

Issue 16 – Spring/Summer 2021

DEEDS

*good people
doing
good things*



NEW ZEALAND
RED CROSS
RĀPEKA WHĒRO AOTEAROA



KIA ORA,

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2021 edition of RED magazine. As I reach my first anniversary of joining New Zealand Red Cross as Secretary General, I have been reflecting on the incredible work of our Red Cross people across the country and internationally.

I am proud of what we have been able to achieve as we continue to work with the uncertainty of COVID-19, and the challenges it places on those we support and work with. While we continue to adapt to the ongoing situation, I'm heartened by reading the many inspiring stories of our work shared in this magazine.

Amongst the uncertainty, there is one constant – the ongoing generosity of our members and volunteers, donors and supporters. Without your support, none of this would be possible.

In this edition of RED we share the stories of three former refugees who have made Nelson their home. As the primary provider of community refugee settlement in Aotearoa New Zealand, our work is crucial to supporting and empowering new Kiwis as they rebuild their lives. Fatima, Lian and Ngun's stories on pages 4-6 are truly inspiring.

Since August, we have been liaising with both the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. On pages 9 and 10, you can read about our work to welcome evacuees by providing clothing and other essential items. We will continue to provide ongoing support to new evacuees helping them on their journey to settlement.

In late October, we held Good and Ready Week. Here in Aotearoa New Zealand, we know all too well that disasters can strike at anytime, anywhere and affect anyone. This year the focus was on encouraging people to download the Hazard App. It's an easy way to learn how to be ready for emergencies and it's free. You can read more about the Hazard App and how to download it on page 13.

The story on page 15 about the Taste of Cultures events will leave you salivating – this annual event is a celebration of cultural diversity through food, music and stories from our refugee-background whānau; and the 450 runners in Red Cross' inaugural resilience ultramarathon, on page 7, left me feeling nothing but admiration for the competitors.

Finally, our work to better engage with rangatahi (young people) via the New Zealand Red Cross Youth Engagement Strategy and National Youth Forum are tangible ways in which we will build the skills and capacity for our future. We are always on the lookout for more energetic, dedicated and experienced young people to join us in our humanitarian efforts. You'll find more information about getting involved on the website: redcross.org.nz/get-involved.

I hope you enjoy this edition of RED magazine and are inspired by the work New Zealand Red Cross carries out each and every day in communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi,



Sarah Stuart-Black QSO
SECRETARY GENERAL



Sarah Stuart-Black
(often known by her
nickname 'Norm'),
Secretary General



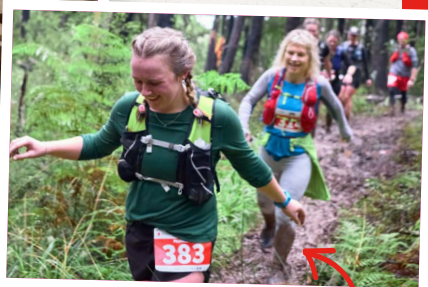
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Packing essential items for recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

Taste of Cultures event in Wellington



Participants at Red Cross' Resilience Ultra Marathon.

Who are we?

New Zealand Red Cross is part of the largest humanitarian network in the world – the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We've been helping in New Zealand since 1915.

We're helping Kiwis every day - whether that's providing a hot meal, helping former refugees rebuild their lives or engaging with local communities to be better prepared for an emergency. And, right across the world, we help people affected by disaster and conflict. Our mission? To improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity and enhancing community resilience.

Our Fundamental Principles

- Humanity
- Impartiality
- Neutrality
- Independence
- Voluntary Service
- Unity
- Universality

Read more about them at redcross.org.nz/about-us/what-we-stand-for.

Seeking STABILITY AND A SENSE OF SELF:

Three Nelsonians on their journeys
to independence in Aotearoa

Refugee crises are making headlines around the world on an almost-daily basis. Today there are more than 26 million refugees and a further 56 million people displaced from their homes across the globe, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

These are staggering numbers. As such, it is important that we recognise the faces behind the figures and allow their stories to be told.

Many former refugees have experienced tragedy and ongoing struggles along their journey to resettlement. After fearing for their lives and the safety of their loved ones, it can take a long time after settlement to realise they are no longer displaced, they have a home, and they are safe.

Aotearoa New Zealand is one of around 37 countries that take part in the UNHCR regular refugee resettlement programme. New Zealand Red Cross is the primary provider of community refugee settlement programmes in Aotearoa, supporting and empowering new Kiwis as they rebuild their lives.

Refugee-background communities have added significantly to Aotearoa.

We've seen this during some of our most difficult days. Many former refugees were essential workers during COVID-19 Alert Levels 3 and 4, supporting their communities and doing work deemed essential for our country.

