

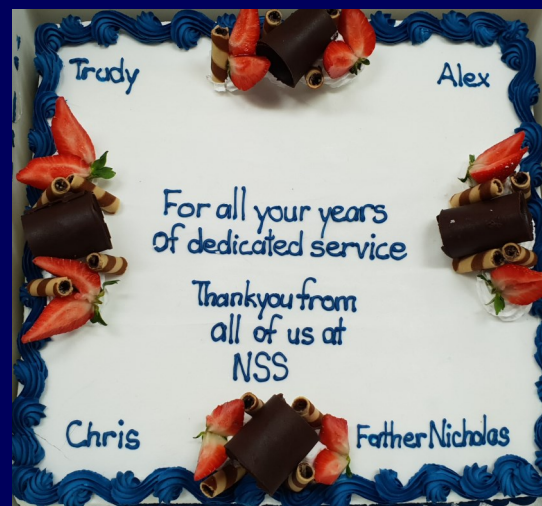


From the Chief Executive Officer Lulu Tantos

Retiring Board Members and Staff

I would like to commence this newsletter by acknowledging the outstanding contribution made to this organisation by our outgoing chairperson, Ms Trudy Mills-Evers AM, and thank her for her leadership over the last 6 years as Chair and her 30 years as Board Director.

On behalf of her fellow Directors and staff, I would like to thank Trudy for the commitment and personal investment she brought to the organisation over her term. Trudy has been integral to the important advances we have made as an organisation over the last 6 years as Chair of NSS. I would also like to pay tribute and say thank you to two other long serving outgoing Board Directors Father Nicholas Zervas OAM and Christine Jordan as well as long serving staff member Alex Burns.





Northern Settlement Services Ltd Annual General Meeting was held on 21 November 2018.

Long standing Board Members, Trudy Mills-Evers AM, Father Nicholas Zervas OAM, and Christine Jordan retired from the Board. NSS welcomes new Board Members Christine Warrington and Andreena Kardamis.

NORTHERN SETTLEMENT SERVICES LTD

2018/19 - Board of Directors

Elected at AGM 21/11/2018

CHAIR	Jon Chin
VICE CHAIR	Ewa Korczynski
SECRETARY	Sania Young
TREASURER	Zachary Ekandi
DIRECTOR	Zoran Vasiljevic
DIRECTOR	Anna Bailey
DIRECTOR	Christine Warrington
DIRECTOR	Andreena Kardamis

this issue

<i>Retiring Board Members—P.1</i>
<i>2018/19 Board of Directors—P.2</i>
<i>2019 Premier's Multicultural Community Medals—P.3-5</i>
<i>Senior's Week 2019—P.6</i>
<i>Syrian Refugee Darwich—P.7</i>
<i>MOMS Friendship Group—P. 9</i>
<i>Volunteers End of Year Dinner—P.10</i>
<i>Domestic Violence Safety Planning Workshop—P.11</i>
<i>White Ribbon Breakfast & Walk—P. 12</i>
<i>Multicultural Parents Group—P. 13</i>
<i>Farewell Lydia & Lena —P.14</i>
<i>North Lake Macquarie Playgroup—P.15</i>
<i>International Women's Day—P.15</i>
<i>Meeting Dates—P.16</i>

2019 Premier's Multicultural Community Medals.

Article courtesy of Multicultural NSW

Lulu Tantos is the CEO of Northern Settlement Services (NSS), the leading regional multicultural organisation in the northern area of NSW. Ms Tantos has been actively involved in the settlement of migrants and refugees in the Hunter, Central Coast and New England regions of NSW for 25 years, administering projects and coordinating NSS's expanding activities.

Ms Tantos' visionary work has taken place outside the traditional parameters of multiculturalism, and has extended NSS support services into areas of regional NSW, where migrants can often feel isolated and disconnected. A strong advocate for marginalised groups and the promotion of access and equity and social justice, Ms Tantos actively participates in relevant forums, responding to government policy on humanitarian issues through advocacy, consultative processes and submissions.

She has forged excellent relationships between NSW Police and the migrant sector, to help respond quickly to issues that arise for migrant and refugee communities. Ms Tantos is currently one of two NSW representatives on the Settlement Council of Australia Executive. She was recently appointed to the DHS National Multicultural Advisory Group and is heavily involved with her local Greek community.





