



ANNUAL REPORT

2002-2003



ANCORW

Level 15 Matthews Building, University of NSW, Kensington

PO Box 973 Kensington, NSW 2033

PH: (02) 9385 1961

FAX: (02) 9662 8991

EMAIL: ancorw@unsw.edu.au

WEB SITE: <http://www.ancorw.unsw.edu.au>

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all ANCORW members & supporters for their contributions to this report. In particular, we express our thanks for permission to use the various photographs used on the cover of the report, and in the body of the report.

ANCORW is a member of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) and is a signatory to the ACFOA Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

More information about the ACFOA Code of Conduct can be obtained from ANCORW and from ACFOA at:

	<u>ANCORW</u>	<u>ACFOA</u>
Website	www.ancorw.unsw.edu.au	www.acfoa.asn.au
Email	ancorw@unsw.edu.au	acfoa@acfoa.asn.au
Phone	(02) 9385 1961	(02) 6285 1816
Fax	(02) 9662 8991	(02) 6285 1720

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANCORW'S MISSION STATEMENT

ANCORW BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

ANCORW'S YEAR AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

TREASURER'S REPORT

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT (WITH AUDITOR'S REPORT)

FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (WITH AUDITOR'S REPORT)

ANCORW'S MISSION STATEMENT

ANCORW is a lobbying, advocacy and research group which works with and for refugee women and their families in order to bring about change in the refugee system and to enhance their ability to rebuild their lives.

ANCORW regards refugee issues as human rights issues. Empowerment and the full achievement of all human rights for refugee women and their children are equally as important as protection.

At the national level, ANCORW, lobbies for changes in domestic law, social policy and for improved service provision.

At an International level, ANCORW lobbies at the United Nations for changes in International law, United Nations Declarations.

ANCORW is committed to undertaking research into issues which adversely affect the lives of refugee women and their dependant children and to use this research to lobby for change.

ANCORW is committed to empower refugee women to have control over their own lives and to advocate on their own behalf through the provision of advocacy training and by providing opportunities for refugee women to participate in national and international forums.

ANCORW BOARD MEMBERS

NAME / POSITION	QUALIFICATION/ EXPERIENCE
Juliana Nkrumah; Chairperson	Coordinator NSW Female Genital Mutilation Education Program; work with many African community groups on settlement issues.
Olivia Wellesley-Cole; Treasurer	Manager & trainer. Works in community refuge support scheme and leader in the Sierra Leone community in Australia.
Julie Smith; Secretary (co-opted)	Provides input to board, from her experience with a community legal centre.
Linda Bartolomei; Public Officer	Senior Researcher, The Centre for Refugee Research and ANCORW; Trainer.
Kiri Hata	Development, training and management in community and legal sectors, refugee, migrant and Indigenous communities.
Beatriz Leoncini	Community management and training specialist; multi-sectoral consultant on refugee settlement services.
Eileen Pittaway	Director, The Centre for Refugee Research; Lecturer University of New South Wales; Co-chair, Asian Women's Human Rights Council.
Amrit Versha	Community worker
Trish Highfield	Early childhood teacher, Villawood Detention centre Visitor and refugee advocate
Elenie Poulos	Minister of religion, Uniting Church; Leader, ANCORW Research Ethics Committee.
Nandini Ray	Social Worker /Coordinator, Waterloo Housing Project; Researcher, Women at Risk Program; Sessional tutor, community work.

Eloise Finlay

Social Worker; Researcher Refugees,
Women & Disabilities

Board Member Activities

The following section provides a pictorial look at some events attended by past and present ANCORW board members during the year – in particular, board meetings and training sessions.



Above: Eloise Findlay, Juliana Nkrumah, Nicole Hercus & Nandini Ray



Above: Eileen Pittaway, Carole Shaw & Kiri Hata



Above: Eloise Findlay & Trish Highfield



Above: Linda Bartolomei

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

HELLO EVERYBODY

Thought of something exotic to say, and found that the most appropriate was to summon attention in a traditional manner so here we go: "Agooo, Amanfo!" (A door knock to the people gathered) and the people respond "Ameee...." (Literally the door is open, that is you have our attention) Then I say thank you!

So thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the day of ANCORW's AGM 2003.

