

Focus

Newsletter of Northern Settlement Services Ltd
July 2022 — Celebrating 40 years of NSS

40
YEARS



From the Chief Executive Officer - Sharon Daishe

Community harmony and resilience is an important strategic goal for Northern Settlement Services (NSS), and we are thrilled to announce that our multicultural youth exchange program has been funded by Multicultural NSW for another two years. This community partnership, known as COMPACT, is designed to inspire youth to unite against extremism and be champions for community harmony. NSS ran this program over the past year, and recent exchanges were focused on sharing Aboriginal history and culture.



In keeping with the theme of harmony, NSS ran or participated in Refugee Week activities in June on the Central Coast and in Newcastle, Armidale, and Tamworth. In Newcastle at the Unity in Diversity festival, performers from different cultures united. Russian and Ukrainian women joined to perform dances from their different cultures, and men from the Afghan Hazara and Afghan Pashtun communities came together in a joyful, spontaneous dance after their separate performances.

NSS is working with SSI (Settlement Services International) to support Ukrainians who are seeking safety in Australia during the devastating war in their country. NSS and SSI are also working with the Afghan community in Newcastle.

On the 5th of July, I had the pleasure of joining the Tibetan community in Newcastle to celebrate the 87th birthday of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. His Holiness is committed to inter-faith harmony, peaceful resolution of grievances, and the preservation of Tibetan language and culture. The Tibetan community proudly honoured His Holiness at the event with their gracious hospitality, powerful speeches in Tibetan language, and joyful Tibetan cultural performances.

His Holiness is also well known for his belief that helping others is our prime purpose in life, and a smart way to care for our own wellbeing. In this edition of our newsletter, we celebrate NSS volunteers, and our staff who make our volunteering programs possible. Volunteering strengthens social connections, deepens understanding between different cultures, and provides social and wellbeing benefits for the volunteers.

From the Central Coast to Armidale, over 150 community volunteers support diverse NSS programs including youth, playgroup, homework centres, aged care, conversational English, settlement and employment. Thank you to all our volunteers who enable NSS to support more people to overcome barriers and thrive in their lives in Australia.

I invite the reader to share the stories and photos within. I also invite you to join with me in congratulating NSS volunteer Ramona Alvarez, and NSS staff member Marilín Perez-Cabrera, who received awards at the Central Coast Volunteer Expo.

SAVE THE DATES

An exciting announcement and 2 dates for your diary.

A NEW NAME !

Wednesday morning

14 September 2022

We will unveil a new name, new brand and new website. **Venue and time TBA!**

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Thursday evening 03 November 2022

Join us at NEX in Newcastle to celebrate 40+ years of supporting multicultural communities.

Tickets available soon.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

NSS celebrated National Volunteer Week 2022 with a special morning tea held at our Hamilton office on 18th May. Over 30 volunteers & staff attended this event,

representing a diverse range of NSS volunteering programs, including: support for our Aged Care and Chinese Senior clients, tutoring groups for school students, and one-to-one assistance to help develop English and other life skills for recently-arrived refugee clients. A photo presentation showed many examples of our volunteers & clients in these programs.

NSS Chairman Jon Chin and CEO Sharon Daishe praised volunteers for their dedication and commitment to supporting our clients, especially during difficult times over the past 12 months. They presented volunteers with National Volunteer Week certificates and posed for photographs – see selection below.

A touching speech was given by long-time Aged Care volunteer John de Wit of the Community Visitors Scheme. He spoke of the true meaning of volunteering and some creative ways that enabled him to help his clients overcome loneliness and anxiety while living in facilities during lockdown and close contact restrictions.

To finish off a wonderful morning tea, everyone enjoyed delicious Middle-Eastern sweets prepared by a Syrian refugee cook as well as beautiful cup-cakes from our own Donna Kirkpatrick.

Much appreciation to everyone in the organising committee for a job well done.