Finding employment can help signal the resumption of a more 'normal' life for people with refugee backgrounds. Having a job not only allows them to use their knowledge and skills, but it also allows them to be more independent and contribute to their new communities.

New Zealand Red Cross' Pathways to Employment (P2E) programme supports former refugees who want to develop their career plans, and works with employers who are looking for prospective employees with refugee backgrounds.

We met with three people in Nelson who were each offered resettlement in Aotearoa after

being forced to flee their home countries.

Each of them shows a unique sense of self that has been profoundly impacted by their individual refugee journey, yet the one thing they all have in common is a strong desire to forge their own future and achieve independence through employment.

Meet Fatima Mohammad, Lian Zanniat, and Ngun Kung, three ambitious former refugees whose pathways to employment in Aotearoa are just as inspiring as they are.

HOW TO HELP:

Offer someone from a refugee background a job. Visit [redcross.org.nz/pathways](https://www.redcross.org.nz/pathways)

FATIMA MOHAMMAD

Growing up as a former refugee in Aotearoa was not always easy for Fatima, but this quick-witted, charming young woman has never let her difficulties dampen her spirits.



Originally from Afghanistan, Fatima arrived in Aotearoa in 2012 with her mother and siblings under the family reunification programme. They were reunited with her older brother in Nelson, who Fatima had not seen in person for several years.

At only 12 years old, Fatima found the experience of moving to an entirely new country both exciting and overwhelming.

“We arrived in Auckland and stayed overnight there, then we flew to Christchurch and drove to Nelson the next day,” she recalls. “It was crazy. It was like a dream. And being reunited with my brother – I didn’t even think about how tired I was, only how lucky I was to see him again after so long.”

Fatima experienced a fair amount of culture shock during her first few months here, and often found herself frustrated by her limited knowledge of the English language.

“Shortly after arriving in Nelson, we went to my brother’s friend’s house. They were just talking and giving us tea, but I kept thinking, ‘What are they saying? What language are they speaking?’ I knew it was English, but it sounded very hard.”

Despite the initial language barrier, Fatima was determined to make the most of her new situation. She began school as an intermediate-level student and progressed through Nelson College for Girls to NCEA Level 2. Her immediate goals post-high school were singularly focused: find a job, become more independent, and, consequently, support her loved ones in any way she could.

Fatima faced a number of barriers to finding employment. As a young Muslim woman, she could not work in hospitality with alcohol sales. She then suffered a series of health issues that restricted her opportunities. After 18 months of searching, and with support

from the local Red Cross P2E team, Fatima was offered and accepted her dream job helping customers curate their own sense of style at Pascoes The Jewellers.

“In my job, I get to witness so many special moments,” she says. “People come looking for engagement rings, wedding rings, Mother’s Day gifts, memorial lockets... being able to help people in these moments is very unique.”

After only three months in the role, Fatima was recognised as the Nelson store’s top salesperson of the month.

After years of uncertainty and searching for her place in Aotearoa, Fatima feels like she’s finally found it among her Pascoes family and wider Nelson community.

“This job has been amazing. It has given me an idea of where I want to go, what I want to be. I enjoy who I work with – the team is incredible. It’s the perfect place for me. I could not ask for better.”



Lian Zanniat

Technology, where I studied English for three years.”

In 2014, Lian met with New Zealand Red Cross’ Pathways to Employment (P2E) team in Nelson.

They helped him prepare for his driver’s licence test and set up a number of volunteering placements that strengthened his curriculum vitae (CV) with local work experience. In 2018, with the support of Pathways to Employment and Workbridge, he successfully landed his first full-time job working the night shift at a petrol station.

“I learned a lot. Cleaning, stock takes, general customer service. Sometimes the customers were difficult. Negativity from people can be really hard to handle. I’m glad that I learned from that.”

After two years working at the petrol station, Lian came to the realisation that, at night, he had been managing the store and the customers all by himself.

“It felt like I was working for myself and running my own business,” he says. “So, I left to start my own business. It’s not only for me, it’s to benefit other people. I want to be someone who can help someone else.”

Lian is now a successful franchise business owner in

Lian’s journey from farmhand to franchisee was riddled with difficulties, but his determination and unwavering self-belief has never let him down.

Nelson. He has been running his commercial cleaning business since November 2020, specialising in cleaning schools and offices.

“I can now look after my family in Myanmar – I can feed them. My mother, brother, and father. It’s a big difference. Here, in Nelson, I can help my friends.”

Lian has maintained a relationship with his local Pathways to Employment team for almost five years.

“Without Red Cross, I would not be the person that I am,” says Lian. “They helped me with a lot.”

