

Thursday 4 June 2015

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES REFUGEE CONTRIBUTION

In 2013 the City of Ryde became a Refugee Welcome Zone and next members of the community are invited to celebrate the contribution refugees have made to our society with the sharing of food, stories and performances at the West Ryde Community Hall as part of World Refugee Week.

City of Ryde Community and Culture Manager Baharak Sahebekhtiari said: “This is a celebration of our community’s diversity and a chance to hear about refugee stories and accomplishments, and to find out about local services and partnerships available through the Community Migrant Resource Centre.”

The Council is partnering with the Community Migrant Resource Centre to highlight the contribution refugees have brought to the local community at this special free event that includes food and refreshments.

The morning event includes:

- Film and performance piece – director Dr Iqbal Barkat introduces his short film *Face to Face* based on the true account of performer Yuol Yuol’s life in a detention centre, re-settling in Sydney, and his first visit to Sudan nearly 20 years later.
- Author Talk with Robin de Crespigny - *People Smugglers*
- *Working with Refugees in Ryde* – Melissa Monteiro, Executive Director Community Migrant Resource Centre
- Intercultural Network – Kate Teys, Relationship Australia Ryde Community Hub
- Macquarie Mentoring – Semra Tastan, LEAP Project Coordinator
- Refreshment and food.

Ryde Refugee Week Celebration, Wednesday 17 June, West Ryde Community Hall, 3-5 Anthony Road, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Please RSVP by 15 June to jnanlohy@ryde.nsw.gov.au or afghan_northernregion@cmrc.com.au

More than one third of Ryde’s 110,000 population comes from countries where English is not the first language. There are more than 110 different nationalities living in Ryde.

Media opportunity: For interview with Film Director Iqbal Barkat, performer Yuol Yuol or author Robin de Crespigny contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083 0434 306 444 lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au