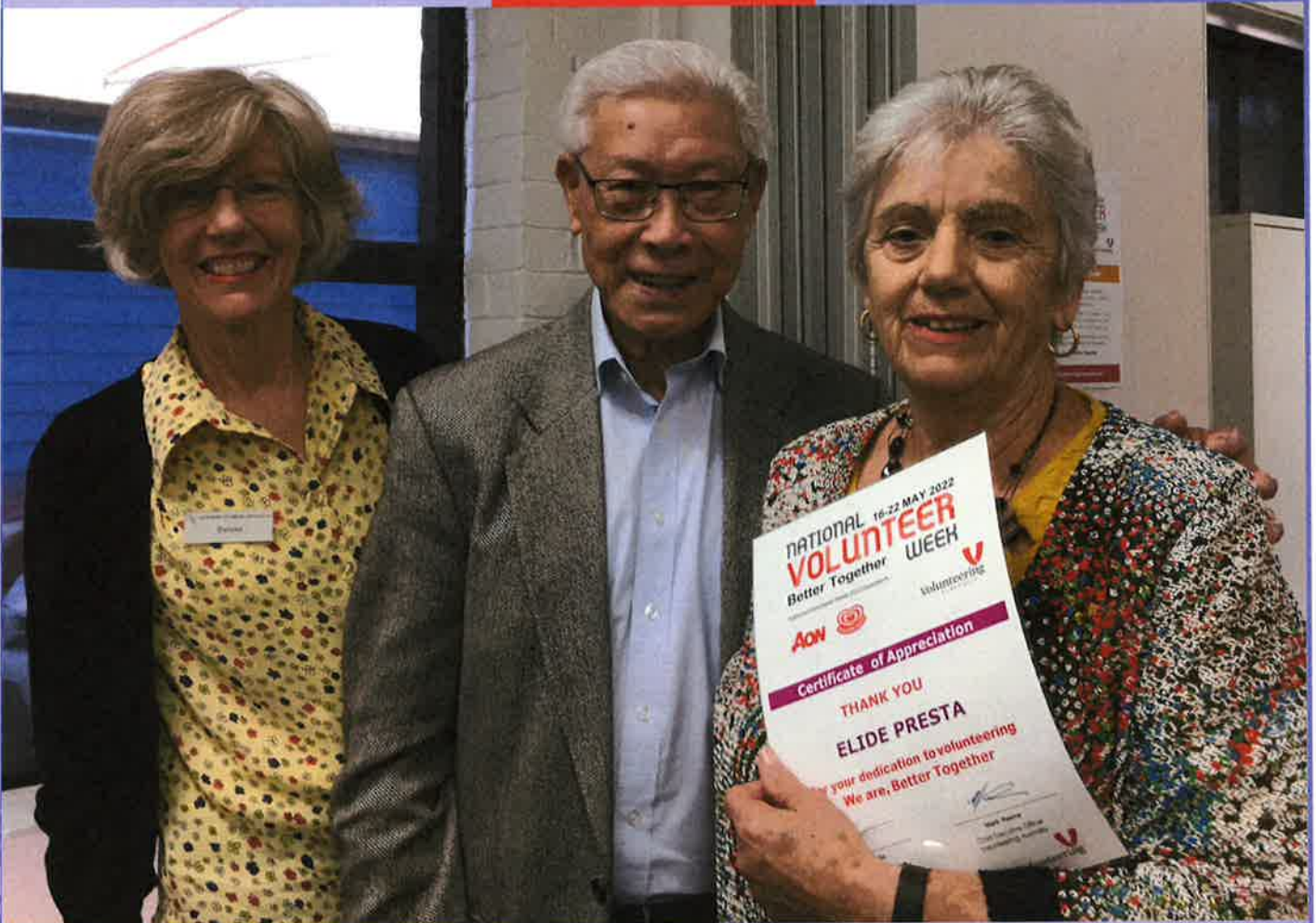
Thank you for
making the
world a
better place

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together WEEK

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NSS Chair Jon Chin and Community Visitor's Scheme coordinator Donna Kirkpatrick presenting Elide Presta with her certificate of appreciation.



NSS Volunteers proudly displaying their certificates. Congratulations to all of you—your contribution is priceless.





David Mehan MP, presenting Marilyn with her award at the Central Coast Volunteer Expo

Congratulations Marilyn

It is with great pleasure to announce that NSS' staff member, Marilyn Perez-Cabrera, has received a commendation as Central Coast Volunteer Manager of the Year 2022.

David Mehan MP handed her the award at the 2022 Central Coast Volunteer Expo.

Marilyn's colleagues say she thoroughly deserves the award as she is the most kind, caring, supportive and ethical person.

Also, one of NSS' aged care volunteers, Ramona Alvarez, who had been nominated by Marilyn, has been acknowledged as a finalist for the Volunteer of the Year award.



Kathy and Marilyn displaying their awards at the Central Coast Volunteer Expo

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together WEEK



National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you. Together, through volunteering, we are changing communities for the better. We are, Better Together.

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together WEEK

National Volunteer Week 2022 Sponsors



Better Together

Volunteering brings people together; it builds communities and creates a better society for everyone.

National Volunteer Week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you.

Together, through volunteering, we are changing communities for the better.

