

MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013

VICTORIAN REFUGEE RECOGNITION RECORD 2013 INDUCTEES

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) today announced the 22 new inductees to the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record (VRRR).

The VRRR celebrates and documents the diverse and outstanding contributions that people of refugee background have made to their own communities and to the State of Victoria. Since its inception in 2004, almost 200 individuals have been inducted to the VRRR.

VMC Chairperson, Mr Chin Tan, said the new inductees were an outstanding group of extraordinary individuals, worthy of recognition. "Through the VRRR, the Victorian Government is able to officially recognise the considerable contributions that people of refugee background are making within our community," said Mr Tan. "By acknowledging their achievements, we are also encouraging respect and harmony within our society."

VRRR recipients represent diverse cultures and age groups, and often dedicate many hours to voluntary work. A lot of them have taken on leadership roles within their communities, and provide support to others who are marginalised or disadvantaged. All hold a common commitment to bettering the lives of themselves and those around them, often despite having suffered extreme hardship and trauma.

This year's inductees to the Record will be acknowledged at an official presentation ceremony to be held on Monday 24 June in Melbourne. Portrait images of each of the inductees will be on public exhibition from Wednesday 19 June in the gallery space of 1 Spring Street, Melbourne. The exhibition will run for approximately four weeks.

The exhibition is held in recognition of Refugee Week, Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society.

To be eligible for the VRRR, the nominee is required to be: a refugee, former refugee or humanitarian entrant; a current resident of Victoria; and recognised as having made an outstanding contribution to their own ethnic community as well as to the Victorian community as a whole.

A full list of VRRR 2013 inductees is attached (see next page).

Media enquiries: Rhonda Peterson on (03) 9651 0647

VICTORIAN REFUGEE RECOGNITION RECORD 2013 INDUCTEES:

NAME	CULTURAL IDENTITY	BASED IN (AREA)
G Storm and Fablice (A.K.A hip hop duo <i>FlyBz</i>)	Burundi	Springvale
Abuk Bol	South Sudanese	Dandenong
Aliye Geleto Anota	Oromo	Mentone
Andrew Kalon	Sierra Leonean	Reservoir
Augustino Moedu	Karen	Corio
Belthrand Habiyakare	Burundi	Ardeer
Daniel Zewdu	Ethiopian	Footscray
Emmanuel Nagahesi	Burundi	Sunshine North
Hser Wah Pokyaut	Karen	Horsham
Jouana Assadi	Kurdish Iranian	Carlton
Kabir Mohammad	Afghani	Dandenong
Kaw Doh Htoo	Karen	Nhill
Khem Prasad Khanal	Bhutanese	Meadow Heights
Lensa Dinka	Oromo	Noble Park
Meca Ho	Vietnamese	Richmond
Monga Mukasa	Congolese	Shepparton
Moo Tha	Karen	Corio
Saveuy Mangala	Laotian	Avondale Heights
Taqi Khan	Hazara Afghani	Hampton Park
Tehiya Umer	Oromo	Flemington
Tereza Gum	Sudanese	Norlane
Thamaypaw Naysay	Karen	Hoppers Crossing