



**STALL AT COLEDALE MARKETS
AFRICAN WOMEN'S SEWING ENTERPRISE A WINNER**

Need a hem mended? Looking for a kaftan from imported African fabric?

A laptop bag from recycled upholstery?

The African Women's Sewing Group, plus Jonah the Tailor, may be able to help!

Supported by the IMB Community Foundation, SCARF's pilot sewing circle has developed into a truly creative enterprise. Meeting weekly in Coniston, the group work individually and as a collective to develop and share skills. Creatively thriving, participants launched their designs at the Coledale Twilight Markets before Christmas. Victoria Kamara's colourful E.G.G Design bags & dresses, and Therese Ngoy's elegant Kabedi Design bags & dresses, were a hit with locals, featuring in the Illawarra Mercury. A popular addition to the local markets, Annie contributes her gorgeous children's clothes, and Yar's funky water bottle carriers are always popular.

Look out for the group on the 4th Sunday of every month at Coledale Public School 9am - 3pm.
Next dates: February 22, March 22. Enquiries: scarf.sarah@bigpond.com

Thanks to generous fabric donations and sewing instruction from Sue Gunst, Corrimal Upholstery, Diana Whitton, Vivienne Sawyer, Virginia Settre and Dot Gentle. Also to support from UoW's International House, the IECC and Vox FM Hall.



SCARF THANKS VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTER

A Thank You dinner was held on International Volunteers Day, 5 December at International House, North Wollongong for our volunteers and supporters. Those who attended were delighted by community member's musical performances and heartfelt words of thanks to SCARF.

SCARF gratefully acknowledges a specific sponsorship from Gujarat NRE Pty Ltd, whose donation made the event possible.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

"Greetings and best wishes for a fulfilling and productive 2009. It is a privilege to take on the position of Chair of SCARF and to work with Sharyn, the committee and our dedicated team of volunteers and supporters. Much good work is being done to assist the refugee community in their resettlement journey and, of course, there is much more we'd all like to achieve. As our members and supporters grow in number so we can expand our activities and it is to this end we rely on you spreading the news about SCARF to those whom you think would agree with the aims and objectives of our organisation.

This is exactly how I first became acquainted with SCARF, joining in January 2007. My background is in teaching. Now retired, my last position was Deputy Principal at Woonona High School. I'm really enjoying reviving my skills teaching my favourite subject, Mathematics, at the Tuesday and Thursday Homework Help sessions at Wollongong Library. Working with these keen young refugee students is simply a delight.

It is also immensely satisfying to be working with so many committed and talented volunteers who bring a wide variety of skills to SCARF. I'm looking forward to working with you all in 2009 and will value your ideas and feedback so that SCARF continues to go from strength to strength.

I'd like to especially thank Sharyn, Kel and Graham for their leadership and direction that has enabled SCARF to achieve so much since its formal inception in 2005 and to look forward to building upon this solid foundation."

Best wishes,
Jan KENT

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We have been getting ready for our annual raffle, with some very exciting prizes donated by supporters. Thanks to Alison and Ron Watts for another joy flight, Warren Pill who will chauffeur the prize winners in his hot rod and Geoff and Kate from Jambaroo Native Nursery for a \$200 gift voucher.

The raffle is one of our main avenues for raising funds and will be run through March - April, drawn in May on Mother's Day. We will be asking for help selling tickets next month.

Would anyone like to help with fundraising? The work involved is mainly back office type work, which can easily be done at home. We have an exciting fundraiser planned for this year and need help. Email Jane on admin@hksigns.com.au if you want to know more.

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SCARF
strategic community assistance
to refugee families



Copy Deadline for MAY NEWSLETTER is 10th May 2009

Our vision To see refugee entrants happily settled participating fully in the life of the wider community