Lian wants to use his newfound success to support other people – particularly other members of the former refugee community. He hopes that, in time, he will be able to employ other former refugees himself.

KEEN TO GET INVOLVED?

Many former refugees like Fatima, Lian, and Ngun are keen to get into work soon after they arrive in Aotearoa. Our Pathways to Employment teams work



NGUN KUNG

Ngun is a former refugee from Myanmar whose kind smile and warm disposition endears him to everyone he meets.

After leaving Myanmar, Ngun spent several years as a refugee in Malaysia, patiently waiting for the day the UNHCR might let him know that he had been offered resettlement elsewhere.

That day finally came in 2018, when he was offered a home in Aotearoa New Zealand. He has now been living in Nelson for almost three years.

with employers across the country to find their 'perfect match' in candidates who have the skills and personalities they're looking for. If you think you may have a job opportunity for a former refugee (or two) in your business, visit redcross.org.nz/pathways

In Malaysia, Ngun worked as a painter and electrician on a number of building sites. After arriving in Nelson and studying English at English Language Partners (ELP) for a few years, he was eager to re-enter the workforce.

“The teacher at ELP told me, ‘If you like working, you should go to the Red Cross.’ I went to the Red Cross.”

Red Cross' Pathways to Employment (P2E) team in Nelson helped Ngun secure a two-week painting internship to help him gain work experience in Aotearoa. He then successfully applied for a job at Allwood Products Ltd, where he has been working ever since.

“Red Cross was a good help. I like building and my employer is good. Kiwi people are good.”

The financial and personal security this job has provided Ngun is monumental. He is now able to support himself, as well as his family who remain in Myanmar.

“I send money to my mother

and father in Myanmar. Everything else, I save. I want to keep it safe. Someday, I want to buy a house.”

and father in Myanmar. Everything else, I save. I want to keep it safe. Someday, I want to buy a house.”

It was through the P2E programme that Robert Gibson, Manager of Allwood Products Ltd, came to hire Ngun in late 2020. Prior to this, he had hired three other former refugees with the support of New Zealand Red Cross.

“We've had a lot of support [from Red Cross],” he says. After some early reservations from Robert regarding the language barrier between himself and his new employees, Red Cross helped connect his team to Work and Income, who offered a subsidy that helped the whole process.

“It's a six-month subsidy [called Flexi-wage]. [Work and Income] pays a percentage of the wage. The subsidy diminishes over time, as the person gets more and more acquainted with the job. It basically means that we're not employing somebody who has no idea what they're doing – they have time to learn. For us to train someone, we're not getting the maximum benefit out of them initially, but over time it sort of works so that we eventually take over and they're on full employment.”

All but one of the former refugees Robert has hired through the subsidy system have stayed on. He couldn't be happier to have them on board.



RED CROSS' INAUGURAL ULTRAMARATHON

a collaborative effort
of mud, sweat and tears



One of the most important aspects of community fundraising is innovation. Following the success of the exciting **Red Cross Journey** and **Jump! for Red Cross** events this year, we introduced one of our most innovative fundraising opportunities yet: the **Red Cross Resilience Ultra**.

This event – a marathon fundraiser coordinated by Fusion Events – came to life on 7 August 2021 in the historic West Coast town of Reefton. The endurance race made use of a new Department of Conservation track that was formed by linking old mining roads, tracks and tramways that few people had been able to explore previously.

Nature intervenes – the race reconvenes

The event originally included a 62km ultramarathon, a 33km mid-distance, and a 10km short distance, but the ultramarathon had to be rerouted to a 'Plan B' track due to the nature of the technical



terrain following extensive flooding in the region in July.

The same Disaster Welfare and Support Teams that had been deployed to support communities along the West Coast following the July floods, were also stationed along the Resilience Ultra track as race marshals.

“It all made great sense,” says Rachael Holderness, Community Fundraising Manager at New Zealand Red Cross, regarding the location of the race in Reefton and our history of supporting the region during disaster response and recovery.

“A lot of the feedback from the runners was about how awesome the Red Cross people were and how safe they felt.”

Despite the setback and change of ultramarathon route, the race went ahead on schedule. An immense amount of grit and determination was required to complete the course in classic West Coast winter conditions (cold, wet, muddy). This endurance run was certainly not for the faint of heart.

“I was at the finish line giving out medals,” says Rachael. “A lot of people crossed the finish line covered in mud, covered in cuts and bruises, but smiling and saying, ‘That was awesome!’ They just loved it.”

With 450 registered runners and more than 50 onsite Red Cross people, the Reefton community was incredibly happy to host the event in their usually quiet little town. Even the Buller District Mayor and local Councillor made sure to let our teams know they had their full support.

“It was awesome to see the Reefton community really get behind it.”

