

From NSS Executive Officer Andrew Tuck

NSS welcomes 2022

Welcome to the first issue of the NSS newsletter for 2022

2022 has started and seems to be rushing by. March is already upon us, and our teams **are busy getting services and activities up and running for “COVID normal.”**

This year we are looking forward to seeing the wonderful faces of our clients again – without face masks and the constant worry of COVID!

We have welcomed new staff onto our teams: Alisha Oblein, Jane King, Kim Wilson in our aged care team; Perry Calkin, Gener Lapina and Chalhok Mathaing in our settlement and communities team. Trisha Stephen, Cristina Serb, and Sue Calvert have contributed to our administration and finance teams.

We have said sad goodbyes to Ruth Anagnostis, our employment advisor, and to Matthew Girdler, our dedicated and inspiring migration agent, and welcomed Ndi Ruppert as the new migration lawyer. And we have rejoiced with the arrival of new babies for our team members Natasha and Ameneh.

This year we will launch a new brand for NSS, and potentially a new name, together with a new website and social media channels. You will see more information about this in April and May, so look for the next newsletter to learn more.

A new name and logo won't change what we do. We keep looking for more ways to support and assist migrant and refugee families across Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, Central Coast, and into New England.

This year we are expanding our services and support for women experiencing family and domestic violence. We are reaching more older people needing care and assistance, and supporting them to stay in their homes and live independent and fulfilling lives. We are investing in training for our teams, from customer service skills to case management practice to working with families in crisis.

All this means a busy year ahead. We look forward to seeing you, laughing with you, and supporting you throughout 2022.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Northern Settlement Services Ltd Annual General Meeting was held on 1 December 2021.

NSS welcomes new Board Members Zachary Ekandi, Shirley Schulz-Robinson and Seamus Fagan

NORTHERN SETTLEMENT SERVICES LTD

2021/22 - Board of Directors

Elected at AGM 1/12/2021

CHAIR	Jon Chin
VICE CHAIR	Ewa Korczynski
SECRETARY	Sandra Feltham
TREASURER	Alexander Seccombe
DIRECTOR	Zachary Ekandi
DIRECTOR	Shirley Schulz—Robinson
DIRECTOR	Rozyta Englert
DIRECTOR	Seamus Fagan

Community Visitors Scheme - CVS

Newcastle - Katie Livingstone



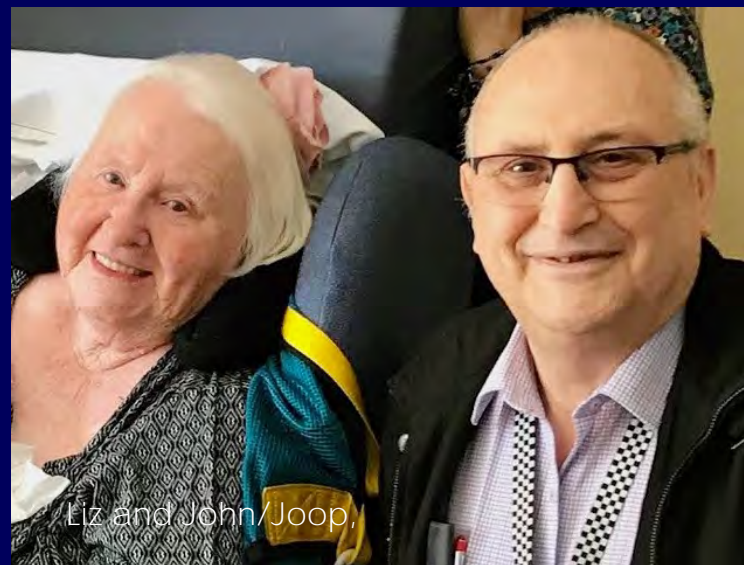
CVS volunteer Joop/John was visiting Liz when her family from Sydney were already in attendance.



Lena van der Lely calls me now Joopie stroopwafel, or translated John syrup wafer. A real Dutch treat.



Hendrika is visited on a regular basis, only Covid has changed many of our plans to do so.



Liz and John/Joop.

Chinese Social Support Services

Newcastle — Dongmei Zhang

In December 2021 we were able to bring the Newcastle and Charlestown group members together to celebrate the end of year. It was first time we got to see each other face to face since June. Even though we needed to have masks on, keep social distancing, check-in and out - all these hurdles cannot hold the joy when we saw each **other's face.**

On 14 December 2021 eight of our seniors participated a Mandarin focus group organized by National Ageing Research Institute. For some seniors this was their first time attending a Zoom meeting.