I cannot believe that this year has gone past so very quickly. It has been another extraordinary year for ANCORW. The Board has been extremely busy and at times has hit dizzy heights, especially around times when we needed to host activities like the Garden Party. It was a great event and thanks to Eileen and the fundraising team for the fabulous work. We say on the ANCORW Board that when we get a break, we will have a good celebration, but that day is yet to come.

I thought a bit a reminiscing would not go astray, as I think at times like this, it helps to remember.

I joined ANCORW in 1990 at a time when I was feeling bored and looking for an opportunity to impact the lives and make a difference. I have not turned back since. Working on the ANCORW Board with extraordinary women like Eileen, Velvy, Hermine, Kiri and many more. Some who have passed through, and some still on Board, has more than enriched my life, and helped my give vent to my talents that have gone to positively impact other women, especially refugee women.

In the early 1990s when ANCORW ran the refugee women's Jobskills program, we had the opportunity to assist refugee women into employment. For some of those women that was their first meaningful job in Australia. A couple of months ago, I met one of the Jobskills participants. She had just left that position she entered

through the Jobskills program for maternity leave. I keep meeting more of these women, as they do well and progress through work in the Australian mainstream community.

This and more, are what make ANCORW unique!

I remember making a comment earlier in the year to the Board that some very good things happened to ANCORW in 1993, when I was the chair of ANCORW for the first time, and I was of the opinion that this time round, it would happen again.

We began the year on shaky ground, trying to clarify ANCORW's relationship with the Centre for Refugee Research (CRR). After several rounds of discussions, it was clarified thus:

The relationship between ANCORW and CRR is one of interdependency, with each organisation providing strengths that the other needs. Such a relationship serves each organisation's purpose for now and will be maintained that way.

This point of clarification paved the way for the Board to continue its work. The Board has kept up all the meetings even though it meant traveling the length and breath of Sydney to achieve that. The Board held a half-day planning session in North Parramatta, which provided a clear focus for the work over the course of the year.

ANCORW has been active in its partnerships on projects hosted by CRR. The projects in situ are:

- Women At Risk Research
- Beijing + 10
- Domestic Violence Prevention and Education

ANCORW members, as well as Board members have been extremely active in ARRA (Australian Refugee Rights Alliance). I would like to encourage all members to read about ARRA and support in anyway that they can.

Several of the projects ANCORW is involved in now imply an international focus. ANCORW, in full recognition of this, has applied for ECOSOC status and is awaiting the result of the application. I will like to thank all the Board members who were actively involved in getting the application off on time.

ANCORW has an ongoing fundraising activity "GET A LIFE" which is a very small way in which Australians can meaningfully assist girls in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. I have a very soft spot for this project, and would like to encourage all ANCORW members that if you do nothing at all this year for ANCORW, get a few people to make a contribution to "GET A LIFE". It will make a real difference to the life of a refugee girl in the Kakuma Refugee Camp.

ANCORW has also actively assisted in developing the Northern Beaches Refugee sanctuary and making links with the Sierra Leone refugees with who they have developed a very strong network.

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) funded the Sudanese Women's Nutrition Program, in January 2003. The opportunity exists for our membership to make suggestions for projects, and we are in favour of partnerships as this is the way to go in the present socio political climate.

I would like to express a big thank you to all Board members. Every Board member has come with a unique combination of skills, which has gone to only enrich the Board in the delivery of its work. In the past year, every member has had the opportunity to put her skills to good use. I have appreciated everyone's contribution, from ideas and visionary people to those with eyes for detail. You have each been amazing in your different roles in keeping this ANCORW ball rolling.

I would however like to mention a couple of members who took a huge load off my shoulder. Julie Smith stepped in and got all the Board minutes recorded and sent out in time to get people taking action prior to the next meeting. Julie thanks for keeping us on our toes and getting the wheel turning smoothly. Thanks for helping me

keep my sanity.

Olivia Wellesley-Cole was the constant Email churning out, questioning, and getting responses even if it was at the last minute. Thanks, it was no nagging at all, keep it up, we need that hat to keep ANCORW colorful.

ANCORW continues to be purely a membership organisation with no government funding. All work is conducted on voluntary basis. Thoughts have to go towards ANCORW's financial position. The Board will appreciate some suggestions on fundraising etc from the membership. Please send your suggestions to the office.