An incredible effort

Approximately \$35,000 was raised for New Zealand Red Cross through local sponsorships and the incredible fundraising efforts of the Resilience Ultra runners themselves. Special mention goes to our top peer-to-peer fundraiser, Ashleigh Neave from Hawke’s Bay, who raised over \$1,300!

We want to extend a huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who volunteered their time and skills during the race. Without our people, this event would not have been possible.

To anyone thinking about getting involved with the Red Cross Resilience Ultra in the future, here’s some extra inspiration for you from our very own Rachael:

“Give the 10km a go – you can even do it with a friend! We had a few people crossing the finish line together this year. It’s an awesome event and an amazing race experience, in a stunning landscape.

“Besides, Reefton itself is a lovely little town. I would highly recommend visiting – ultramarathon or not.”

Feeling inspired?

The Red Cross Resilience Ultra in Reefton will return on 13 August 2022. **Registrations open soon!**

Responding to the **AFGHANISTAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

Since August, New Zealand Red Cross has been liaising with both the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

The IFRC and ICRC are helping wounded and disabled people, supporting hospitals, making prison visits and helping detainees maintain contact with their families. They were also monitoring the conduct of hostilities and preventing International Humanitarian Law (IHL) violations, improving water and sanitation, promoting IHL and supporting the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Here in New Zealand, we've been supporting the Government with the initial stages of welcoming evacuated Afghan nationals, including an immediate provision of clothing and other essential items.

New Zealand Red Cross has provided evacuees with a range of essential items, including shoes, clothing, hygiene kits and children's activities. Additional clothing and essential items have been sourced and pre-packed and are ready for distribution to Afghan evacuees when they next arrive in MIQ.

Some clothing was sourced from our Red Cross stores under the strict COVID-19 Alert Level 4 guidelines in place at the time. Additional items have been purchased with donations received from the public through our Afghanistan



Auckland Disaster Welfare and Support Team has been heavily involved in supporting the Afghan evacuees by sorting and distributing essential goods. Pictured, from left to right: Logan Sheehan, Stuart Whelan, Lillian Moore.

Humanitarian Crisis Appeal. We've been heartened by the overwhelming response to support the new arrivals from Afghanistan into Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) has asked a small number of organisations to assist in the distribution of food vouchers for recent evacuees from Afghanistan. New Zealand Red Cross has been distributing the vouchers in Auckland, Christchurch and Palmerston North. Other organisations have been asked to distribute vouchers in other locations.

We will continue to provide ongoing support to new evacuees helping them on their journey to settlement.



A woman and her son in Northern Afghanistan, waiting for cash support from Afghan Red Crescent Society.



Packing essential items – clothing and underwear, hygiene kits and children’s activity kits for recent arrivals from Afghanistan.

“What an incredible effort from our people to sort through, pack and distribute over 600 hygiene and activity kits in just over three days”, says Logan Sheehan, Deputy Team Leader, Auckland Disaster Welfare and Support Team.

“It was really good meeting the new Kiwis and to see their appreciation for the support we provided.”

“We were very grateful for the generous donation of clothing from Hanes who provided hundreds of essential items including underwear, socks and other general clothing items for distribution to our emergency arrivals.”

“Thanks to everyone who helped at the pack event ensuring we could get these care packs into the hands of those who needed them.”

100

activity kits for children containing toys and colouring book and pencils.

500

hygiene kits containing items such as shampoo, tooth brushes and toothpaste, body wash, soap and deodorant.




DONATE

You can help the people of Afghanistan by donating to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis. Visit [redcross.org.nz/donate/afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis/](https://www.redcross.org.nz/donate/afghanistan-humanitarian-crisis/)



The future'
is bright
AND THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT



Children and young people are our future; this is an indisputable fact. Within this statement lies an even deeper truth: children are our present too, and they will lead the way forward for us all.

Around the world, people are feeling the impact more and more of global crises such as climate change, socioeconomic inequality, social unrest and increasing inaccessibility to mental health and wellbeing services. Rangatahi (young people) are the future leaders who will be navigating these issues.

New Zealand Red Cross recognises that rangatahi are already interested in, and passionate about, humanitarian crises. Many rangatahi are committed to making the world that they have inherited a better place. We know that they are motivated to act on issues that New Zealand Red Cross plays a key role in such as International Humanitarian Law, the humanitarian impacts of climate change, human rights and social inclusion. They see these issues affecting themselves, their peers, their communities and, more broadly, humanity as a whole. They want to create lasting change.

