

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 119 March 2025

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

Welcome to 2025. There is a deal of ambivalence about beginning another year. Some of us want to slow time down. Others want just to move as quickly as possible to a new chapter of life. For people who are waiting (often desperate for a secure visa and family reunion) the latter is the reality.

For those in Australia for whom the wait for a permanent visa has been such a long time, time itself has become a torture. As it does also for their families stuck in places where they face actual or potential persecution.

Over the years BASP and many others have advocated for Australia to honour its obligations under UN treaties. To take but one example, despite signing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1972 and ratifying it in 1980, Australia has never adopted it into domestic law. So we have an obligation in international law but are not obliged to enact it. It is bewildering because signing the document surely should mean something. The main focus of the CCPR is to guarantee and protect fundamental civil and political rights like freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and movement, as well as the right to life.

For those who arrived by boat, we understand that the current priorities for consideration for a Permanent (ROS) visa are those with compelling and compassionate circumstances. We believe that pervasive uncertainty fits this criteria of compelling and compassionate reasons.

The cruelty behind this indefinite regime involves the subjection of people to a variety of debilitating conditions (no visa, no work rights, no income, no set date for a hearing, no money for things needed in most applications eg health tests, getting documents from overseas and so on.)

We just need a way to quickly and humanely regularize people's visa status. It is hard to know why this seems so difficult. Departmental officials enact policies—this sounds clear but in this area of decision making about visas, each case needs to be signed off by the Minister. As David Shoebridge (Greens MP) observed during the week, at the rate of current processing it will take a century before the 7000 or so cases waiting for a decision will be made.

It is ironic that because children born in Australia become citizens when they are ten years old, we now have an increasing number of children who are Australian citizens when their parents and older siblings still have a Bridging Visa—or no Visa. How will this conundrum be solved?

Our plea to the Government is to solve the visa status for all those waiting for years with one decision for the whole group. Call it an amnesty or whatever seems acceptable—but do it!

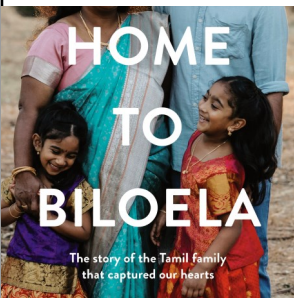


Story of Tamils

Last year BASP had a discussion afternoon about the history of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka and the plight of those Tamils here in Australia. This was prompted by our meeting many Tamil families and individuals who are seeking asylum in Australia and who are in varying stages of hopelessness. Over the recent Christmas and holiday time the situation deteriorated again because casual work is not available at these times.

Why are so many Tamils in this group of desperate people? Most we meet come from Sri Lanka—or from Tamil Nadu in India where families have fled and lived in refugee-like circumstances sometimes over several generations. Most arrived in Australia in 2012 or 2013. They fled from a civil war that began in the 1980s and persisted until 2009. The aftermath of this prolonged regime of violence and horror is still playing out.

Many have settled in or around Dandenong, Sunshine, Werribee and some in regional Australia as the "Biloela family" (Priya, Nades, and their daughters Kopika and Tharnicaa) demonstrated. Through public pressure and an extraordinarily well-run campaign, this family was granted Permanent Residence in 2022. It could be argued that the decision made for this family would pave the way for all other Tamils whose case is the same to be granted permanency—but this did not happen. We do not want to be seen as anything other than very happy for this one positive decision but why not for all the others in the same situation?



In determining the refugee status of these asylum seekers the questions inevitably come back to their relationship with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, or Tamil Tigers. Eelam) a national liberation group that fought for a Tamil state in the north and east of the country and which was regarded by the Australian Government as a terrorist group.

Australia has actively supported the Sri Lankan Government of preventing Tamil people leaving Sri Lanka by boat trying to escape to another country. A high percentage of those who did arrive in this country had their cases rejected as part of the 'fast track' system by the IAA (now disbanded and seen as a shoddy process). They are now in a state of total insecurity hoping only for the Minister for Home Affairs to grant them a permanent visa.

For successive Australian Governments, ending the 'people-smuggling trade' has been much more important than human rights. Australia continues with the myth that Tamils have nothing to fear from being deported to Sri Lanka. We are assured by many many Tamil people (and occasionally by Sinhalese) that this is not so.

