President's Note

Refugee Scholarships

On 20 June 2016 – World Refugee Day - Canberra Refugee Support delivered our annual Refugee Scholarship awards to 39 recipients. The UNHCR Regional Representative (Mr Thomas Albrecht) and the ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Ms Yvette Berry) made the presentations to a packed audience of recipients, donors, CRS members and other supporters.

The purpose of the Refugee Day Scholarships is to recognise meritorious performance and to encourage and support outstanding refugee students.
These scholarships are modest in financial terms, but they usually have an enormous impact because we are saying to Asylum Seekers and Refugees:
- our community welcomes you;
- we want to recognize your efforts to date; and
- we commend your meritorious performance.

It has taken many months and considerable effort for our Canberra Refugee Support - Scholarship Team to prepare for this event. Thank you to all who have contributed, especially: Chris, Catherine, Judy and Brian.

I should also acknowledge our partners who nominate candidates to receive awards. They include: Canberra Institute of Technology; Companion House; Red Cross; Navitas; and the ACT Education and Training Directorate, including the Introductory English Centres and the Dickson College Refugee Bridging Program.

Scholarships have been made possible by generous donations from the Canberra community. Contributions have come from businesses, community groups, staff associations and from individuals.
- Two scholarships have been sponsored by the South Woden Uniting Church. One in memory of Charles and Nancy Lee; and another in memory of Cedric Lionel Dixon.
- In recent times, sadly, Canberra Refugee Support has seen the passing of some of our members. So this year, we have presented one scholarship in memory of Margaret McLeod and one in memory of Les Hegedus.

This year we raised over $32,000.00. That has been a terrific contribution from our community and we aim to deliver an even more successful program next year.