

**Head Office**  
 Shop 36  
 Piccadilly Centre  
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 Wollongong

**Contact SCARF.**  
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 for the latest information  
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## UOW Chancellor's Award recognizes SCARF volunteers

It was an exciting evening on 9 October when a small gathering of SCARF members attended for the announcement of the winners of the Chancellor's Awards for Achievement in Community Service 2009.

Chancellor Jillian Broadbent announced the winners of the awards, which recognise both University of Wollongong graduates and community members.

Ms Broadbent said UOW deeply values its community partnerships, and said the awards were one way it could demonstrate its appreciation for that support and trust.

Thirty two groups and individuals were nominated for the awards' four categories and each winner received \$5000 and an impressive certificate.



ELIZABETH LUAL AND SHARYN MACKENZIE  
 ACCEPTING THE AWARD.

Ours now hangs proudly in the SCARF office. The citation reads:

Presented to SCARF for their positive and enduring contribution to refugee families in the Illawarra through progressive and targeted support programs.

The Executive acknowledges, with appreciation, the outstanding contribution of SCARF volunteers past and present!

## Community Update

The numbers of refugees arriving in Wollongong continues to increase at a steady rate. Most of the new arrivals in 2009 have been Burmese



ANN DEVENISH AND KEEN STUDENTS FROM  
 THE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLASS.

from the Chin, Karen and Karenni communities. There has also been a regular flow of entrants from Burundi and the Congo plus sponsored entrants from Liberia, Burundi and Congo, and most recently some families arriving from Iraq ... so we really need about 10 new volunteers to be able to introduce mentors to all the families who would appreciate this level of support.

We would love to be able to hold some substantial community events during the summer school holidays ... picnics and social outings for children and adults ... if you would be available to join in these activities between Jan 7 and 21, please indicate your interest by contacting Sharyn by email: scarf1@optusnet.com.au

## 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.

## Community News

### Celebration of Su Meh's Family Arrival

A gathering of the Burmese Community and Australian friends was held at the Wollongong Baptist Church on Sunday 11 October to give thanks for the safe arrival of some of Su Meh's extended family. In September her husband, Htay Reh, and parents, Soe Reh and Pray Meh arrived on the same plane. A week later her sister's family, Pleh Meh, Nye Reh, Ku Moo and Re Mo, arrived.

Several people in the Community were dressed in traditional Karenni costume. There was much singing to a guitar accompaniment with several soloists including Pray Meh, Su Meh's young daughter, and prayers. After the children left for Sunday School there was a sermon for the adults. At the conclusion of the service, Su Meh's family provided a wonderful meal of Karenni food for all the Community.



HTAY REH, SU MEH AND PRAY MEH

Su Meh received assistance from SCARF, IMS and a local immigration lawyer in her applications for her family to obtain the necessary visas. This process took more than two years and Su Meh is to be admired for never giving up hope that her family would be able to join her and her daughter in Australia.

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

## The Illawarra Grammar School (TIGS) Year 12 Charity Partnership

As you may be aware we have enjoyed a genuine partnership with TIGS students this year, being Year 12's nominated charity for 2009.

During the year a number of students have been engaged in activities with the SCARF student community. We have had students helping out at the Wollongong Library Homework Centre, conducting after-school computer learning with West Wollongong Primary students, a series of fun and sports sessions on Monday afternoons plus SCARF community involvement at the annual TIGS Fusion event plus a unique chapel service during Refugee Week.

At the recent Year 12 Graduation ceremony the Captains presented SCARF with a cheque for \$3,177 representing funds raised during the year. This was gratefully accepted by Sharyn Mackenzie who was also invited to attend the Graduation Dinner as a guest of the Captains and Year 12.

Many thanks to Year 12 Captains, to the Board and teachers of TIGS for their support in 2009.

## HOMEWORK HELP SESSIONS at Wollongong Library

This year's program will conclude with a "break-up" party on Thursday 10 December.