Another new skill for our seniors. As we say in Chinese ***“only stop learning when you stop breathing.”***



News from Armidale — New England

Regional Agricultural Project with Ezidi Community in Armidale - Debbie Carstens

The Regional Employment Agricultural Project (REAP) is a wonderful partnership project between Northern Settlement Services and The Rotary Club of Armidale (Armidale Rotary), providing an opportunity for recently arrived Ezidi community members from refugee backgrounds to use their agricultural skills and adapt them to the Armidale environment.

The goal is to support participants to move into Agricultural employment or small business, and become financially independent. There are other significant benefits to the project as participants gain skills and confidence, learn English through practical activities and helping manage the trauma they have experienced in their country of origin.

REAP has been made possible by the generous donation of land by two farmers who are members of Armidale Rotary. To date REAP has been funded by the partners, NSS and Armidale Rotary, in addition to donations and many volunteer hours from Armidale Rotary members.

On 6th December 2021 the NSW Minister for Agriculture and member for the Northern Tablelands presented a funding grant to the Rotary Club of Armidale for an agricultural project with the Ezidi community in Armidale. The setting for the presentation was one of the two REAP sites, where Ezidi farmers have been growing vegetables and other crops. The funding granted was through the NSW Community Building Partnerships program, for infrastructure on the REAP sites. NSS CEO Sharon Daishe attended the presentation event with Ezidi farmers, Armidale Rotary members, NSS Armidale staff and other supporters. The Minister was impressed by the crops and the Ezidi farmers, congratulating them on their achievements.

In recent weeks the vegetables are being harvested and sold in local markets in the local Armidale region. The produce is high quality and there has been great support for the Ezidi growers.

Congratulations to the Ezidi growers, Armidale Rotary and the NSS Armidale team for the great achievements over the last 6 months.



Northern Settlement Services' Project Officer Khalid Adi, left, Hadi Ildnidnii, Northern Settlement Services' CEO Sharon Daishe, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Northern Settlement Services' Community and Settlement Co-ordinator Jessica Schmidt, Hamoud Afret and Saeed Sullieyman.

News from Armidale — New England

Regional Agricultural Project with Ezidi Community in Armidale - Debbie Carstens



Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, with the Ezidi Community in Armidale.



News from Armidale — New England

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Some of the produce that the Ezidi Community are now selling.

News from Central Coast

Playing Around the World — Natalia Meliendrez



“Playing Around the world Spanish Speakers are meeting every Monday from 10:00am at Narara Community centre.

We celebrated the Lunar New Year doing some craft and with the visit of the Chinese **Dragon”.**



Multicultural Social Support (MSSS)

Central Coast — Marilyn Perez Cabrera



The Multicultural Social Support Woy Woy Group held their Christmas lunch at Everglades Country Clubs. The photo with the three ladies, from left to right: Joana, Teresa and Helena



Multicultural Social Support (MSSS)

Central Coast — Marilyn Perez Cabrera



The Multicultural Social Support Spanish-speaking group held their Christmas lunch at Bateau Bay Hotel

MSSS Coordinator Marilyn with 94 year old Nora, our oldest client in the group.



News from Tamworth — New England

Oh Give me a Home - Amalin Sundaravej



Children's COVID19 Vaccination - Thanks to Better Health Medical Clinic for supporting NSS Settlement worker Amalin in organising COVID19 vaccine boosters for some of the children from the Karen community in Tamworth. Amalin asked the children about the experience with the vaccination – one said “I was a bit scared at first, but after today I can come back tomorrow”.



A New Home - This Karen family, from refugee background, settled in Tamworth from Victoria just a year ago. Having secured work in Tamworth they saved enough money to put a deposit on their first home. NSS Tamworth Settlement worker supported them in finding a house and securing their first home loan. Other members of the Karen community in Tamworth came and helped with the cleaning inside and outside the house including the huge mess in the yard. It is great to see this new family making Tamworth home, with the support of the community around them.

More than 340 kilograms of rubbish picked up by volunteers as part of Clean Up Australia Day in Tamworth

Article reproduced courtesy of Northern Daily Leader Tamworth - March 8, 2022

All hands on deck: Volunteers of Northern Settlement Services cleaning up on Sunday, March 6. Over 340 kilograms of rubbish was collected by willing volunteers in Tamworth as part of this year's Clean Up Australia Day.

Participants braved the wet conditions to do their bit for the environment on Sunday March 6.

Tamworth Regional Council Waste Sustainability Officer Angela Dodson said the day saw a strong increase in registration numbers from last year, with 23 community groups, youth groups, schools and local businesses all wanting to lend a helping hand.

"Clean Up Australia Day is a really important initiative, and it was encouraging to see the amount of people in the community who volunteered their time to help the cleanup effort despite the wet weather this year," Ms Dodson said.

