

SCARF Office Shop 39  
Community & Training  
Centre Shop 36  
Piccadilly Centre  
Crown Street, Wollongong

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PO Box 312  
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SCARF office hours are variable.  
Please check the website  
for the latest information  
on opening hours.

## DAPTO COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Dapto Garden Project with the Burmese is progressing extremely well.

They are harvesting their second crop of vegetables and have gained heaps of experience. Te Bu has graciously taken on the job of Treasurer, collecting the rent and the money due for seedlings, and she is doing a wonderful job. John has sold \$20 worth of lettuces, and has more to harvest to sell at the Harvest Festival in Wollongong on Sunday afternoon. Everyone is very happy with the program, and they have been welcomed and accepted into the gardens by the other gardeners. We still have lots to learn and if anyone has any gardening DVD's or magazines they no longer use, they would be appreciated. A picture tells a thousand words, and these were taken last Thursday before the storm. Enjoy!



HAPPY JOHN WITH FRESH PICKED LETTUCES



HAPPY GARDENERS

## MEET THE MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

### This month... Ann Devenish

"Don't let her go to Australia, she'll marry an Australian" was the warning given to my mother. All in vain. She did and I did. For a ten pound migrant from Scotland it seemed a good bargain. My only commitment was to stay in the country for two years. I was employed as a teacher by the NSW Education Department which was advertising in both the UK and USA.

Like many others I worked and brought up a family in Sydney's Western Suburbs. We were all interested in outdoor activities – bushwalking, camping, canoeing, skiing and cycling. The last provided my husband and me with transport while on trips to Britain and France in retirement.

A move to the Illawarra gave new opportunities. One of these appeared in an article in The Advertiser on a newly formed organisation to assist refugee families, SCARF. Since then I have enjoyed helping with high school homework in assorted halls and latterly in Wollongong Library, playing games while teaching a variety of junior subjects and assisting adults with English, not to mention enlisting my husband to join in video making and screen printing. The video making has revealed so many different facets of SCARF:

picnics, health days, learner driving, gardening, consultations, sewing, as well as a range of cultural activities.

While I hope that the families have gained from my efforts, I can without hesitation say that from their grace and enthusiasm I have gained far more.



TOM AND ANN

## VOLUNTEERS WE NEED YOU

SCARF always needs more volunteers... mentors and home tutors for primary and adults. Do you know anyone who may be interested in helping transform the life of a newly arrived refugee? Have your own circumstances changed and could you offer more time to our wonderful refugee community? We are in contact with families urgently in need of help adapting to their new lives here in Australia. Please put the word out to your friends and relatives. All prospective volunteers undergo a screening process and Working with Children checks.

**Remember to look up our website for all details of SCARF activities and events, application forms for volunteering and/or membership as well as links to related sites and resources for tutors and mentors. Enquiries welcome!**

**Our vision** is to see refugee entrants happily settled and participating fully in the life of the wider community

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THE BURMESE BOYS. KIERAN, KOH REH, CHISTAR DOH, AKHIM, POE REH, SOE REH, PAU LIAN, PAU SAWM, AND TED AT PIGEON HOUSE MOUNTAIN CAR PARK.

### BURMESE "BOYS" WEEKEND

Seven 'lads' from the Burmese community enjoyed a two night bush adventure south of Ulladulla in March. The cabin and welcome was provided by our host, Kieran Tapsell. SCARF funded the mini bus and Ted Booth was driver and mentor for the weekend.

We climbed Pigeon House Mountain, swam in the dam, talked with an Aboriginal land holder and artist, made bird boxes, saw kangaroos, played scrabble, did some clay painting and ate the best food. As Soe reflected, "It was the best weekend I have ever had!"



CLIMBING THE FINAL STEPS TO THE SUMMIT OF PIGEON HOUSE MOUNTAIN



LUNCH AT THE "SWEATY PALMS 'RESORT'"

### LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY

SCARF was recently approached by the Burmese community leaders to provide information on how the law works in Australia, in relation to family matters. We acknowledge, with thanks, Armstrong Legal's team members, Mark Youssef (Senior Family Lawyer) and Michal Mantaj (Senior Criminal Lawyer) who kindly responded to our request. Very important information at both Family Law and Criminal Law level was thoughtfully presented at a seminar in March, interpreted by Burmese Association secretary, Lawrence Lawrence. The presentation was very much appreciated by all who attended.

### DIVERSITY WEEK GENDER LUNCHEON

SCARF was invited to attend this luncheon at the University of Wollongong on 20th April. Sharyn and Jan attended along with Flora and Gracia Ngoy. Unfortunately the timing clashed with TAFE classes and prevented other community members from attending. We appreciated the opportunity to give a brief presentation on SCARF and to network on SCARF's behalf.

### L2P DRIVING MENTOR TRAINING SESSION

A training session for L2P mentors was held on 17th May at Coniston Public School. The program commenced at 5.00pm in the school's Library and included inputs from the RTA, a driving instructor and experienced L2P mentors. A light meal was provided.

Please call Ted Booth on 4229 3284 or email [driving@scarf1.org.au](mailto:driving@scarf1.org.au) if you would like to find out more about becoming an L2P driving mentor.

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### FUSION DESIGNS ARE IN THE PIPELINE

SCARF acknowledges support from the Connect Australia Foundation toward the African Women's Sewing Circle 2010 workshops. Currently underway, the workshops will assist enterprising participants to refine skills toward unique cross-cultural designs for viewing and sale at upcoming Wollongong parades, markets and festivals.