A vision realised

As a member of the world's

largest humanitarian network, it is critical that New Zealand Red Cross has an impactful and sustainable approach for engaging with rangatahi. Earlier this year, following many months of research and consultation with key stakeholders, we launched the New Zealand Red Cross Youth Engagement Strategy. This document sets a clear direction for how we will engage with young people in the future, bringing to life a responsive and inclusive approach for volunteering, humanitarian advocacy, and partnering with rangatahi.

The Youth Engagement Strategy is aligned to four key themes:

- ▶ **resilience – te manawaroa**
- ▶ **inclusion – te whakapiripiri**
- ▶ **voice and hope – ko te reo whakaputa me te tumanako**
- ▶ **impact – te whakaawetanga.**

Taking action

Shortly after launching the new strategy, our Youth Engagement Team and National Youth Panel put their words into action by hosting a National Youth Forum that sought to authentically engage with rangatahi about the future of youth engagement in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Participants came from all over Aotearoa to attend the forum, which was held in Auckland from

7-9 May. These impassioned and inspiring rangatahi spent the weekend sharing lessons, activities and actions from their local communities while building skills and capacity for the future.

“We all left the weekend with a heightened awareness and renewed enthusiasm to progress the strategy into tangible outcomes,” says Sarita Aldred, New Zealand Red Cross' National Youth Representative on our National Board.

New Zealand Red Cross values the contribution of rangatahi as a key voice to help us increase our humanitarian impact both at home and abroad. This forum was an opportunity to build relationships, have meaningful conversations and discuss the way forward.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first National Youth Forum and helped make it so successful. Watch this space to hear more about how we will build upon our past, utilise our present, and forge a strong future for young people in the Movement.

GET INVOLVED

We are always on the lookout for more energetic, dedicated and experienced people to join us in our humanitarian efforts. Learn more about how you can join in on the fun at  [redcross.org.nz/get-involved](https://www.redcross.org.nz/get-involved)

DOWNLOAD FOR

In Aotearoa New Zealand, we know all too well that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere and affect anyone.

To help everyone get better prepared for emergencies, our focus during the recent Good and Ready Week (25-29 October) was to encourage people to download the Hazard App. It's an easy way to learn how to be ready for emergencies and it's free.

The Hazard App can help you identify hazards, and learn how

to prepare for and respond to emergencies in New Zealand. It is pre-loaded with information about hazards including floods, earthquakes, tsunami, fire, weather and biosecurity incursions.

The app guides you through preparing an emergency response kit and plan, what to do during an emergency and gives you step-by-step information to help you recover. You'll also have access to pre-loaded information, even without cell phone reception or an internet connection – anytime, anywhere.

You'll also receive alerts, so you can stay informed about the locations, types of hazard and level of alerts. You'll only get alerts for the locations you choose to monitor. You can also choose which hazards you receive alerts for in each location. This means you can keep an eye on risks that might affect your loved ones wherever they are in New Zealand.

QBE providing their support

On International Day of Disaster Reduction (13 October), QBE Insurance and New Zealand Red Cross announced a formal partnership which sees QBE become the primary supporter of the Hazard App.

“We're excited to be able to formalise our New Zealand partnership and further support the work being done by the QBE Foundation and Red Cross globally,” said Declan Moore, CEO and Chief Customer Officer, QBE New Zealand & Pacific.

“The Hazard App is a natural fit for us. As an insurer, we see first-hand the impact natural disasters have on businesses



GOOD



and communities. We see the difference being prepared can make in our customers' ability to respond and recover.

“Downloading the Hazard App is a simple and practical step Kiwis can take to better prepare themselves for an emergency. We are partnering with Red Cross to encourage more people to use it.”

The app has already been downloaded nearly 200,000 times. QBE's support, provided through the Australia Pacific QBE Foundation, will help to maintain, improve and promote the Hazard App.

The new initiative extends QBE's global partnership with Red Cross to help communities



prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

QBE also pledged an additional \$5,000 if 500 people downloaded the app before the end of October, so more people can take steps for themselves and their families and whānau to be better prepared. We are pleased to report we met the target with more than 1,100 people downloading the app. The additional money pledged by QBE will be used for app enhancements.

DOWNLOAD THE HAZARD APP NOW

Being prepared for hazards reduces our vulnerability to them and helps save lives. Take a moment to download the app so you and your family and friends are ready in an emergency.

Download from: App store for iOS devices and Google Play store for Android devices.



For more information on the Hazard app visit redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/disaster-management/hazard-app/





CULINARY DELIGHTS AND CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR'S TASTE OF CULTURES EVENTS



Humanity is vast, diverse, and brimming with culture. With more than 7.7 billion people on Earth, it is easy to forget our commonalities. One thing we all have in common? Food.

Have you ever asked yourself why certain foods or mealtime traditions are so important to you? Do you ever wonder what these foods and traditions say about you, and where you come from? There is a far deeper connection between food and culture than many of us think.