Finally, thank you to everybody who has worked with ANCORW in different capacities and thank you all for the opportunity you gave me to chair this auspicious organisation.

Juliana Nkrumah
Chairperson
ANCORW

ANCORW'S YEAR AT A GLANCE (2002-2003)

July

- Kiri Hata promoted ANCORW activities as guest speaker at Granville Soroptimists meeting, which was attended by 25 women. These women had actively campaigned during the Tampa crisis, and were keen to find out more about the work of ANCORW.
- Linda Bartolomei met with refugee support groups and visited the Refugee Reception Centre in Auckland, New Zealand to discuss settlement issues for refugee women.
- Social work interns Caroline Jones and David Green commenced a small research project into the resettlement needs of Sudanese Refugees in Australia.
- ANCORW planning and board training day
- Eileen Pittaway represented ANCORW at a UTS Conference on refugee issues

August

- ANCORW representatives traveled to Bundeena on the NSW South Coast in to collect over 1000 text books donated by retired academic Margaret Sargent. These books were packed and sent to refugee students in Kakuma Camp, Kenya.
- Trish Highfield and Linda Bartolomei were guest speakers at a public meeting hosted by We Care the Bundeena refugee support group.
- Olivia Wellesley-Cole attended lobby training conducted by the UNSW Centre for Refugee Research in preparation for participation at the UNHCR Pre-EXCOM and EXCOM meetings.

September

- Two ANCORW representatives took part in the annual

meetings between the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs from all round the world, in Geneva in September & October.

October

- ANCORW representatives attended the ACFOA AGM and council meeting in Canberra
- Linda Bartolomei was the guest speaker at several events designed to raise awareness of human rights violations experienced by refugee women. These included events arranged by the Australian Red Cross and "Jews for Ethnic Tolerance".
- Kiri Hata traveled to Cootamundra in regional NSW at the invitation of Rural Australians for Refugees as guest speaker at various refugee related events.
- ANCORW officially a research partner with the Centre for Refugee Research on the ARC funded 3 year Refugee Women at Risk Research Project.
- Eileen Pittaway represented ANCORW at activities during "Poverty Week"

November

- ANCORW representatives Linda Bartolomei and Trish Highfield were guest speakers at a dinner hosted by the Sutherland Workers Club.
- Eileen Pittaway represented ANCORW at several public forums including High Schools and Women's' groups

December

- Launch of the Video of the Court of Refugee and Indigenous Women. ANCORW AGM 17th December.

January

- ANCORW representative Juliana Nkrumah participated in a 2 day training on the UNHCR Refugee Resettlement Handbook hosted by the Centre for Refugee Research.

February

- Three ANCORW representatives attended Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) Networking for Beijing plus 10 Strategic Planning Meeting and training course held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Eileen Pittaway and Linda Bartolomei visited refugee camps on the Thai Burma Border

March

- Linda Bartolomei participated in a debate on the future of advocacy at the NCOSS conference.
- Eileen Pittaway represented ANCORW at an anti-war rally, highlighting the plight of refugees in conflict situations

April

- Garden party
- Launch of the Tree of Hope Fundraising Campaign to raise funds to cover ANCORW's commitment to the Refugee Women at Risk Research with the Centre for Refugee Research.

May

- Carole Shaw attended the launch of the UNDP Human Development Report 2003 at Parliament House, Sydney.
- Olivia, Juliana, Trish and Linda assisted the Manly Social Justice Group with Fundraising and planning for a refugee sponsorship program. This program has thus far raised the funds to sponsor two Sierra Leonean refugee families from the refugee camps in Guinea.

June

- Eileen Pittaway and Linda Bartolomei visited Nairobi and Kakuma Camp, Kenya as part of the Refugee Women at Risk research project.
- Eileen Pittaway and Linda Bartolomei participated in the UNHCR Standing Committee and Convention Plus Forum at UNHCR, Geneva.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Pre-School Early Intervention, Literacy and Numeracy Program, Auburn

A program that has provided support at the local level is the Refugee Pre-school and Adult Literacy and Numeracy Program. This was very ably run by Fadia and Gemma (Pre-school teachers) and Nouhad (Adult ESL teacher). This program was run in collaboration with the Auburn Library, and with the support of the Auburn City Council and had been funded by the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme.