**Lulu proudly receiving her Regional Community award from
The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Premier**

PREMIER'S HARMONY DINNER—28 FEBRUARY 2019

The Premier's Harmony Dinner was hosted by the Hon. Ray Williams, Minister for Multiculturalism, in the presence of the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of New South Wales. The Premier's Harmony Dinner was a glittering gala to recognise and celebrate the significant contributions made by our multicultural leaders.

Attended by over a thousand representatives of our diverse State, the evening was a sit down **cultural dress** or **black tie** dinner, featuring incredible special performances. A special part of the night was the announcement of those to be inducted into the [Multicultural Honour Roll](#). Those honoured were recognised for their outstanding achievements in contributing to and building the successful multicultural society we enjoy today.

The Premier also presented the [Premier's Multicultural Community Medals](#) recognising outstanding achievements in building community harmony, contributions by young people, community service, regional communities, and the NSW economy, to name a few.



NSS CEO Lulu Tantos with other award winners and the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP Premier of NSW at the Premier's Multicultural Awards



SENIORS WEEK 2019

During the NSW Seniors Week on 13 – 24 February 2019, Northern Settlement Services organized a Multicultural Senior Celebration at Wickham Croatian Sports Club for our senior clients who are from Chinese, Samoan, Filipino, Spanish, Tongan and Vietnamese background.

Everyone enjoyed the multicultural food and the beautiful performances. Some of the clients also attended the Premier's Gala Concert and the Senior Expo at International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney on 15th Feb – a free and fun event.



Syrian refugee Darwich Sido opens Sido Tailor at Jesmond shopping centre

Article courtesy of Newcastle Herald 3/1/2019

Darwich Sido's new shop in Jesmond is much more than a business opportunity. It's the mending of a seam that runs between Mr Sido's life in Newcastle and his former life in the city of Aleppo, Syria, from which his family were forced to flee in 2012.

Beginning his training as a tailor at the age of 10, and eventually going on to run his father's alterations company, the course of Mr Sido's future completely changed with the onset of the civil war.

Six years ago Mr Sido and his wife Zeinab boarded a bus with their three children bound for the border as what would become the most destructive confrontation of the Syrian conflict erupted in their home city.

"For my family it was not safe, [there were] planes, fighters and Daesh [ISIS] there. I am Kurdish. They have problems for me," Mr Sido said.

"We only take our clothes and we went to Lebanon."

The family's sense of displacement deepened after arriving in Beirut as refugees. While they were allowed to live in the community, Mr Sido's children were not permitted to attend school.

A phone call from friends in Syria confirmed their house in Aleppo had been hit by a missile.

"They call my dad and they said your house is all destroyed," Mr Sido's son Khalil said.

"If we were inside there we would be

dead."

Mr Sido looked to Australia for "a new life". He and his family were resettled in Newcastle by the Australian government in 2016.

"The people are good here, the city is good, everything here is good," Mr Sido said. His children, Mohamad, 18, Khalil, 16, and Aysha, 10, now attend schools in Waratah and Jesmond.

Mr Sido worked at Rundles Tailoring on Hunter Street for over a year.

Just three weeks ago Mr Sido opened his own alterations business, Sido Tailor, at Jesmond shopping centre.

He was assisted by a partnership between Stockland and Thrive Refugee Enterprises, a not-for-profit organisation that provides business support to refugees.

Mr Sido's consultant Reda Haddadeh, who works for The Business Centre in Newcastle, said Australians could look forward to a new wave of Syrian entrepreneurship.

"Syria used to be number one in terms of clothes manufacturing in the region. Italian and French brands used to be made in Syria. That is why a lot of Syrians have skills in textiles and alterations. It's in their genes and blood," Mr Haddadeh said.

Mr Sido said he was happy to use his skills in a city he "loves".