"One volunteer I spoke to had picked up over 30 single use facemasks.

"It's our responsibility to reduce the amount of pandemic-related litter entering the environment."

Anne Michie from Tamworth Regional Landcare said they had to cancel their clean up due to the wet conditions on site, and is encouraging all Tamworth residents to continue their commitment in improving the environment beyond the Clean Up Day initiative.

"Getting out this week and cleaning up the area right outside your house or an area in your favorite park is already a great help," Ms Michie said.

"There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with organizations like Tamworth Regional Landcare and OzFish as well, with our website regularly being updated with volunteering events."





Communities
For Children
WYONG

benevolent



Playing Around the World Playgroup Tuggerah Community Hall

9 Anzac Rd Tuggerah

Term 1 starts 28/2/2022

Mondays 10:00am to 12:00pm

- * Families and expecting mothers welcome - Kids 0-6
- * Gardening and nature play activities
- * Multicultural craft
- * Story and Music time
- * Guest Speakers
- Please bring hat, morning tea and a drink of water.
- **Activities from around the world.**

Northern Settlement Services

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The Entrance Community Centre

Norberta st. and Oakland Ave, The Entrance

Term 1 starts 10/2/2022

Thursdays 10:00am to 12:00pm

- * Families and expecting mothers welcome - Kids 0-6
- * Multicultural craft
- * Story and Music time
- * Guest Speakers
- * Please bring hat, morning tea and drink of water
- * **Activities from around the world**



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Communities
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Multicultural Playgroup "Dolphin Cottage in Blue Haven Community Centre"

(Colorado Drive, Blue Haven) School as Community Centre

From 8-03-2022

- * **Every Tuesday 9:30am to 11:30am**
- * Families, expecting mothers, Kids 0-6
- * Multicultural craft
- * Story and Music time
- * Guest Speakers

Please bring a picnic blanket, hat,
morning tea and drink of water.

Activities from around the world

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"Spanish Speakers" Playing Around the World

Starting Day: 7/02/2022

2 Pandala Rd, Narara- Narara Community Centre

- * Every Monday 10:00 am to 12:00
- * Expecting mothers welcome, Kids 0-6
- * Craft
- * Story time-Music
- * Guest Speakers
- * Sensory Kidzspace available

Please bring a hat, morning tea and a
drink of water.

- * **Activities from around the world**

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Settlement Groups on The Central Coast



Multicultural Women's chat Group

Starting Thursday March 24th 10am
Peninsular Womens Health Centre
All Welcome.

Free

English Conversation Class

Talking Around The World

Every Tuesday Morning
10am at Erina Trust Hall
All welcome. Childcare available



*These groups held only through school term
Morning Tea provided

**For more information or to register call our
Central Coast office on 43343877**



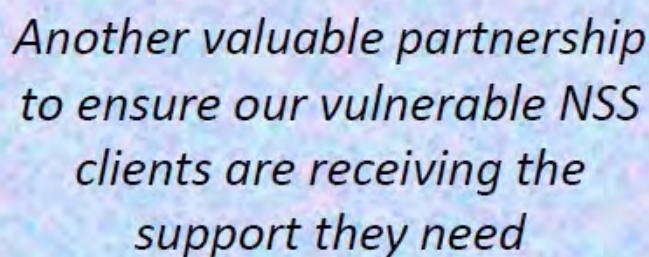
pleased you'll have more time for yourself and that you can enjoy all those things you've wanted to do. Enjoy this new chapter of your life, and we wish you all the best for the future!



Counselling Support Central Coast

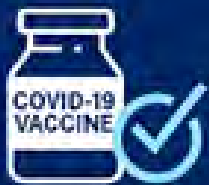


Interrelate has partnered with NSS to provide counselling services and support to our clients every week at our Bateau Bay offices



Thank you interrelate

For more information on this service please contact our NSS Central Coast office on 43 34 38 77



Get vaccinated



Get tested



Wash your hands



Wear a mask

Help to stop the spread of COVID-19. Keep your family and loved ones safe.



If you're unwell stay in. Get tested. Isolate.



Wash your hands regularly. Take hand sanitiser with you when you go out.



Keep your distance. Leave 1.5 metres between yourself and others.



Wear a mask in situations where you cannot physically distance.



COVID-19 VACCINATION

LET'S DO THIS



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DISCLAIMER

Information contained in this newsletter is believed to be true and accurate at the time of publication. However, changes in circumstance and/or policy development may impact upon its accuracy. NSS is not liable to any person or organisation, whether in negligence or otherwise, for anything published or omitted from this publication.



To find a testing clinic near you, visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/clinics.aspx