The program concluded in May 2003, with a picnic at Auburn Botanical Gardens. The occasion was made specially memorable by the fact that the weather was not supportive of a picnic, with torrential rain all day! This, however, did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who attended, with a wonderful singing performance by the grandfather of one of the children on the program. The picnic was held in a covered barbeque area, and from time to time as the rain subsided, there was time to go for walks in the wonderful grounds.

The picnic concluded with the presentation of plants from ANCORW to the staff who had made this program such a success. All materials from the program were donated to good homes.

Sudanese Women's Food & Nutrition Project

In March 2003, ANCORW was granted funding from the Community Relations Committee (formerly Ethnic Affairs Commission) to undertake a project in the Blacktown area with members of the Sudanese community.

The project is to conduct 12 shopping, cooking and nutrition classes, and produce a pictorial (photographic) recipe book as the main outcome of the project.

This project concept has been enthusiastically supported by the members of the Sudanese community in Blacktown, so much so that there was much competition for women to take up places on the course.

The funding is for one year, ending in March 2004, after which the project will be evaluated to determine if there is scope to continue in the same or similar manner.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Launch of UNDP Human Development Report

ANCORW was invited to the launch of the UNDP Human Development Report 2003, which was held at Parliament House, Sydney in May 2003. The event was hosted by Mary Kostakidis of SBS, and the presenting dignitaries included

- Juan Carols Brandt, Director of the UN Office in Australia.
- Jose Ramos Horta, Foreign Minister for East Timor
- Hiro Kosagowa, UN Special Envoy to East Timor
- Hon Dr Meredith Bergman, Legislative Council of NSW

The main focus for the Human Development Report 2003 was the Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end poverty. Poverty is seen to be at the root cause of many of the issues hindering human development. The speakers supported the plans of action contained in the Millenium Development Goals and both Ramos Horta and Kosagowa explained how East Timor was using the principles of the MDG's to begin to rebuild the country.

Hiro Kosagowa emphasised the advantages of linking the Millenium Development Goals to National Development plans and highlighted the role of the international community in supporting security and welfare of people all around the world.

A copy of the Human Development Report 2003 is held in the ANCORW office at the University of New South Wales.

Carole Shaw

Fundraising Garden Party

An enjoyable day was had by all of the supporters who attended the ANORW Garden Party on Saturday 5th April. Held at Eileen home in Forrestville, around 30 people came along, raising over \$1,000 towards Olivia's trip to the 2003 EXCOM meetings in Geneva.

Guests were treated to some delicious sandwiches, scones and cake and played croquet on the lawn while sipping champagne. A highlight for many guests was the shop of Thai treasures - silk scarves, cushion covers clothes and trinkets - that ANCORW board members had purchased on one of their frequent trips to the Thai refugee camps.

The Garden Party also provided supporters with the opportunity to view "Welcome to Kakuma" and the video of the Indigenous and Refugee Women's Human Rights Court.

Julie Smith

Visit to South West NSW

In October, 2002 I attended a series of public meetings in Cootamundra / Young, South West NSW, as a guest of the local Amnesty International group. This group has been central to the support of Afghani Refugees who are living and working locally.

Apart from an afternoon gathering of some 200 people, at which Tanya Plibersek and I were guest speakers, there was also a fundraising dinner and dance in Young that evening, catered by the Afghani community, from which the money raised was presented to ANCORW for our ongoing work.

It was a fabulous night of music, food and much fun. The local mayor and many citizens turned out to show their support for this

small Afghani community.

A further highlight was the opening the next day of a superstore, during which almost every Afghani worker in the community came and greeted me as we wandered around the town, and spoke about their feelings for the people of Young and Cootamundra. Overall, it was a particularly fine example of what is possible when people of goodwill act together for the greater good!

Our special thanks to the local Amnesty International group and Monique and Rodrigo Huyskens-Arriego and their beautiful girls.

Kiri Hata

Sydney Leadership Program

The Sydney Leadership, run by the Benevolent Society, provides an intensive learning experience for those in formal and informal leadership roles and positions of influence who want to have a real impact on key social issues.