The program will resume on Tuesday 2 February 2010.

Volunteers available for anticipated additional session on Wednesdays should contact Sharyn on scarf1@optusnet.com.au



## Illawarra Folk Festival.

The 25th Anniversary Illawarra Folk Festival will be held over 14-17 January 2010. SCARF is pleased to be a partner in supporting this event.

We urge our members, volunteers and supporters to purchase your tickets for this great event from the SCARF office as we will receive 20% of the proceeds from our ticket sales. Tickets are available on Saturday mornings from 10am till 12pm and Wednesdays from 10am till 2pm. They can also be ordered by phone (EFTPOS) and e-mail. Early bird deals (by 4 Dec 2009) offer significant \$\$ savings. Details of ticket sales will be on our website.

Three of our volunteers- Chris Cartledge, Jayne Hartgerink and Hessel Kahn will be volunteering at the Festival on the opening night, Thursday 14th January. SCARF will also receive a share of the proceeds from the opening night concert so please attend if you can.

The local Burmese community is preparing to perform traditional song and dance items as part of the program. The African Women's Sewing Circle will have a stall and SCARF is sponsoring 5 young people from our refugee community to attend the Folk Music School at the festival. Please support SCARF by supporting this festival.

Further details of the festival [www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au](http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 December  
Boat Harbour Buffet  
Breakfast for Members  
and Volunteers.

12 December  
SCARF FREE MARKET  
9:30-11:30

12 December  
Community Consultation  
for Senior Youth and  
Adults 1:30-4:00

14-17 January  
Illawarra Folk Festival

Please refer to our  
website for updates.

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## Computer Solutions on the Go!

As the size of the SCARF community grows, so does the number of people with computers. Email is an essential tool used by refugees to keep in touch with relatives and friends in their country of origin, refugee camps and within Australia. In the former two locations access to telephone services can be very limited and the beauty of email messages is they are stored until the recipient can gain access to read them.

SCARF tries to meet this need for effective communications through the 'Computers for the Community Program'. Under this program we provide recycled computers to community members free of charge. Often the donated computers are faulty or need upgrading before installation.

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KEVIN CHOI OF TT COMPUTER SOLUTIONS AT WORK

SCARF has had great assistance with this program from TT Computer Solutions (Church & West Sts Wollongong). SCARF IT Program Manager Chris. Cartledge says he would be lost without the fast and efficient service provided by Kevin Choi at TT Computer Solutions.

'I can drop off a faulty computer and within a day or so it's fixed' Chris said. Kevin's partner Jean has also been a great help sourcing spares such as modems, speakers etc at very reasonable prices.

More established community members are encouraged to take their faulty computers direct to TT Computer Solutions who can be reached on 4226 6082.

### Mentor Driver Program is a Success

In the three months since the program started 16 community learner drivers have had 90 driving sessions. Several drivers are now half way toward their 120 hours of supervised driving. In October there was an average of 11 driving sessions per week.

A big thank you to the 16 mentor drivers who have provided the opportunity for community members to get their driving hours. Two mentors have clocked over 20 hours in the 'left hand seat'.

The little red SCARF car has had a few 'bumps' but still going strong on the flat. A service in early November might improve its 'hill climbing' capacity.

Paying for driving sessions will now be easier with the new EFTPOS service in the office.

Jim Aitkin has done a great job as the Assistant L2P Manager while Ted was away.

New driving mentors are urgently needed as there are not enough sessions available in any week for the registered learner drivers. Please contact Ted on 4229 3284 or by email on driving@scarf1.org.au. You could call in to talk to Jim or Ted at the SCARF office on any Monday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm.

Ted Booth – L2P Program Manager

### Afternoon Delight!

On Sunday 8th November an appreciative audience of 70 was treated to a program of classical music featuring local musicians Brian Martin - clarinet, Peter Nickolas – piano and Louise Lavelles – voice. Almost \$1000 was raised and several people expressed an interest in volunteering for SCARF. We wish to thank these performers for giving SCARF this wonderful concert and the Conservatorium of Wollongong for providing the venue.