Culinary traditions are frequently passed on from one generation to the next, with family members of all ages coming to cherish these dishes as a part of their own history. This is particularly true for people who come from a refugee background; traditional food is a way of preserving their culture and expressing themselves in an otherwise non-traditional environment.

Enter New Zealand Red Cross' very own 'Taste of Cultures'. What began as a recipe book filled with dishes and stories from former refugees now living in Aotearoa New Zealand, has since become one of our most-anticipated annual fundraising events.

Each Taste of Cultures event is a celebration of cultural diversity through food, music and stories from our refugee-background whānau. It is an opportunity to show the incredible contribution that former refugees are making to our communities, and to raise vital funds for our programmes to help people affected by conflict or disaster.

First held in Wellington four years ago, this year we expanded the Taste of Cultures experience to include Auckland and Christchurch. Each location served different dishes crafted by different chefs – all inspired by the Taste of Cultures recipe book.

It takes a village

Rachael Holderness,
Community Fundraising

Manager at New Zealand Red Cross, knows we would not have been able to take the event to other cities if it weren't for the incredible community response and local partnership opportunities our teams have been met with.

“We had a lot of supportive partners in each location,” she says. “And there were some brilliant speakers and performers, too!”

Highlights of each event included a drumming group from Burundi in Auckland, a Cuban band in Wellington, and a former refugee poet from Afghanistan in Christchurch.

Rachael herself was in attendance at the Wellington event, working as a 'jack-of-all-trades' behind the bar, tending the tables, and cleaning the dishes out back. Many of this year's diners in Wellington were attending for the second, third, or fourth time.

“Last year, 200 people attended the event at Te Papa. This year we had another 200, with all tickets sold in less than a week.”



GET INVOLVED

Fundraising for Red Cross is not only a lot of fun, but it is a rewarding way to make a difference in your community. Sign up at  red-cross-here-for-good.raisely.com to begin your personal fundraising journey today!

Capturing the magic

The best kind of fundraising event is the kind that not only raises vital funds, but also awareness for the work that we do, says Rachael. This is precisely what our Taste of Cultures events have been able to capture.

“I think the reason people love the event so much is because of the stories, the culture, but also trying food that they’ve never tried before.”

Feedback from first-time attendees in Auckland noted that, although the food was incredible, they were impacted the most by the stories being told. They were able to “put a face to the statistics,” as it were.

“That’s the beauty of Taste of Cultures,” says Rachael. “It is giving people an experience that they will walk away from and remember forever. The next time they see the news headlines about Afghanistan or other humanitarian crises, they can feel that they contributed some way by going to that event.”

Thank you

After four years of practice, this year’s Taste of Cultures events were hailed as a great success. A whopping \$70,000 was raised across all three evenings, from ticket sales and auction or raffle items.

To all who attended or otherwise supported this year’s events – thank you. You are helping to ensure that those in need receive our support when they need it most. We hope you enjoyed the chance to experience a Taste of Cultures.

New Zealand Red Cross wishes to extend a special thank you to Countdown for sponsoring all three Taste of Cultures events.



Auckland/Northland

- In June, Kerikeri played host to an emergency preparedness session for Red Cross people across the region.
- In July, the Paihia branch donated 50 'pillow packs' containing new pillows and pillow slips, warm hats, slippers, wheat bags and hot chocolate sachets to two Māori trusts in Moerewa and Waitangi.
- The Whangarei Service Centre hosted 14 students from Pompallier Catholic College during their annual community service day in May. The students spent the day volunteering in the shop and archiving old newspaper articles, as well as taking part in two disaster preparedness workshops.
- In May, the Northland Disaster Welfare and Support Team participated in the Youth in Emergency Services programme in Mangawhai. Participants attended a series of orientation and training sessions over three consecutive weekends, followed by simulated emergency exercises.
- The Manukau Service Centre recently donated several boxes of PPE gear to two Pasifika Vaccination events in South Auckland. The PPE gear was distributed to those getting vaccinated through the 'Local Doctors' mobile vaccination campaign, which aimed to increase accessibility to vaccination and raise the vaccination rates of Pasifika communities.

Disaster preparedness posters created by Pompallier Catholic College students in Whangarei.



SNIPPETS FROM THE REGIONS

New Zealand Red Cross people are doing amazing work all over Aotearoa. Check out what's been happening in the regions.



Kerikeri members ran a disaster preparedness workshop to foster a sense of ownership in this key area for New Zealand Red Cross.



Paihia branch members filling 'pillow pack' bags for donation.