This year, ANCORW supported my participation in the program.

The course itself is an intensive learning experience for people in formal and informal leadership positions of influence and who want to have a real impact on key social issues.

Through the program, I've been given the opportunity to add value to it and to the knowledge base of participants about refugee issues and cultural diversity, which is my own background and afforded the opportunity to learn new things that I thought I knew and quickly found out I knew very little...

I see my role in the program as an opportunity to disseminate information on refugee women, settlement and cultural diversity issues to participants and broader networks arising from the

program and this has had an amazing response from everyone and has changed many people views' about refugee women's issues.

The program means many things to many people but in the context of my participation, the resources and knowledge that has become available to me will assist ANCORW to continue to send its message and support refugee women's' issues in areas where partnerships had not yet been forged.



On a personal note, my own development has been dramatic, likening it to learning in the first three months what could be learned in 4 years of a formal degree.

The program included monthly 1-day program days where specific issues are explored and workshopped, monthly breakfast with speakers who move within sphere of influence (Carmel Tebutt. Kerry O'Bryan) and visits to organisations to experience first-hand the work that is being undertaken.

The value of the program is the learning as well as the opportunity to remain connected and become part of a broader network of alumni who can work on specific issues which CAN make a difference and CAN have a social impact

The Readings and resources from the program will be available

early in the year from ANCORW to anyone who is interested and I'm accessible to anyone who wants to talk to me about the program or any of the work that is taking place as a result of it.

I would like to thank all of ANCORW for its support and in particular The Sydney Benevolent Society itself for financially supporting my participation in the program. Without it, I would not have been able to be in it and learn the amazing things that I have learned and will continue to learn as the process continues.

Beatriz Leoncini

**Update on
"GET* A Life" Fundraising Campaign**

(*Girls' Education and Training)

Do you remember that in last year's Annual we reported on the GET a Life Campaign?

Q: What is the biggest single barrier for girls to access education and training in refugee camps?

If you said community attitudes, lack of interest, lack of education programs or no money, you'd be wrong. While these are part of the reason, they are not the biggest single reason. So what is it?

Sanitary towels - there aren't any. That's it. Nothing difficult or impossible about it. Just basic and common to every women on the planet.

A: Sanitary towels

There is a massive need for re-useable sanitary towels in every refugee camp around the world. These need to be re-useable because the disposal options are non-existent. It is

strictly wash and wear in a refugee camp. The lack of such a basic necessity means that women are confined to their makeshift shelters and homes every month while menstruating. Imagine having to stay home because you did not have access to such a basic need.

No school. No work. No meeting friends for coffee or a chat.

For refugee women, it also means no food (you have to queue at a central place); no cooking; keeping your children confined because you can't keep an eye on them outside, and there are many dangers in these camps; and many other problems. During a recent visit to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, we were confronted by the situation of the women. We know that the small things are often overlooked in favour of big projects. In this case, it really is a matter of a little going a long way.

Well, this year we can report that ANCORW raised over \$5,000 in the last year to support the young women in Kakuma Camp, and the following photographs show the results of Your (ANCORW members') efforts.



**The Don Bosco Tailoring Shop
Income Generation for Women and Girls**



**Panties and sanitary towels
made in the tailoring workshop**

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

ExCom and Related Meetings

TRIP TO GENEVA 23rd September – 5th October 2002

Summary

I had the privilege of representing the Australian National Committee on Refugee Women (ANCORW) at a series of conferences and meetings in Geneva, Switzerland in September & October 2002, as part of the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance (ARRA). There were 3 key meetings:

- UNHCR Executive Committee Meeting (known as ExCom) held from 30th Sept -> 4th Oct 2002
- NGO meeting to prepare for ExCom (known as Pre-ExCom) held from 24th Sept -> 27th Sept 2002
- Special General meeting of the European Council on Refugees & Exiles (ECRE) held 27th Sept – 29th Sept 2002

When I included with these three meetings the additional preparatory meetings, and side meetings lasting from 23rd Sept to 5th Oct, the trip was a full-on 13 days of meeting, greeting and sheer hard graft.