### THINKING OF BUYING A CAR?

The second "Wheels to Go" workshop will be held on Wednesday afternoon 9th December at 5.00pm in North Wollongong. Write the date in your diary or mark it on your calendar. An information sheet with full details is available in the SCARF office.

### A REMINDER

SCARF is a University of Wollongong supported community organization and donations can be made under their Workplace Giving Program. For more information go to the following website: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/giving/index.html>



A KABEDI DESIGN BAG

### African Women's SEWING CIRCLE

For your diaries!

Coledale Markets: Wednesday 23rd December.  
 Special Twilight Christmas Markets 3-8pm.

Thank you for your support. Participants are now working independently from home, and we look forward to further updates from the group in the New Year.

Enquiries: Sarah Chisholm e: enterprises@scarf1.org.au



**ART4refugees - Supporting local refugee families**  
 Charity Art Show @The Illawarra Grammar School  
 9th – 11th October 2009

**ART4refugees**  
 PO Box 106, Keiraville NSW 2500  
 www.art4refugees.org.au  
 Email: info@art4refugees.org.au  
 TEL: 0417 166 011

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

**ART4refugees outstanding success**

SCARF's major fundraiser was a huge success this year. Held at TIGS over the weekend of 9-11 October it saw hundreds of people through the door and raised more than \$12000.

More than 150 people attended the opening, on a cold, windy night, to be first in to buy the very affordable art on display. The opening night was a family affair for the Hartgerinks, SCARF volunteers, with father Nick the MC & daughter Penny providing beautiful background music. Elizabeth Lual, our community representative also spoke very eloquently about SCARF.

A steady stream of visitors came over the weekend, and by close on Sunday almost all the works had red stickers. Many thanks to all our artists, sponsors and helpers, and especially to TIGS who gave the event their wholehearted support.



**Congratulations** to Jane Coburn and her team for a resoundingly successful Art Show. On behalf of the SCARF committee I'd particularly like to thank Jane, Benita Andrews, Sue Boyd – plus husbands/partners/children- Diana Whitton and the University of Western Sydney SIFE students Mel & Jo who did a brilliant job- and Rob Howe from Wollongong City Gallery whose expertise gave us a most professional exhibition. I know there were many other sponsors and supporters involved but the committee particularly wanted to acknowledge our wonderful grass roots team, sine qua non.  
 Jan Kent – SCARF Chair

**STOP PRESS! Sharyn Mackenzie named as the 2009 Illawarra Volunteer of the Year.**

SCARF is delighted that Sharyn's outstanding commitment to our refugee community has been acknowledged with this most well deserved award. Sharyn received her award and \$200 to the charity of her choice at a Volunteering Illawarra Ceremony at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre on 18th November and will now compete with other regional winners from 16 other regions across NSW for the State Volunteer of the Year award to be announced on 4th December. Many thanks to Alison Watts for nominating Sharyn for this award. Congratulations, Sharyn. Your leadership and example are an inspiration to us all.

**BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

Nov 15 – Wollongong store

Many thanks to Jane Coburn for organising yet another successful Bunnings Sausage Sizzle and to her team of SCARF volunteers and Fairy Meadow Rotary for their invaluable assistance on the day. Over \$1000 was raised. Jane is now handing in her apron (to concentrate on Art4Refugees) so we are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to "manage" this day if we are successful in receiving any allocated dates. Please contact Sharyn for more information.

The next **SCARF FREEMARKET** will be Saturday 12 December 9:30-11:30am

Goods can be accepted from 7 December. Good quality clothing, linen, toys will be very welcome!

Volunteer needed please to help Val sort goods on Friday 11 December.

**SCARF OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE:**

The office will be closed from 22 December and will reopen 5 January.

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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