**Next parade:** Sunday June 20th World Refugee Day.

**Watch this space:** [www.scarf1.org.au/events.htm](http://www.scarf1.org.au/events.htm) for further details.

**Enquiries or fabric donations:** [enterprises@scarf1.org.au](mailto:enterprises@scarf1.org.au)



### HOMEWORK HELP DRIVERS NEEDED

Homework Help is at Wollongong City Library from 4:00 - 6:00pm Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Tom Thumb Room. If you are free to assist in transporting students home from 5:55pm on either of these days during term time could you please contact Sharyn.

### COMING EVENTS

#### REFUGEE WEEK EVENT – Celebrating Freedom From Fear 20 June, in the hall at Church on the Mall

Come along to learn more about the stories and the culture of our new settlers from refugee backgrounds. Hear their stories, enjoy their performances.

Items by Burmese Dance Troupe, Burmese Choir, Fashion Parade by African Women's Sewing Circle, other community performers and choirs. Followed by Devonshire Tea!

Entry fee is a gold coin donation. Stay longer and enjoy a Devonshire Tea for \$2.50!

#### For TRIVIA TRAGICS and THOSE WHO ENJOY A FUN NIGHT OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

27 August, the UOW Staff Social Club has invited SCARF to be their charity partner for this year's Trivia Night. Cost \$20 per head includes nibbles, lucky door prize and MORE. The chosen charity is asked to provide 10 teams of 10 people.

Can you please promote this event to family and friends who may not have any other involvement with SCARF. The winning team earns a \$500/ Dinner for 10 Voucher.

Please send an email to [scarf1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scarf1@optusnet.com.au) to REGISTER... yourself or your team.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### MAY 31

Volunteers Morning Tea,  
SCARF Training Centre  
10:30am

#### JUNE 20

Celebrating Freedom  
From Fear  
(see details below)

JULY 2-12 inclusive  
SCARF OFFICE WILL  
BE UNATTENDED

Contact  
[scarf1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:scarf1@optusnet.com.au)  
for any matters requiring  
urgent attention.

#### JULY 31

General Meeting

#### AUGUST 27

UOW Staff Social Club  
Trivia Night  
(see details below)

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18

Community  
Consultation Day

#### OCTOBER 8-10

Art4refugees  
Annual Art Show at TIGS

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### WOLLONGONG CITY PARKING METERS

A spin off to receiving the inaugural Wollongong City Council Australia Day Award this year was that WCC nominated SCARF to be the beneficiary of moneys collected from the Pay and Display Parking Machines in the Wollongong CBD in the first 3 weeks of March. On 8th April SCARF was delighted to be presented with a cheque for \$5180 from David Farmer and this money will be put towards our youth programs particularly to facilitate participation in sport.

### SCARF FREEMARKET

We had a most successful FREEMARKET on Saturday 1st May, attended by about 16 families... six of whom were new to Wollongong since our last FREEMARKET.

Thanks again to all those who gave goods or encouraged friends to do so... we set up departments/areas to cover babies, girls 2-8, 10-14, womens, boys, mens, shoes, linen, books, toys, and household goods.

I (Sharyn) took the camera but with first people arriving before 9am for the 9:30 start, it was all systems go and I didn't get photos of the goods or the community members laden down with their goodies.

#### Special thanks to all the helpers:

Kel, Val, Jan and Di... we managed to deliver people home with their treasures, clear up, take most of the remaining goods to the Sallies all before 1pm.

Very Special mention to Kathy Martin who provided the most amazing amount of books, stuffed toys, and clothing and linen... all packaged and clearly marked with ages/sex etc... just BRILLIANT!!

As always, I say "this is the LAST time"... until next time!!!

### SCANLON FOUNDATION GRANT

Congratulations to Sarah Chisholm, our Enterprise Initiatives Program Manager, for her successful application to the SCANLON foundation for a grant to scope a refugee based waste management enterprise, GREENCONNECT. This project will lead to valuable training opportunities for community members.

The SCANLON Foundation was established in 2001 and its mission is: "to support the creation of a larger cohesive Australian society." They make grants for general charitable purposes in Australia with their principle areas of interest being Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion. The Foundation supports a number of Social Cohesion Research projects and invests as a "Social Entrepreneur" through Grant giving. It is a member of Philanthropy Australia, the national membership organization for grant making trusts and foundations.

Well done, Sarah!

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### SCARF OFFICE HOURS

L2P has changed and is now 3:00 - 5:00.

#### Monday

L2P Assistance: 3:00 to 5:00

Tuesday 10:00 to 3:30

Wednesday 10:00 to 5:00

Thursday 10:00 to 3:30

Friday By appointment

Conversation, Numeracy and Literacy Classes are held in the office by arrangement.

### BOOKS AVAILABLE!

Do you know a community member who would like some books either for themselves or their family? Maybe dictionaries or in specific subject areas or childrens' books. Kathy Martin is willing to take orders and source these books for you for free. They will be secondhand but in reasonable condition. She requires details such as sex, age, topics if relevant and needs a contact phone number to let you know when the order will be ready for collection. If educational texts are needed it is important to indicate what level is required. The orders should be placed through the SCARF office and books will be available for collection from there.

The *Scarlet* Design Group

SCARF gratefully acknowledges Newsletter design from the Scarlet team.

SCARF  
strategic community assistance  
to refugee families



Please feel free to pass this Newsletter on!

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