Team

All in all, 16 Australian made the trip to Geneva this year, 15 of us under the banner of the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance (ARRA), and two of whom were ANCORW board members. ARRA was set up in mid 2002 with the explicit aim of attending the UNHCR ExCom and associated meetings from 2002 on. The 15 ARRA members who travelled consisted of lawyers, church representatives,

students, NGO representatives and university lecturers.

Meetings

1. ExCom

ExCom is the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Each year in late September, ExCom meets in Geneva to fulfil its role as advisor to UNHCR. The meeting is attended by official government representatives (the Members), other government delegates with observer status, and accredited members of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) who also have observer status. This year, there were about 60 countries as ExCom members, another 60 countries as observers, and 20 official observer NGOs.

As each delegation consisted of between 1 & 10 people on average, there were a lot of people in the ExCom meeting rooms that week!

The conclusions of ExCom express international consensus on standards and guidelines for protection of refugees, and hence this annual meeting is a very important one.

2. Pre-ExCom

In the week prior to ExCom, another meeting known as Pre-ExCom brings together NGO representatives from all over the world to hold discussions with UNHCR staff. This meeting covers protection, operational issues and specific regional topics that are relevant to UNHCR's mandate and operations. An outcome from this meeting is a summary of the NGOs viewpoints, and this summary is used as input to the ExCom meeting in the following week.

These two meetings have been attendee in previous years by other Australian, notably the Refugee Council of Australia and the Australian Council for Overseas Aid. This year, with refugee and asylum seeker issues becoming of increasing concern in Australia after the "Tampa" incident, a new alliance ARRA was formed from a

wider range of NGOs, with the specific aim of attending these meetings, and casting the international spotlight on refugee issues.

3. ECRE

While ARRA was in Geneva for ExCom and pre-ExCom, we took the opportunity to send 5 delegates to a regional European meeting, that of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). This was held over the weekend between pre-ExCom and ExCom, and was a further opportunity for ARRA to promote its aims and objectives. I was lucky enough to be one of those 5 delegates.

By the end of this two week period of attending these 3 key meetings and numerous other smaller ones, we 15 ARRA representatives had managed to make contact and hold discussions with over 105 other people, representing 85 organisations from 30 different countries!

The details of these contacts are now in the ARRA database / mailing list, and on this count alone the trip to Geneva can be deemed to have been a success. This database will enable us to promote ARRA (and by inclusion ANCORW) aims, objectives and projects to a wide audience. We will also be able to use that database of web sites to identify potential partner organization for future projects.

ARRA Aims & Objectives

The aim of the Australian Refugee Rights Alliance (ARRA) is for member associations to work together to present a strong, cohesive and well documented position on key refugee issues specific to Australian and the Asia / Pacific region. In preparation for the ExCom meetings, a number of background and positions papers were prepared. These were published in full & also in summary format, in 3 documents that were distributed to appropriate groups at the meetings in Geneva. (They are also available on the website www.crr.unsw.edu.au). The documents covered the issues of:

- Definition of a Refugee
- Root Causes of Refugee Flows
- Refugee Women, & the Woman at Risk Program
- Immigration Detention, & the Detention of Children
- Temporary Protection
- People Smuggling
- Interception, including Interdiction at Sea
- Monitoring the 1951 Refugee Convention

Key Achievements

Videos

As well as distributing our documents, we were able to show videos of the reality of life in Australia's detention centres. The viewings occurred at the Pre-ExCom and ECRE meetings.

Without a doubt, these were the most powerful means we had of putting some of our concerns across.

These videos were in general recorded from broadcast television in Australia, and had therefore been seen by much of the Australian public. However, our overseas contacts had not seen them (or anything like them!) before, and many left the viewings visibly moved.

We must definite continue with the use of videos for future meetings.

The "Australian Session"

During the week of ExCom, we did not have the facilities to show videos. Instead, we were able to hold a lunchtime meeting on the Tuesday, called "The Human Face of Australia's Refugee Policy". This meeting was open to all NGOs and government delegations at ExCom. Key government representatives who were in attendance were from the Vatican City (Holy See), and our own Australian delegation.

The presenters at the meeting were from Australia as well as overseas, from a wide range of organizations. Once again, I was privileged to be included in that group. The full list of presenters follows:

Beth Ferris	World Council of Churches (Chair)
Ophelia Field	Human Rights Watch
Jacqui Everitt	Australian Refugee Rights Alliance
Olivia Wellesley-Cole	Australian National Committee on Refugee Women
Jackie Keegan	Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (Australia)
Lars	Amnesty International

The discussion ranged over detention, the "Pacific Solution", legal frameworks and Human Rights.

