mordialloc and St Louis de Montfort Church Aspendale held the annual picnic for families seeking asylum. They had a great response, with many now able to get themselves there, rather than relying on the complimentary bus from Southern Cross station. Good vibes all round, with the following text at the end of the day summing up the feeling. “hello dear Libby how are you I want to say to you and your group really thanks a lot for beautiful day makes for everyone coming with family enjoy and a lot things there. Thanks again, again and again from me and my family.”



Wilfred, one of our BASP people and now a permanent resident, brought his music and had the kids doing some African dancing.

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



We currently have enough tinned food except for cans of fruit and tomatoes. Tinned soup does not seem to be taken.

The following are still very much appreciated:

1 kg Sugar, oil (olive and vegetable) , salt, pepper, tea, coffee

Herbs and spices

Blocks or individual wrapped cheese. Eggs.

1 litre Long life milk, **honey is a most appreciated food**, noodles, tuna, 1 kg basmati rice, dates, jam (especially any red jam)



Gladwrap, tinfoil, pegs for hanging out washing,

Sweet and Savoury Biscuits, Snacks for school lunches (even when home!),

Spices: coriander, cinnamon, ginger, Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream and shavers,

Toothpaste and toothbrushes. Soap, deodorants

Garbage bags and bin liners (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 trust that you will all have a very happy Christmas.



Thanks you for all the messages of support and good wishes that we receive from so many. One of the things we value most about our Project is that it has established community and good will among many and various individuals and groups, and indeed this has enabled its continuation.

We trust that this time will be a time of peace and harmony for you and for your families. We hope that 2023 may bring better debate from all sides of politics about the plight of refugees and the need for countries like Australia to rethink our laws and regulations governing this area of public life and responsibility.

In particular we are mindful of the ongoing suffering of many of those who seek protection in Australia and elsewhere and for the families separated year after year. BASP is committed to the ongoing struggle to get justice and a better life for all.

Brigid Arthur

Libby Saunders

(BASP Coordinators)