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RMS News

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Issue #25-- June 2006

Akam Bul ta, Bite-Kinyarwanda, Gaw Ler a Gay, Hello, Kia ora, Nabad, Nihau, Min ga la ba, Salaam, Shalom, Talofa lava, Vanakkam, Zdravo!

RMS News is a monthly electronic newsletter updating you about RMS Refugee Resettlement activities and refugee issues in NZ. If you've any comments about this newsletter, or suggestions about what you'd like to see included, please email us. Feel free to forward this email to anyone else who might be interested in the contents.

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1. Mangere update

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The May intake left Mangere yesterday (22 June) for their new homes around the country, most of them arriving to extremely chilly weather in their new locations unfortunately. This intake, comprising mainly Burmese, progressed very smoothly through their time at Mangere. The next intake arrives on 5 July. It is predominantly Burmese but there are also a few family reunification cases including Afghani for Christchurch and Middle Eastern for Auckland.

2. RMS staffing changes

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Our Porirua office has two new staff members, Renee Tun is the new Cross-Cultural worker (Burmese) and Shirley Marshall is the new Social worker. Hutt Valley office also has two new faces, Cross Cultural worker Annie Coates is working with the Burmese community and Rachel Kerr has taken up the new Social work position. In Palmerston North Christine Mukabalinda is working as the Congolese Cross-Cultural worker. Roger Meecham and Spike Mountjoy are new van drivers/storemen for the Wellington office. Jude Walcott has begun work as the RMS Communications Coordinator and will be producing future issues of the RMS News and other publications from next week onwards.

3. RMS submission on Immigration Act Review

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RMS has completed its submission on the Immigration Act Review. It can now be downloaded from the RMS website at:  
<http://www.rms.org.nz/document/RMS-submission-Immigration-Act-Review-June-2006.pdf>

4. World Refugee Day 2006

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World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June by events in Auckland, wellington, Hamilton, Christchurch and Palmerston North. UNHCR also chose the day to launch a global campaign for children: [ninemillion.org](http://ninemillion.org). This campaign is aimed at helping the world's nine million children who live in refugee camps realise their dreams through education and sport. Learning and play create stronger children. Stronger children build stronger communities.

Education, play and sport in refugee camps engage children in positive activities that give them hope and provide vital life tools, which can be used to rebuild lives and regain a sense of normalcy and structure in their daily lives. Refugee boys and girls each have unique needs. Girls, in particular, play an essential role in their communities yet they face the harshest barriers.

The objectives of the campaign are to raise awareness of refugee children and youth and to raise funds for education and sport programs for refugee children and youth. For more details on the campaign, visit: <http://www.ninemillion.org/>

5. Refugee numbers increase

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An exodus of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis escaping growing violence in their homeland last year increased the total number of refugees around the world to some 12 million, according to the World Refugee Survey 2006 released on 14 June by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). That total marked a reversal of a four-year trend of declining numbers of refugees. From 2001 to the end of 2004, the total number of people who crossed international borders in search of a safe haven from persecution or war fell from nearly 15 million to 11.5 million, according to the report. Full report: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=33613>

6. New Internationalist magazine

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The New Internationalist magazine exists to report on issues of world poverty and inequality; to focus attention on the unjust relationship between the powerful and the powerless in both rich and poor nations; to debate and campaign for the radical changes necessary if the basic material and spiritual needs of all are to be met; and to bring to life people, ideas and action in the fight for global justice. The magazine is published by New Internationalist Publications, a communications co-operative based in Oxford with editorial and sales offices in Christchurch as well as Toronto, Adelaide and Lewiston, (USA). Previous issues of the magazine have focussed extensively on refugee issues. If you would like more information about the magazine visit the website at: <http://www.newint.org/index4.html>

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He aha te mea nui? He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
Maku e ki atu. He tangata he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing? What is the most important thing in the world?  
I will say to you. It is people, it is people, it is people.

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