Lorenzo Kaisara of New Zealand Red Cross' Pasifika Reference Group, and Jake McPhee, Acting Humanitarian Development Engagement Manager, stand with PPE gear donated to Pasifika vaccination events in Auckland.

Waikato/Bay of Plenty

- On October 20, Pasifika community leaders in the Bay of Plenty completed a basic first aid training course as part of the Good and Ready programme. The skills they learned on the day will be shared with whānau and local community groups.
- Our team in the Bay of Plenty has started hosting a monthly Good and Ready Kai and Kōrero. Each month, the Good and Ready Community Champions come together over a cup of tea and talk about how they are connecting with their neighbours and supporting community households to plan for disasters and unexpected events.



Good and Ready Community Champions from the Bay of Plenty with their Good and Ready household plans - a newly designed waterproof envelope useful to store your important documents.



Our Red Cross people Lesley (left), Trudy, Lindsay and Lyn set up the new bookshop on Liverpool Street. Photo / Paul Brooks Whanganui Midweek.

Taranaki/Manawatu

- Our Young Humanitarians Programme is now being delivered at Inglewood High School in Taranaki by the local Humanitarian Development Engagement Manager, Emma Coombe.
- Whanganui's Red Cross Bookshop is once again open for business! With a new location at 73 Liverpool Street, the same dedicated team, and even more space for books, make sure you stop in to say 'hi' next time you're in town.
- The Palmerston North bookshop – RED CROSS REaD Books – has moved in to their new premises on Church Street. Our wonderful team of book-sorters and book sale organisers is delighted with their new corner premises.



Emma Coombe, Humanitarian Development Engagement Manager, delivers the Young Humanitarians Programme modules to the junior class at Inglewood High School.

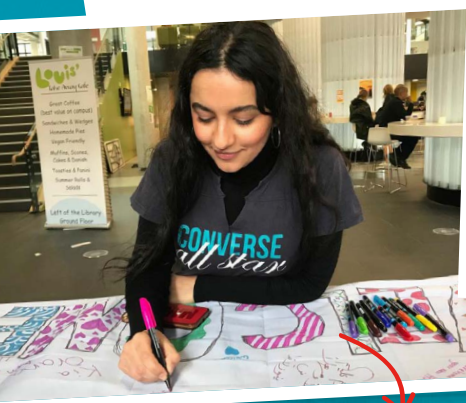
Wellington

- VicRed, a student club at Victoria University of Wellington, recently put on a fundraising bake sale at the Kelburn campus. Migration Team Volunteer Lead Jacob Smythe suggested the group create a welcome banner to be used when the Migration team is greeting new arrivals at Wellington Airport – everyone loved the idea. The banner drew many students to the stall to write down warm and welcoming messages (and buy a few treats, too!).
- In collaboration with Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, the Wellington Service Centre recently ran a series of Good and Ready training workshops. The workshops were a great success, with one of the highlights being a roleplay simulation of an actual Community Emergency Hub.
- Our teams from Wellington Service Centre went along to the World Refugee Festival at Victoria University of Wellington in June. Attendees spent the day honouring the resilience, diversity and talents of our refugee-background whānau around the globe and here in Aotearoa.
- On 26 May, several Red Cross people from our Disaster Response team, Wellington Service Centre team, and International IT&T ERU team put up a tent outside Te Papa as part of their display at the National Emergency Management Conference 2021 Hui Taumata o Te Uepū Whakahaere Haumaruru at Te Papa.

Discussing the logistic flow of the residents coming into the Community Emergency Hub, and how to match their needs and the offers from the neighbourhood.



The Red Cross whānau outside their display at the National Emergency Management Conference 2021 Hui Taumata o Te Uepū Whakahaere Haumaruru at Te Papa.



Anne, a VicRed member, writes welcoming messages in two languages on an airport welcome banner.



Setting up the Good and Ready reception at the Community Emergency Hub (Mount Cook School).



Sophie Westerna, President of VicRed, and Maddy Caughey from VicRed started decorating an airport welcome banner at the bake sale fundraising stall.



Canterbury/West Coast

- On Monday 30 May, our Christchurch Disaster Welfare and Support Team was deployed to provide support to people affected by the floods in Swannanoa and Rangiora. The team of 15 knocked on a total of 80 doors, conducted welfare checks and provided Psychological First Aid to those most in need.
- The Hokitika Branch supported our Red Cross Resilience Ultra marathon race volunteers and Disaster Welfare and Support Team members on 7 August.
- In collaboration with Ara Institute of Canterbury, New Zealand Red Cross held an 'op shop expo' event – Retailed – on 13 August. This family-friendly event was a great opportunity for members of the public to learn more about the circular economy and the excellent work that New Zealand Red Cross is doing in Aotearoa and abroad.