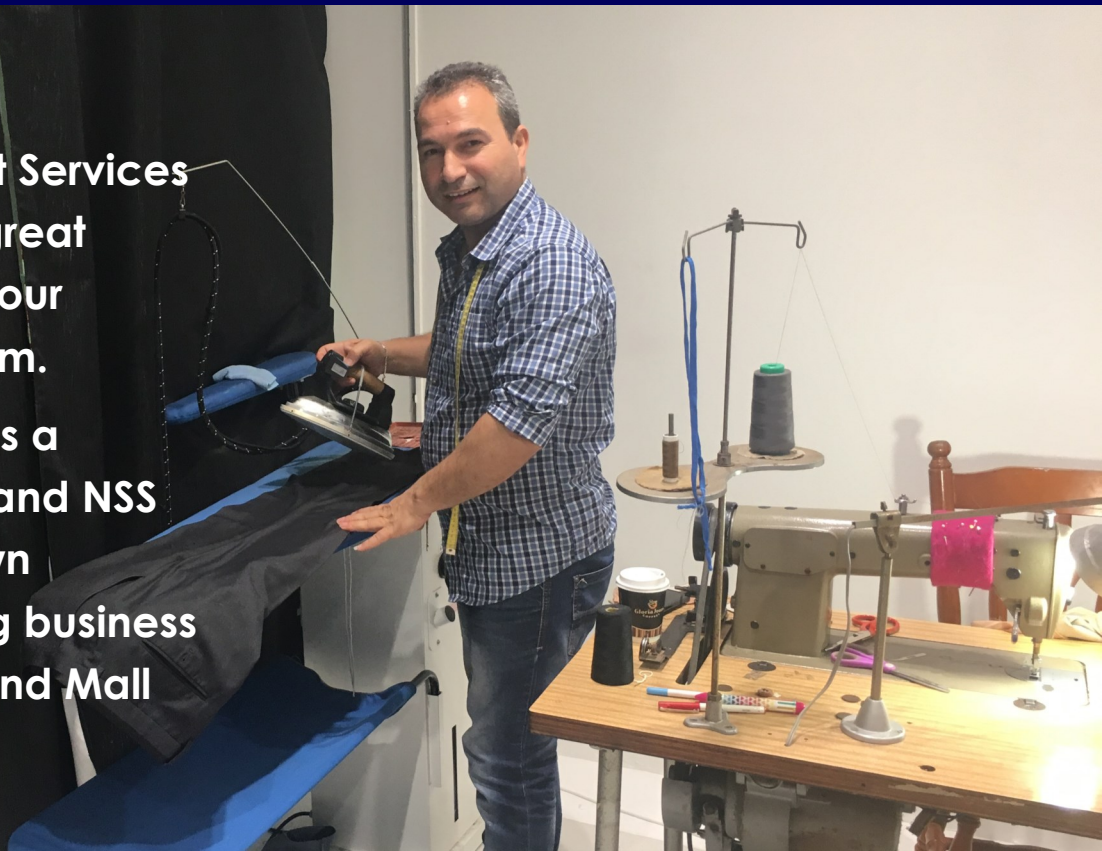
"For me it's good, and for my family it's good if I have a business.

"I am the boss for my work."

Syrian refugee Darwich Sido opens Sido Tailor at Jesmond shopping centre

Northern Settlement Services (NSS) has another great successful story for our Multicultural Program.

Darwich Sido, who is a refugee from Syria and NSS client started his own tailoring and ironing business in Jesmond Stockland Mall across from Prouds.





MOMS Friendship Group End of Year Celebration 2018

Huge congratulations to Homaira, an amazing young mother of 2 for the Best Student and scholarship award 2018, at Newcastle (Open Foundation) University. How wonderful and inspiring this young woman is.

We, at NSS are all very proud of you.

Homaira was invited to give a speech for her graduation from Open Foundation and about Nursing at University of Newcastle.





Volunteers End of Year 2018 Dinner

NSS Settlement Team volunteers and co-ordinators enjoyed a delicious end of year dinner at a local Indian restaurant on 12th December. The occasion allowed volunteers to relax and socialise, as well as to acknowledge and celebrate their valuable volunteering work in our Educational Programs and Settlement Support Programs for 2018.

The dinner was also an opportunity to again congratulate Geoff Nattrass on his two outstanding achievements this year: *NSW 2018 Senior Volunteer and Overall Volunteer of the Year (Hunter Region)*, awarded for his many successes in assisting Syrian refugee women to learn to drive and pass their driving tests.





NSS Central Coast office had a visit of My Health Record on 18/1/2018, which provided lots of information. Everyone asked questions which were answered by the facilitator Sandie Horden Digital Health Officer.