We are, **Better Together.**

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NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
VOLUNTEER
Better Together WEEK

NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
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**NSS Settlement
Team
Volunteers
Dinner at Surtaj**



NATIONAL 16-22 MAY 2022
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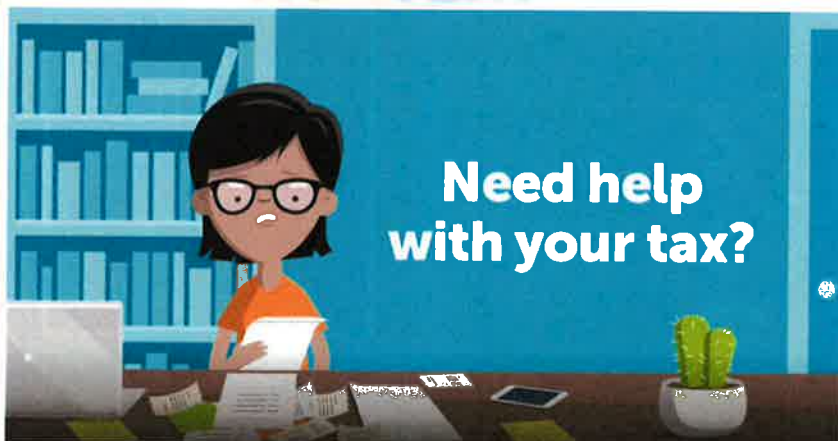
Welcome TO OUR NEW STAFF!

Multicultural Employment Project and Jan McIntosh—Acting Executive Manager Aged Care whilst Toni Gemmell is taking a well earned vacation.

Northern Settlement Services has had quite a few staff changes recently. We would like to welcome to the team Annette Sheen—Home Care Coordinator, Nadyne Smith—Roster/ Administration clerk, Julie Graham—Registered Nurse, Kerrie Linsell—

Baby BOY

NSS Migration Lawyer, Ndi Ruppert, has welcomed the newest member of her family: Takondwa Qabaniso Werner Ruppert, born 16 June 2022 at 7:24am weighing 3.42kg. Ndi says that "Takondwa" means we are delighted and indeed, we are! Mum and bub doing great.



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News from Chinese Social Support Services Project (CSSP)



In March 2022, a group of Chinese seniors had a chance to visit the Newcastle library situated under the City of Newcastle's Council building. The group spent nearly 2 hours in the library and had a tour experiencing the 3-D printer, robot helper, multifunctional room, and big screen to look at the history of Newcastle suburbs. Even while wearing PPE masks, it was clearly visible to see the excitement from our senior clients.



News from Chinese Social Support Services Project (CSSP)