Otago/Southland

- Long-serving Secretary/ Treasurer of the Gore Branch, Greta Miller, has stepped down from her role after nine years. New member Heather Hetaraka was elected to the Secretary/ Treasurer role, along with Jeanette Mann who will continue as Gore Branch President while Greta will continue as a valued member of the Branch. Greta was given flowers for her outstanding effort over the near decade of service. Additionally, Sally Hannabus was thanked for her years as Blood Bank coordinator, she has decided to continue in the role with support from another member.

Gore Branch



A World Refugee Festival was held at Victoria University of Wellington on 20 June – World Refugee Day. The event was jam-packed full of cultural performances, photography, storytelling, arts and crafts, and kai.



Building BETTER Communities



New Zealand Red Cross provides community refugee settlement programmes in eleven locations around New Zealand.

When former refugees arrive in their new home towns, they are supported by our qualified social workers, case workers, cross cultural workers and trained Refugee Support Volunteers who help them understand Kiwi culture, learn to manage systems and find work. Social workers help families to identify complex issues that may affect them - such as parenting in a new environment or addressing trauma - and provide

appropriate support and referrals.

As part of the increase in annual refugee quota to 1500, New Zealand Red Cross' Migration Programmes Team and Refugee Support Volunteers are looking to welcome former refugee families into a new resettlement community.

Between November 2021 and June 2022, around 50 people from Pakistan will settle in Masterton.

This follows on from the other recently established settlement locations in Blenheim and Invercargill.

We couldn't do what we do to support new Kiwis in communities across Aotearoa

New Zealand without our extraordinary Refugee Support Volunteers. They are at the core of our important mahi - helping families in practical ways to start again, while providing important psychosocial support and connections.

Our Pathways to Settlement work is considered an essential service, and is allowed to run during all COVID-19 alert levels. To keep people safe at Alert Levels 3 and 4, we are supporting former refugees virtually, except in cases of urgent need. In such cases, we provide some contactless or restricted face-to-face support with care and caution.

Throughout Alert Levels 3 and 4, our Refugee Trauma Recovery and Pathways to Employment teams have been busy providing services remotely. These services include case work, pastoral care, delivering information through various platforms and assessing specific needs of households.

HOW TO HELP

There are plenty of ways you can get involved with former refugees in your community:

- give a donation to help Red Cross turn houses into homes
- become a refugee support volunteer
- give a former refugee an employment opportunity.

visit  redcross.org.nz/refugee

Along came Red Cross

Over the years, Red Cross had been there when Frank Hardy had needed it most.

Eighty years ago, Frank was a prisoner of war, detained by the German Army. For the four years Frank was held as a prisoner, his unenviable situation became more bearable, thanks to the Red Cross.

Frank always remembered that first Red Cross parcel in 1942. It not only brought much needed supplies, it also brought the light at the end of a long and dark tunnel - hope for him and his fellow prisoners of war.

“Never have I forgotten the arrival of the first parcel and subsequent weekly issue. They turned despair into tolerance.”

Frank reminisced about how sometimes along with tea, sugar and milk powder there would be surreptitious little notes of encouragement from whoever packed the parcel.

With so much thanks in his heart to Red Cross, Frank had no idea that seven decades

later he would again call on the services of the organisation that provided a much-needed lifeline many years ago.

“At very critical points of my life, the Red Cross has cropped up.”

After the Christchurch Earthquakes, Red Cross came along again with two earthquakes grants, meaning Frank and his wife Ann were able to get some respite by staying with their daughter in Whangarei for a month.

“It couldn’t have come at a better time,” said Frank, whose wife had mild dementia and at the time was almost immobile.

After losing his wife Red Cross was there again. This time with meals on wheels, and being in his 90’s, Frank needed an extra little bit of help each day.

Frank wrote to Red Cross to say thank you. It was the least he thought he could do.

“God bless Red Cross and everyone involved in furthering your work in meeting the demands



of the world, long may it continue. Our appreciation is unbounded. Thank you.”

Frank passed away aged 96. His family are happy that we are continuing to honour his memory by sharing his story and his love for Red Cross.

Please consider leaving a Legacy of Hope to Red Cross

For more information please contact us:

Phone: 0800 733 2767

Email: bequests@redcross.org.nz

Mail: Red Cross House, PO Box 12140, Thorndon, Wellington 6144

Visit:  redcross.org.nz

GET INVOLVED

-  Join today at redcross.org.nz/get-involved
-  Volunteer with us
-  Learn first aid
-  Donate
-  Leave a lasting gift in your will
-  Fundraise to help others

Join the conversation


Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for all the latest New Zealand Red Cross news and updates.

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HOW TO HELP:

 Head to redcross.org.nz/volunteer to find out more.



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