NSS workers Lydia, Elena, Rose, Lena, Pet and Juanita recently attended a "Domestic Violence Safety Planning" Workshop.

Late last year NSS Central Coast staff attended the White Ribbon Breakfast at Mingara. NSS has supported this event across all offices for many years. This year the WR event's focus was on 'nurturing non violence in early childhood settings'.

There was great discussion of the challenges on guiding children to respect the dignity and diversity of all people. NSS invited a few people to join us at the breakfast, and even though it was an early start, it was a very interesting and engaging event for all. Our two guests Raghad and Leanne, were especially inspired and gained a lot of food for thought, not too mention a delicious breakfast



Pictured above L to R: Nellie (NSS), Leanne from our Playing Around the World program, Raghad from our Talking Around The World group, Maria from Yarran and Natalia and Gina, both from NSS.



At the annual White Ribbon Walk on the Central Coast, our Central Coast Settlement worker, Nellie, met up with Sharon Wilkinson, the Domestic and Family Violence coordinator from NSW Police. This year the Walk, which attracted over 800 people, was followed by an event at Memorial Park, The Entrance.



NSS Staff and Board Members attended a White Ribbon Breakfast event at Wests New Lambton to help prevent violence against women.



Multicultural Parents Group End Of Year Celebration



FAREWELL LYDIA & LENA

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Lydia and Lena two of our Settlement Workers. Their dedication and enthusiasm to their work and their rapport with clients will be sorely missed. Good luck for the future.

goodbye
thank you
regards
farewell
cheerio
ciao
sayonara
cheers
see ya
adieu
Arrivederci
so long
culmination
adios
cheerio
farewell
regards
thank you
goodbye
coda
bye-bye
Auf-Wiedersehen
envoi
godspeed
toodle-oo
conclusion
Au-revoir
leave-taking
so long
culmination
adios





North Lake Macquarie playgroup started with celebrating Chinese new year.

The first presentation was about Chinese culture, learning about animal year we were born in followed by a puppet show .

Thanks to Michelle the director of Marvelous Dance Troupe in Newcastle.

Both parents and children really enjoyed this wonderful learning experience.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019—Central Coast

Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre (CCCWHC) is going to celebrate International Women's Day 2019 on 5/3/2019 and 7/3/2019.

This year the theme for International Women's Day is "Balance for Better".

Kathy Karimodini (MSSS and CVS coordinator of Central Coast NSS, CCCWHC volunteer) is one of the speakers for the days as the NSW Vocational Student of year 2018 and now the NSW Education and Training Ambassador. She will share her inspiring story.

These events are FREE for all women; Bookings Essential for Catering purpose.

5/3/2019, Wyoming Women's Health Centre (37 Maidens Brush Rd, Wyoming) 10am - 12noon, and a celebratory light lunch. Contact: Kate 43372202 to RSVP or email intake@cccwhc.com.au .

7/3/2019, Northern Women's Health Centre (7 Rose street, Wyong) 10 am -12noon, and a celebratory light lunch. Contact: Paula 4351 1152 to RSVP or email nwhc@cccwhc.com.au .



**NORTHERN SETTLEMENT
SERVICES LIMITED**



"After 35 years of volunteering, I can say that it has offered me a very rewarding experience, new challenges, stimulation, knowledge and a renewed sense of purpose."



- Volunteering is an integral part of who we are as a nation - 31% of the Australian population volunteer.
- If you would like to help make a difference, join our Aged Care Volunteer Team today!



"I enjoy spending time with older people, I love hearing their stories and I feel enriched by their wisdom."

Community Visitors Scheme
Irene: (02) 4969 3399

8 Chaucer St, Hamilton NSW 2303
www.nsservices.com.au

Hunter Multicultural Social Support
Tima: (02) 4969 3399

Meeting Dates for Newcastle Multi-cultural Interagency & Hunter Refugee Network

Newcastle Multicultural Interagency	Hunter Refugee Network
Both Start At 1:30 pm At NSS Meeting Room Normally Last Monday of the month for NMI & Normally Last Wednesday of the month for HRN	
25 February	27 March
29 April	29 May
24 June	29 July
26 August	25 September
28 October	27 November
9 December (joint meeting)	9 December (joint meeting)



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Business Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00am 5:00pm

DISCLAIMER

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