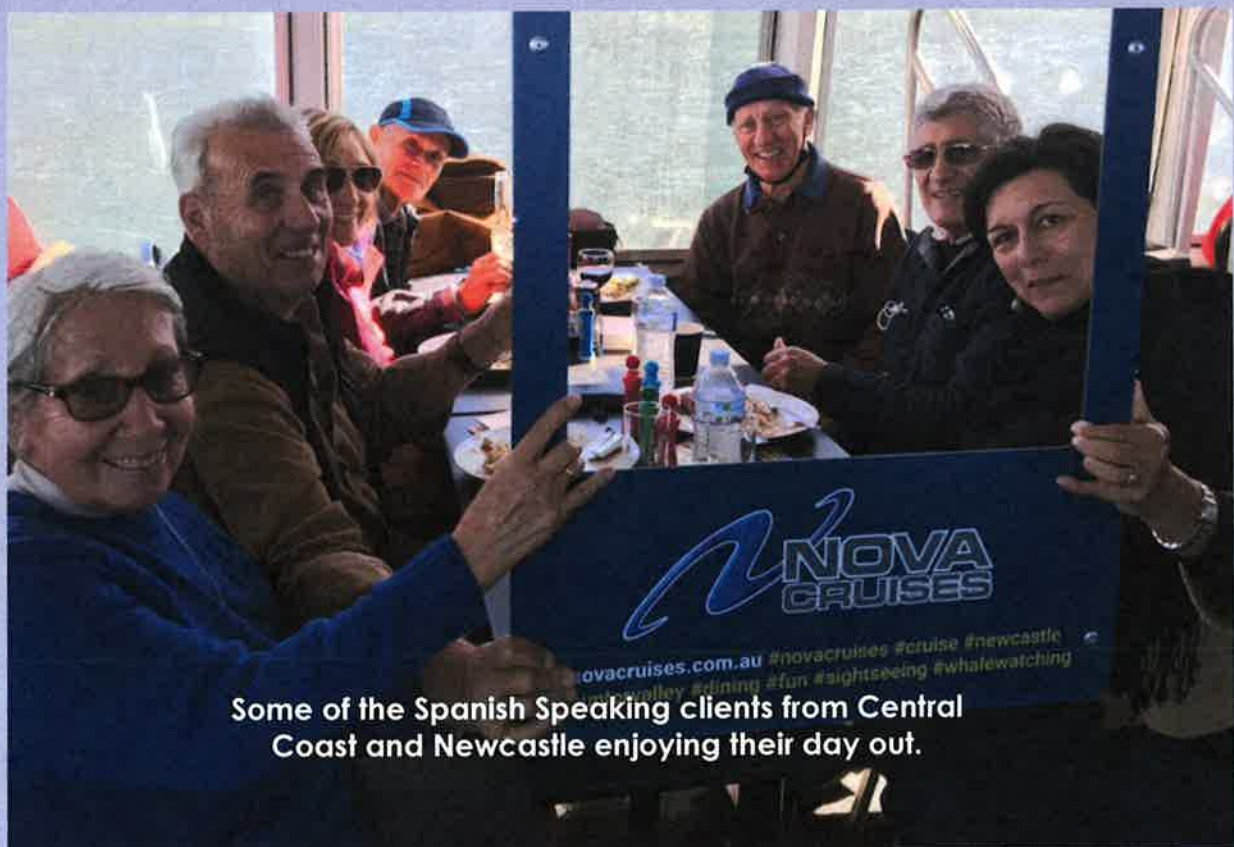


The Chinese Social Support group visited the Multicultural Garden at the Hunter Multicultural Centre 11th May 2022. The HMC had a launch day and welcomed all the multicultural communities to enjoy the day to celebrate the Multicultural Garden.



News from Central Coast—Spanish Speaking Group

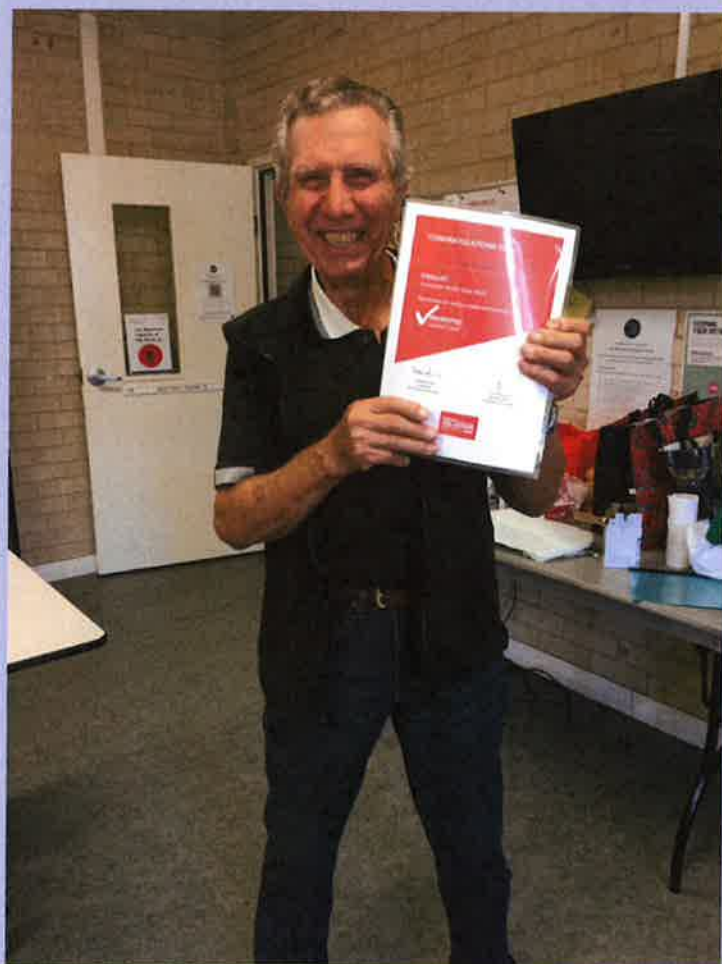
Spanish-speaking clients, outing: Bingo Afloat in Newcastle on 1/6/2022, as you will notice on the photos, they enjoyed very much, and Central Coast and Newcastle got to meet each other.



Some of the Spanish Speaking clients from Central Coast and Newcastle enjoying their day out.

News from Multicultural Social Support Services (MSSS) Central Coast—Woy Woy Group

On the 26th May the Woy Woy group met in The Peninsula Community Centre, and we got the visit from Alisha and Dianne. Our MSSS volunteer Ramon Alvarez enjoyed a dance with Joana, also I presented him with his award, he said "I don't do anything" he is so humble. He was very happy as you can see from the photo.