My role was to cover the community role in assisting refugees & asylum seekers. I discussed activities such as the quilt making that occurred in Wollongong between asylum seekers and community members, activities of church & religious organizations with "10 steps towards welcoming asylum seekers", and actions of other community groups, such as the various branches of Rural Australians for Refugees. Mine was more of a "feel-good" presentation, and helped our audience see the positive actions that could be taken to redress a difficult situation.



Other Achievements

There were many other achievements that ARRA scored during the fortnight, far too many to be listed in full. I will summarise them below:

1. Questions at Pre-ExCom

The team met each night of Pre-ExCom to prepare a range of questions for the following day's sessions. The aim was to have one significant question per session.

The questions that resulted from this planning were so clear, concise and targeted, that we Australians quickly got a name for being key contributors at meetings.

This is another tactic that should be emulated.

2. Attendance at Simultaneous Sessions

With such a large number of ARRA members in attendance (15 at ExCom & Pre-ExCom, and 5 at ECRE) we planned our attendance at simultaneous sessions to ensure that to the best of our ability, each session was covered, with a minimum of 2 or 3 persons if possible.

3. Pre-ExCom session - 26th Sept

One session on day 2 of pre-ExCom was almost entirely devoted to the Australian experience. Called "the Reception of Asylum Seekers" the session compared & contrasted activities in South Africa, and Australia. The panelists included Eileen Pittaway, Director of the Centre for Refugee Research at UNSW, and other Australians contributed from the floor.

4. ECRE presentation – 29th Sept

On the final day of the ECRE meeting, time was set aside for an

overview of the Australian situation. This 10 minute talk was given by Margaret Piper, of the Refugee Council of Australia.

5. Australian delegation / IDAG meeting

All ARRA members, and other Australian NGO representatives at ExCom were invited to a meeting with the official Australian delegation on Monday 30th September, an hour before the official start of ExCom. The head of the Australian delegation was the Minister of Immigration, Philip Ruddock.

A number of issues were raised at this meeting. While they were not all addressed to the satisfaction of ARRA, this did lead to a request from the two members of the official delegation for follow-up talks.

These talks occurred over lunch later that day. The two delegates that requested the meeting were from the Immigration Detention Advisory Group (IDAG), an advisory body to the Minister of Immigration.

The conclusion of the meeting was that IDAG would be please to accept from ARRA a 2-3 page submission outlining other ways of keeping tabs on asylum seekers, without necessarily detaining them in the way the current detention centres operate in Australia.

This is a key action to be followed up on.

The more that 100 contacts that we made this year will be of great assistance in formulating our strategy over the next few months, in preparation for next year's meetings.

Olivia Wellesley-Cole
24th October 2002

APWW TRAINING CHAING MAI, THAILAND

Eileen Pittaway (ANCORW), Carole Shaw (ANCORW) and Linda Bartolomei (CRR) attended the APWW Networking for Beijing plus 10 Strategic Planning Meeting and training course held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in February 2003.

The Asia Pacific Women Watch (APWW) is a formal network of non-governmental women's groups in the UN designated Asia Pacific Region of which ANCORW is a member. Members come from Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific and include representation from three regional networks. The major focus of the work is the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the B+5 Outcomes Document. In February, 2003 APWW met in Chiang Mai, Thailand for a strategic planning meeting and network training.

Twenty-six participants from 13 countries in the region attend the workshop and training. The aim was to enhance the capabilities of the Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW) network, to improve APWW's networking strategies, its effectiveness and reach, particularly in supporting national, subregional and regional meetings leading to Beijing +10 in 2005. In this framework ANCORW in collaboration with Asia Pacific Forum on Law and Development (APWLD), Centre for Refugee Research at UNSW, Asia Pacific Women's Watch, ISIS International and Thai Women's watch developed the training course and organized the workshop for APWW and its member organisations. This initiative funded by Japan Foundation Asia Centre, is to be considered as a first step in the process to create a dynamic of regional and subregional cooperation.