The Tamil women in particular have been active in trying to bring their plight to the attention of the government and the public. They were a major part of the walk to Canberra in 2023 where 22 women walked 700km from Melbourne to Canberra in protest against their being kept in a state of visa insecurity and consequent hardship. Again last year Tamil women were among the main participants in staying outside the Home Affairs office in the Docklands in Melbourne and in other places such as Minister Burke's office in Sydney.

And still no action. No wonder they are feeling so dispirited.



Discussion Session

2pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday, March 19th

At 54 Beaconsfield Pde Albert Park



What is happening in Ethiopia?

Over the past few years a lot of people from Ethiopia have arrived seeking asylum in Australia. Why?

Speaker: Terefe Aborete—arrived in Australia in 1995 and has extensive experience in the community



Terefe will be joined by some recently arrived Ethiopian people

BASP Online Trivia Night (from the organisers)

St Mary's Hampton online trivia event in support of the **Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project** is back on Friday 2 May.

We aim to provide a fun night for you and your friends and raise money for a good cause, and we'd love your support. To take part, sign up as a team host, and get your team together for a light-hearted night of trivia and conviviality. Suggested minimum donation of \$30 per team member.

When

Friday 2 May 7.30pm to 9.40pm

Where

Your place! Invite a group of friends to your home, up to 10 people - small groups are welcome. If you prefer you can form a distributed team in several locations and use our online breakout rooms to talk over your answers.

How

You don't need to be a tech wizard. You need a smartphone, tablet (iPad, Android) or a computer with sound (a webcam would be nice but not essential). You'll get a link for the Zoom online chat service and use your web browser to answer the trivia questions. Check the website for more details.

Booking and more information: cohdig.au/trivia



Lest we forget

7.30pm April 24th



Music and poetry for Anzac day.

The programme includes the Australian premiere of *Lest We Forget*- a song cycle for baritone and piano by Shauna Beesley. The words are all by Australian servicemen from WW1 and 2.

Other works include *A Shropshire Lad* by George Butterworth, songs by Kelly, Manson, Benjamin, Debussy, Poulenc and Hahn.

Venue: Primrose Potter salon at the Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt St, Southbank
The price will be \$45 for adults, \$40 for concessions and \$25 for students. (proceeds for BASP)

If you want to get a ticket please ring BASP office 96962107

Please come and show solidarity and support our people seeking asylum



Stand together for **JUSTICE** and **KINDNESS**



**1pm - Meet on Princes
Bridge for the walk**

**2pm - Program at
Tom's Block st Kilda Road
opposite Victorian College of the Arts
(Bring picnic rug or chair)**



**#justice4refugees
#PermanentVisas**

Organised by: Refugee Advocacy Network
Enquiries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au

**Palm
Sunday
13 April
2025**

Fair Go for Refugees

Please note to bring a chair if you can't stand or sit on the grass.

If you could distribute posters—to any local shopping centre, library, church or local place where you could get it put up—we will have posters and brochures available at our office in Albert Park.

Gillian Triggs is also delivering a Kildare Ministries Oration (no charge)

***Hospitality: A Shared
Responsibility to
Welcome and Protect***

***At Star of the Sea College
7pm, Tuesday, 18th March***

Scan QR code or [click here to register!](#)



Security at work (from Brigid)

Recently I visited a young man in Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation (MITA) in Broadmeadows. I actually have been to see him a few times. Over many years I have visited this place (and its precursor MIDC). Detention centres are always bleak, metal fences around them and most uninviting.. Very little has changed.

There are two sections in MITA —the man I am visiting is in North (where those who have committed a crime are locked up). It is stark. My friend's crime was to have been picked up without a visa when he accidentally fell asleep on a tram. There are hundreds of people without a visa in Melbourne—but he was unfortunate enough to be asked for ID and had his details sent through to Home Affairs.



I had to go through two locked gates, produce an original documents that add up to 100 points (each visit) and be scanned with any items I have (for me a blank piece of paper, a pencil and a packet of biscuits.) I have trouble with my documents because my birth certificate is a copy. I argue my way out of this—otherwise the trip to Broadmeadows was going to be a waste of time. I got the biscuits inside to be told I had to take them back to reception, get a signed receipt and leave them there to be delivered later to the man I was visiting. I forgot to ask my friend if he got them!

I get into the room—where only myself and three guards sitting on chairs at the side are. Another guard brings the young man I am visiting in. We sit in a large room with tables and chairs bolted to the floor. There are three guards sitting along the wall opposite us—with no-one else in the room. They do nothing—they do not speak to each other and simply gaze at us. One answered a question I had asked and my friend didn't know the answer so the officer obliged! It was inconsequential and helped the conversation. I do wonder about the waste of resources—all together there were 6 men on duty—making sure I and the young friend I was visiting did not do anything radical.

Fortunately the young man has now been released. He had been there for nearly six months.

Thanks to Caroline

Caroline has been a volunteer with BASP for the past sixteen months. She has assisted people who have work right and the ability to work, to prepare for and seek employment. She has been a welcome addition to the team in Albert Park and helped many people understand the employment process and move on to securing work. She has been juggling this with work elsewhere and now feels she is unable to continue to do both. We can't thank her enough for her contribution to BASP over this period. We wish her well and hope she will pop in from time to time. Getting jobs has been elusive for some, even with good prospects, impaired in part by their lack of a permanent visa and employers dubious about investing in their training.

Some of those with whom we work do not have work rights or are not physically or emotionally able to seek work. We assist this group in a variety of ways. We have assisted one young woman with gym membership, witnessing a huge change from her remaining in her room for most of the week, to now attending the gym and signing up her house mates, thus getting further attendance for free!

Another success is a young man who has been without work rights for 7 years. BASP arranged for him to undertake voluntary work at the Colostomy Association of Victoria 2 days a week. He finally received a bridging visa with work rights in December and will be able to show he has experience and a reference as he seeks work.

We continue to house a number of the men who spent 7 years on Manus Island or Nauru and 2 years in hotel detention. When some were released, they insisted on living alone, after the trauma they had experienced and having shared a tent with 40 others for so long. BASP was able to meet these requests for 2 years. However, as these increasingly expensive one-bedroom units were reclaimed by their owners, BASP was unable to afford to continue this and also queried the wisdom of it for the individuals. A number of these have work and that has made a huge difference to them. Others need to be helped to take a step one at a time—often very modest—so that they can carve out some future for themselves.

Overview of BASP Accommodation in the last six months of 2024

While the circumstances for many of the people BASP supports do not change and they still need housing, others can move on to a new chapter in their lives. In the last six months of 2024, twenty nine people were able to move because they got Permanent visas, or work that enabled them to support themselves or in two cases moved to Canada or a family of 6 secured their own rental near family members, with BASP covering rent for four months. This enabled BASP to house twenty eight new people.

During this time we lost 6 places where the house owners had to take back their properties because they were selling them or family members needed the property or for other reasons. During that time we gained 3 places where BASP leased a new place or a property was given to us for some time.



Family enthusiastically helping with the garden

In this six month period, BASP housed an average of 162 people each month and assisted an average of an additional 98 people per month with payment of rent in their own rental properties.

We rarely have any housing available as there are many asylum seekers without any suitable place to live. We cannot help everyone who approaches us. Usually this is because we have no place. However, a few were for single men with significant mental health and antisocial behaviour who are unsuitable for unsupervised shared living. This is a real gap in the service system but is beyond the capacity of BASP and others in the refugee/asylum seeker sector. Requests for families are challenging as rarely is a whole house or unit available.

It is pleasing to see that 29 people were able to move out of BASP housing in the 6 month period, most becoming self-sufficient through work or access to benefits, reducing stress and improving their wellbeing.

One of the men reluctantly moved into a share house with one other man and is doing well, enjoying the company, sharing meals together and considering work.

Similarly, another moved into a house to share with 2 others, coping well most of the time, and lamenting his lack of privacy at other times. BASP linked him with a volunteer couple who take him on outings, share meals with him and have broadened his social connections.

Our volunteers are a wonderful source of support to the people we see. It can vary from a coffee down the street, to advocating for them with lawyers and / insurance companies for injuries at work, teaching English and driving.

In Summary

BASP's housing program continues to support many people seeking asylum. We are grateful to all those who make it possible. The resources needed are large. The provision of a housing officer made possible by the Sisters of St John of God is a great boon.

We have employed Julian to provide us part time assistance in the housing support role, following Hana's departure in November. He and his family arrived in early 2024 and are seeking asylum. Julian is able to do many of the practical tasks to keep the houses well maintained for the residents (and owners). He is a cheerful and energetic member of our small team and we are delighted to be able to employ an asylum seeker.

On a happy note ...



Doxa Camp

Each year Marisa Cerritelli and her volunteers arrange a weekend at the DOXA camp in Malmsbury for asylum seeker families.

This year in December a group of about 15 people attended- either by the arranged bus or self-drive. None had been before and many did not know each other. Marisa sent the following message through during the weekend: “This has been the best group we have ever had. Such fun, enthusiasm, English lessons, technology and loads of laughter. All the problems have been left high up on the giant swing. The group is mixing and truly happy to be here and participating fully. We are about to go down to do archery. Enjoy your weekend. We certainly are!” The participants loved it and again we thank Marisa and her team for providing a special time to folks who have it tough.



BASP also received a grant from the Mercy Foundation to provide some respite options to women, with or without children. Again, over the summer period, this opportunity was taken up by a number of women to have a few days away – mainly at Saltbush Balnarring, which provides a wonderful escape from the daily routine.

The Mariana Community again hosted 2 families at Millgrove in late 2024.

They all had a wonderful weekend, enjoying the beautiful countryside and the companionship. This opportunity is offered twice a year and is always greatly appreciated.



Isa came to Australia (and to BASP) in 2018. He had just arrived from Uganda. Fast forward to 2025 and he and his partner, Tessa, have a beautiful baby Enzi Wren Gashoda. He has worked very hard, been a model employee, been promoted—still on a Bridging visa.

Christmas Hampers

We were again delighted with the hampers provided by St Finbar’s Parish, complemented by contributions by other groups.

Volunteers assisted with distribution to dozens of households in the weeks before Christmas.

Here are a few responses.

“We received the gift from you. Thank you so much for all the beautiful gift, girls are so happy.”

“Thank you mum, Our gifts are so amazing. We thank you all. We wish to you and all your staff the best and Mary Christmas to you all

Love you mum”

“Hello dear Liby how are you I hope you are well I received your present and I thank you from bottom of my heart and I wish all the best for you and sister Brigid thank you. thank you so much for your kindness ☺ God bless you Merry Christmas”

“Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas hamper! Wishing you and your colleagues to warmth this festive time!

Happy Christmas & Happy New Year ”



One of the very creative ideas the parishioners of St Martin's in Hawksburn had (each year) is to bring hand bags full of perfumes, body and hand creams and other items that are luxuries if money is short.



The recipients of the presents given at Christmas time were very grateful. One message was:.

Thank you very much !, to the foundation and to all of you for the beautiful gifts you sent us, the children are very happy, God bless them, they are angels in this process

Thank you very much !, to the foundation and to all of you for the beautiful gifts you sent us, the children are very happy, God bless them, they

*Thank you very, very, very much!
Sent from my iPhone*

It is amazing how significant many of the cars that have been donated to BASP for asylum seekers have been.



This Mitsubishi Lancer proved to be a great experience for many. The family making the donation lived over the road from a Brigidine convent and we asked the family if they would tell us the story of the car and their connection with one of the Brigidines in particular (Sr Em as they knew her).



This is written by Ian Potts, his wife Shona and his sister Robyn Potts. Our family first met Sister Em in the late 1980s. Our father Dr Ken Potts was a GP with a medical practice in Main St Mordialloc, but he was also a brilliant pianist (AMusA) and our mum, Patricia Potts was an incredible singer, and a nursing sister at Prince Henry's, where Mum and Dad met. We are not sure how Sister Em met our parents, We think there was a Brigidine Convent also in Main St, Mordialloc, so we assume they met either through Dad's medical practice, or through the musical events that Mum and Dad were involved with, either at Parkdale Uniting Church or through the entertaining they did at elderly citizen's clubs.

The couple (Jefferson and Anita), are pictured here with Shona and her son. Jefferson and Anita have two teenage children and the family has not ben in Australia for long.

Robyn recalls the wonderful spirit that Sister Em had, and her piano duets with Dad, at his beloved Bechstein grand piano. Ian recalls her wonderful energy, caring and supportive nature, and exceptional piano abilities. Ian's wife Shona remembers her as a joyful lady full of life. When Shona and Ian were naming their daughter, they wanted a happy name and came up with Emily after a discussion about how all the Em's / Emily's they knew were lovely (they hadn't clicked that Em stood for Emmanuel)! Sister Em was a great support to our family during our father's 6 month battle with cancer, and after he sadly passed in February 1991 she continued to be a great support to our mum, and to Robyn and Ian. We were all so very, very sad to hear of her passing, and we all attended her Mass of Thanksgiving.

We were so pleased to re-connect with the Brigidine Convent for the donation of our Mum's car, it felt like it was meant to be. We dedicated the donation of the car to the memory of our mum and Sister Em, two very special, and forever loved people.

This is the beautiful human side of community..

Every picture tells a story



Who knows what an arboretum is? We didn't but it's a specialised area of trees and the one in the distance here is being created by a person named James in Deans Marsh. And we know this because Bill Wigglesworth told us. And he knows because he makes beautiful things and donates the proceeds to BASP. What a story! These are all wonderful people centred around Castlemaine.



A generous donor brought in two sewing machines and some leather making tools (with leather pieces). Keremush (who lives in our BASP house in Braybrook) was delighted to get a sewing machine. As was Shakir who was a tailor in his own country. The leather making goods went to Jarina who was delighted with the possibility of furthering her skills in this area.



Many of our readers will know about Gul, a beautiful and gentle man from Afghanistan. He has been in Australia since 2012 and known to BASP all of that time. On Friday morning (last day of February) at 5am he picked up his family from the airport. He is pictured here with his wife and three teenage children. He has not stopped smiling since. Gul worked at Killester College in Springvale for quite a long while and has done hard manual work since to allow him to get his family here.

With the help of BASP volunteer, Judy Dixon he got a RoS visa and could then apply for family reunion.



Vahid and Fatima presented a lovely cake as a thank you to BASP.

This couple who had been working in a restaurant and Bunnings

respectively lost their work rights last year and were devastated because they had no income. BASP helped them with rent and food for the three months they were without work. They have now been given Permanent Visas.

This summer, we also received funds from BRASA to be used to give children a fun experience through the school holidays. This enabled 30 people (7 families) to have a wonderful day at places like Luna Park, Wallington Adventures, the Melbourne Zoo and Funfields Theme park. Many thanks to BRASA members for making this possible.



A beautiful outing. James, a great friend of BASP took two Ethiopian men to see A Christmas Carol. (Brigid managed to get in on the act!). James explained to the men beforehand enough of the story so they could follow.

It was a wonderfully happy time—followed by a meal at a Greek restaurant.

Many of our asylum seekers shared Christmas with community members they have got to know. That is such a joy..



Highs and Lows of Immigration

Hi Libby from Ramin
Hope you are well
Just want to update you regarding my visa situation, After 12 years I have received my permanent residency and applied for Centrelink, I just want to thank you for everything you have done and appreciate you for your patience and kindness and all the support you provided in the hardest time of my life, god bless you I always wish you health and success in your life.
I am still dealing with my health and injuries and court and unfortunately don't know when that case will be settled but at least I have received my visa, Just to let you know this is the last month you're helping and I again appreciate everything you have done and all the support you've provided.

Two families were advised that the mother and children were granted permanent visas but the husbands, on each family's application were not yet granted a visa. This therefore prevented the rest of the family being able to act on their long awaited visas eg in applying for Centrelink, until the husbands' situations are resolved.

Another woman who has been working in several jobs to keep her family afloat, came in very distressed. Her main employer needed her to upgrade her qualifications in order to retain the job. However, her visa only allowed work rights and not study rights so she could not do the upgrade. She was told she could apply for study rights but this would be at the expense of having work rights! What a system!

Many people send messages of thanks—so many of our supporters enable this outreach from BASP to happen. These are just a sample of thank yous

For 3 years you guys support me a lot in everything. I'm very grateful for all your help and kindness.' By someone we housed and supported until she as given work rights and found work.

From a volunteer – I enjoy my visits to this family and any support I can give. However, I find it unbelievable that they can still be in limbo after so many years.

I hope this letter finds you in great spirits. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible support you have consistently provided us during some of the most challenging times in our lives. Your generosity, kindness, and unwavering assistance have made an immeasurable difference, and we cannot thank you enough.

Your financial support came at a time when we felt overwhelmed by the weight of uncertainty. Your willingness to lend a helping hand not only relieved our financial stress but also allowed us to focus on rebuilding our lives. Your contributions have been instrumental in providing stability and security, allowing us to take the necessary steps towards a brighter future.

I am especially grateful for your assistance with driving practice with Madam Brigit. Your patience, encouragement, and time spent helping me develop this skill have been invaluable. Your support went beyond the practical aspects of driving; it became a symbol of your commitment to my well-being and progress. Thanks to both of you, I now feel more confident and self-reliant.

Moreover, your generosity in offering housing during this challenging period has been a true lifesaver. Having a stable and secure place to call home has provided us with the foundation needed to stabilize myself emotionally and mentally. Your home has been a haven of peace, and I am profoundly grateful for the sense of comfort it has brought into my life.

Thank you, Libby, for being a beacon of hope and a pillar of strength during times of adversity. Your kindness has made a lasting impression on our hearts, and we are blessed to have you as a mother and supporter. Even though it might not fully compensate for your help, to contribute a fraction of it I want to express my readiness to give a voluntary service any time.

We don't often get a report when some of our BASP people take someone for a holiday or time of respite. However, Ashenafi wrote a report(!) and we share some excerpts from it.

Report Our Stay At The Lake Entrance (Bunga Heaven On Lake Bunga)

By
Ashenafi Shumey
2025

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **BASP (Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project)** and **Ruth Fluhr** for organizing and inviting me to take part in this wonderful experience at Lake Entrance. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful and memorable time in such a beautiful setting. As you know, I currently do not have many engagements, so participating in such activities provides me with a valuable opportunity to relax, have fun, and make the most of my time. Many of the activities were entirely new experiences for me, making them even more exciting and enjoyable. It was not only a source of entertainment but also an opportunity to learn. Below, I have outlined the activities I participated.

Spending time at Bunga Heaven is truly an incredible experience. The breathtaking views create a sense of peace and relaxation. In the early morning, instead of waking up to the sound of a phone alarm, you are gently awakened by the soothing sounds of ocean waves and the melodic songs of birds.



The combination of nature's beauty and tranquility makes it a perfect place to unwind and rejuvenate.

One of the phrases I heard and truly liked during this experience was "Help yourself." Embracing this idea, we prepared

our own meals in a well-equipped kitchen, complete with all necessary utensils and a refrigerator stocked with groceries. Sharing dinner together was a wonderful experience—not only because of the delicious food but also because of the meaningful conversations we had. These discussions provided me with valuable advice, encouragement, and confidence for the future. Overall, it was a truly enjoyable and enriching experience.

One evening, we had the opportunity to prepare an Ethiopian dish, **Doro Wot**, for dinner. It was a wonderful experience to share our culture through food, and everyone truly enjoyed it. They loved the rich flavors, and it was a great moment to introduce them to a taste of Ethiopian cuisine.

Some of the other activities I participated in included boating, playing golf, shopping, and spending time at the playground. As I mentioned earlier, these were all new experiences for me, which made them even more exciting. Among them, the boat cruise was particularly memorable, as it gave me the opportunity to explore and appreciate the beauty of Lake Entrance.



Finally, we formed a strong and meaningful bond with Ruth and her family. Last week, we had the opportunity to attend the Ethiopian Tigray Community Festival and invited her to join us. She happily accepted, and we shared a wonderful time together. We also look forward to visiting her at her home in the near future.

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, peas, carrots, corn.

The following are still very much appreciated:

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

Herbs and spices especially coriander, cinnamon,

Blocks or individual wrapped cheese.

Eggs are really appreciated

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

(especially any red jam)

Gladwrap, tinfoil,

We would like to try Flat bread in sealed wrapping as people often ask for bread.

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

Shampoo, 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

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.



To all who have contributed to making a home for those who have sought protection among us—thank you

To everyone who has helped BASP in big ways or small and to all who have made a difference to the lives of asylum seekers and refugees—a big thank you.

We value every one of you and please know that your kindness is making a difference in this world that seems to be struggling to offer kinship.

Brigid Arthur

Libby Saunders

(BASP Coordinators)

Warsan Shire is a poet –she was born in Kenya to Somali parents . In a poem, Home, she writes::

*... you have to understand,
that no one puts their children in
a boat
unless the water is safer than the
land
no one burns their palms
under trains
beneath carriages
no one spends days and nights in
the stomach of a truck
feeding on newspaper unless the
miles travelled
means something more than jour-
ney.*

*you only leave home
when home won't let you stay.*