Above: MSSS volunteer Ramon Alvarez enjoying a dance with Joana, and left—Ramon proudly displaying his certificate as a finalist for volunteer of the year.

NSS Staff Development Day 2022



NSS held it's Staff Development Day on 5th April 2022. NSS Staff from Newcastle, Central Coast and New England spent the day doing team bonding and doing different activities.



Staff
Development



NSS Staff Development Day 2022



NSS Staff from Newcastle, Central Coast and New England working as teams to solve an assortment of challenges.



Youth Cultural Exchange to Port Stephens – 26th June 2022

On Sunday 26th June 37 young adults actively participated in a Cultural Exchange excursion to Port Stephens. They first went to Birubi Beach at Anna Bay for a camel ride and then to Murrook Cultural Centre where they were hosted for lunch and activities by representatives of the Worimi Land Council. The young adults from Afghanistan, Africa, Ukraine, Australia, Syria, Thailand and Laos joined with Aboriginal people for the exchange.



The program was designed to link multicultural young adults with TAFE students from the local area to build relationships, connection, learning and understanding of multiculturalism. This happened through sharing of experiences together on the bus, camel riding, over lunch and learning about Aboriginal history and culture, and other spontaneous activities.

We all had a class in Aboriginal cultural history, weapons, bush food, areas, maps, names, languages, and elders. And we also practiced using an Aboriginal boomerang. We learnt that a boomerang is a thrown tool, typically constructed as a flat airfoil, that is designed to spin about an axis perpendicular to the direction of its flight. A returning boomerang is designed to return to the thrower. It is well-known as a weapon used by some Aboriginal Australian peoples for hunting.

Everyone joined together for Afghan, Hazaragi, Syrian dances and singing.

Our Aboriginal hosts were really encouraged and inspired by what they described as an experience of true multiculturalism, and welcomed us back any time.

The leadership team on the day included people from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Australian backgrounds. One of the TAFE teachers also joined the group, and in thanking NSS for the opportunity he said his students "got to experience culture in the truest sense, people engaging in what is important to them including music and dance."



Feedback on highlights from young adult participants included

I enjoyed throwing a boomerang

I learned how to use aboriginal weapons and equipment

Made new friends from many countries

As a TAFE student it was good to meet + connect with those from NSS young adult team

Camel ride was fun + interesting to learn about other cultures – all people were full of life

Learned all cultures are different but also the same

Saw multiculturalism and made new friends

Experienced camel ride and boomerang

Learned about the importance of music in culture

I learned a lot about the Aboriginal culture with the plants and everything

I learned that camels have 3 stomachs

Thanks to the organisers of the event, it was great day and brought all the cultural together

The youth exchange program was funded through a Multicultural NSW COMPACT grant, with some additional support from STARTTS.

Congratulations to Multicultural Youth Worker Sami Zakhil and the team, and the young adults involved, for a very successful program.



News from NSS Families Team

On 24th May 2022 **Multicultural Parenting Social Group** information Session on healthy relationship with Nafi from mental health Unit.... Information session on a healthy Relationship by Nafi from Mental Health .Working on engage with new families and provide information, support and develop a parenting group. Thirteen (13) people attended including small babies.



Above: Looks like the women are enjoying the session with Nafi of Multicultural Mental Health on the topic; "Healthy Relationships" held at NSS Hamilton.

On the same day the Families Team has hosted Morning Tea and being part of Cancer Council' s Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 2022 fundraising

Thank you for supporting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea 2022.

Thank you to all NSS staff and our guests for your generous contribution which will help fund vital research and prevention programs, and help us to continue to support those impacted by cancer. We raised \$210.83.

Right : Yummy food—home baked cake and Burak at the Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Families Team and attended by multicultural parents , their children and NSS Staff



News from NSS Families Team

On 20th May 2022 NSS Families Team attending Kidding Me Expo promoting NSS Services to the families of Lake Macquarie

Right and Below :
The annual,
"You're Kidding
Me Expo" is back
at The Place,
Charlestown. Miza,
Elena and Rose
represented NSS
with a stall
promoting our
services.



News from NSS Families Team

On 12th April 2022 School Holiday activities for multicultural families with entertaining program, including singing, dancing, games and craft were organised by Family Tea. Children from different background were enjoying their time. Morning tea was provided. More than fifty (50) people which included thirty six (36) children were participating in program. "Many thanks to the City of Newcastle for funding this event through its COVID19 recovery grant program".



Above : Multicultural children and their parents enjoying the activities including singing, dancing, games and craft during the April 2022 school holidays organized by Families Team and was held at the Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre.



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