For a month prior to the workshop almost daily contacts via email, fax and telephone took place between ANCORW, APWLD, APWW management committee and ISIS International. This was

necessary to define methodologies and contents, tasks and responsibilities and to endeavour to meet individual participant's learning needs. The trainers for the workshop and training came from ANCORW (Eileen Pittaway) , The Centre for Refugee Research at UNSW (Linda Bartolomei) and staff from ISIS International, Manila.



AGREED OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

- APWW Committee members recommitted to the "5 year work plan" agreed in Katchanaburi in 2001 (See Annex A).
- APWW supports the convening of a World Assembly on Women (WAW) to be held in 2005 to evaluate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing plus 5 Outcomes, on condition that as the commitments already agreed are not open for renegotiation.
- APWW will actively support a regional United Nations Economic and Social Council of the Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) Governmental meeting in preparation for this event.
- APWW will co-ordinate a regional NGO meeting prior to the ESCAP meeting
- APWW will take an active role post WAW 2005 in disseminating information about the outcomes of the meeting and monitoring government response to those outcomes.
- In future APWW position papers, CEDAW will be more clearly referenced to issues of concern, and the CEDAW process used to strengthen Lobbying positions.

- Improvements will be made to the existing network structure to ensure that committee members have the technical ability to participate in a virtual space. Members will repackage and distribute information in areas where e-format is not available.
- APWW will continue with 2 Co-convenors and Patricia (Tati) B Licuanan and Eileen Pittaway, appointed for a three year period.
- A new part time position of APWW Coordinator will be appointed and the Coordinator will be situated in the country of one of the Co-convenors
- Rules for decision making and committee participation via e-mail will be formalised by the Co-convenors. If members do not actively take part in e-mail communication they will be deemed to have vacated their position on the board.
- An APWW Constitution will be prepared for approval as a matter of urgency and lodged in the Philippines.
- APWW will apply for ECOSOC accreditation in its own right.
- Agreed activities until 2005
 - 2003: Lead regional role in CSW, networking at national levels
 - 2004: Lead regional role in CSW, networking at sub-regional levels
 - 2004: Convening a regional NGO forum immediately prior to the 2004 ESCAP meeting
 - 2004: Participation in ESCAP government meeting
 - 2005: Lead regional role in CSW
 - 2005: Lead regional role in the World Assembly on Women
- 2006: Follow up to WaW

Carole Shaw

LINKS TO THE PACIFIC

I have had regular exchanges of information to contacts in the Pacific regarding Australia's 'Pacific Solution', to ensure these groups were well informed about what was happening here. This information and their concern about the impacts on asylum seekers as well as on local communities were well covered in their briefing papers and media coverage throughout the Pacific.

Our thanks go to those groups, especially the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre and PIANGO (Pacific Islands Assn of NGOs) who have helped keep pressure on the Australian and their own Governments to 'do the right thing'.

Kiri Hata

TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited financial accounts for ANCORW CO-OPERATIVE LTD for the 12 months ended 30 June 2003 are included in this report and reveal a consolidated account net asset position of \$29,312.20 as compared to net assets of \$22,989.69 at the start of the period.

During the year we received grant funds as follows:

Children's Day Program	\$15,706.00
Community Relations Grant	\$11,140.00
Japan Foundation	\$24,912.28

Donations received totalled \$30,625.50 and we acknowledge the generous support of all our donors in raising these funds.

Under *notes to and forming part of accounts* there is an item raised as contingent liability. This is to do with the Women at Risk research program for which we will need to fund a further \$10,000 plus GST between now and December 2003. We look towards the continuing support of members and donors to raise these funds.

Consolidated income and expenditure reveals a profit of \$6,322.51 for the year to 30/6/03 as against a loss of \$2,893.41 in the preceding year.

Consolidated figures include the following accounts:

- Ancorw Co-operative Ltd
- Ancorw Co-operative Ltd- Fundraising Account
- Ancorw Co-operative Ltd- Children's Day Program
- Ancorw Co-operative Ltd- Sub-regional conference Account

Individual audited financial details have been provided for each of these accounts.

Olivia Wellesley-Cole
Treasurer

21 October 2003

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This summary report meets the requirements of the ACFOA Code of Conduct.

FULL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS