MAT’s new premises

On the 3rd of April, MAT officially opened its new premises at 161 Stoddard Rd, Mt Roskill.

MAT took the opportunity to showcase its history and achievements, wherein MAT Secretary, Richard Barter read minutes from 2002 meetings during the formation of the group.

It started with a talk on Immigrants Social Activity, followed by a discussion of long-term goals. Two of the first 16 original people who were involved in the organization are still with MAT.

It was in June 2002, the Migrant Action Trust name was approved by the group.

Amongst MAT’s achievements to date are:
- from 1 to 3 programs
- from 5 to 19 services offered
- from 1 part-time staff to 2 staff plus 2 subcontractors
- from 10 to over 40 volunteers
- from a database of 10 to 900 clients

MP Phil Goff (Mt. Roskill), Spokesperson for Labour’s Ethnic Affairs Chris Carter and MP Melissa Lee (National Party List) graced the modest event along with close friends and partners.

New workshop calls for radical job search technique

In response to the recent economic crisis where huge job losses were forecasted, the Job search in Tough Times Half-Day Training was held last 24 Jan 2009 at the Glenfield Community Board Meeting room, Glenfield, North Shore City.

Registration forms ran out for there were over 25 migrants who came - Filipinos, Koreans, Chinese, Indian, Malaysian and a lone New Zealander.

The usual CV and cover letter writing and sitting in a Job Interview were covered but with emphasis that one must revolutionize job searching methods in order to compete in these tough times.

‘Thinking Outside the Box’ was the main theme of the training.

MAT will be running this training again within the next couple of months. For inquiries, email info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz

“Working Together in Tough Times”

We invite you to a

A forum - an open dialogue between migrants, various agencies working with migrants, employers, policy makers & concerned individuals

30 May 2009, Saturday 10 am to 12 noon
Windy Ridge School, Seaview Road, Glenfield

Ultimately it is hoped that the outcome of the dialogue will bring constructive suggestions and recommendations for our leaders and representatives to act on or to think about in order to address the issues affecting migrants & other stakeholders caused by the global financial crises.
Set your job hunting in motion & get a job faster
by Christine and Matt Winkelnkemper

After a year long of private English lessons in Germany and reading about New Zealand’s people and culture, we flew to Auckland. Shortly after arriving, we took a 4-week English course.

We knew networking works. In fact, through this we learned about Migrant Action Trust’s Employment Support Group in Glenfield. Karen Venter, a psychologist, facilitates the Support Group and is a real encourager who kept our motivation and enthusiasm level consistently high.

My husband Matt and I also decided to volunteer at Maritime Museum as Vessel Crew. Matt took volunteering further to Kiwi Cup 2009 - a sailing event for disabled people. Fun is how we’d describe our voluntary experience.

Boat and yacht industry was my employment target and I was fortunate to get there quickly. Maybe my time at the Maritime Museum helped. Being German speaking also was an advantage because my employer dealt with German companies.

My experience however differed from Matt. His were several rejections until the unexpected.

He responded to a blind ad for a warehouse supervisor.

After several phone calls not reaching the contact person he tracked down the company in the white pages with only the phone number in hand.

Finding the company and its location he decided to hand-deliver his CV only to find out applications were already closed. He went home disheartened but later that afternoon he got a call from the Manager for an interview. He was impressed at Matt’s effort of tracking them down and because of this he was hired.

Today, we are now employed but we look back and appreciated the assistance from Karen through the Employment Support Group. And we’d like to give back by volunteering as Mentors to job seeking migrants for who else can relate to migrant issues but migrants themselves.

Never give up by Yvonne Pilkington

I’m Yvonne and I moved from Vanuatu to New Zealand in February 2008.

I intended to find a job so I did some home work and one day I saw an advertisement for a free workshop on how to be successful in applying for a job in NZ.

I rang Olga and registered to attend the Employment Support Group meetings.

It did not cost me anything, apart from 12 dollars for the bus fares.

The meetings gave me a different perspective on how to job search. It taught me about the NZ labour market and how to submit a winning applications. We also discussed what questions are usually asked during job interviews and how to respond to those questions.

We were also taught how to write a winning CV to meet NZ standard.

But I felt that the greatest learning from the meetings was not to give up but to keep applying because 9 out of 10, the employer will say ‘No’.

So I put into action what I learned and through diligence and sheer determination, I finally found a job.

I am very happy that I attended these meetings.
Migrants becoming conscious in parenting

“Children are our legacy from God and as parents we have the responsibility to raise our children today to prepare them into the future multi-cultural and diverse New Zealand society.

We are not raising Filipino children in the Philippines but Filipino children in New Zealand. Our challenge is finding a common ground whereby we can keep our language and culture and at the same time allow our children to integrate into New Zealand society.

There’s no offered solution. However if we keep talking, some of our issues are brought into light. And in light, darkness cannot exist. This is Conscious Parenting.”

Thus were the opening words of Agnes Granada, coordinator of Migrant Action Trust, as she opened the first session held last March at Windy Ridge School, Glenfield, North Shore City.

During the first session some of the topics parents identified to be discussed were:

- The legalese of raising children in New Zealand and how these reconcile with the biblical teaching
- Handling anger and stress; discipline
- Children with special needs
- Stronger relationships between husband and wife and between parents and children
- Managing situations where there is conflict of culture
- Education system and its lack of challenge for the children

The 15 families who participated from Bethel church saw the value of the project and are inclined to continue the sessions beyond the conclusion of the project.

Conscious Parenting is a joint project of North Shore Bethel Missionary Church, Pinoy Social Workers Group and MAT.

New migrant mentors trained

At the last Mentors’ Training on 28th April 2009 held at Windy Ridge School, 3 German and 1 Filipino migrant signed up to become mentors and help those who are on the journey of finding meaningful jobs.

With learnings from the Employment Support Group and their personal experience in the challenges of job seeking, the new volunteers are equipped to become mentors.

New mentor volunteers are welcome anytime. Mentors can always make a difference in someone’s life. For inquiries, email info@migrantactiontrust.org.nz
New service about to be launched

In Dec 2008, Migrant Action Trust met four community groups to validate the need for the service. And yes, it was agreed by those who attended the meeting that there is a need for it. Not intending to duplicate a service, MAT went further and inquired if any group was involved in it. It's now confirmed that there is none. About to be launched is a service open to groups and micro-enterprise owners. It will provide a common resource such as:

- Office and meeting place
- Staff and volunteers to assist them in the following activities:
  - Organisational
  - Admin and Finance
  - Grant Application
  - Marketing & Public Relation
  - Event or Project Management
  - Other Office Services

'More time in activities where you are good at’ is the objective of the service.

Auckland Refugee Community Coalition launched

“If organized, it is possible that our voices can be heard to make a difference.”

This was the call of Alvis Kafeba, President of Auckland Refugee Community Coalition at its launch held 21st of March 2009 at the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall.

It’s been 2 years since the group was formed and these days the group is putting out a call to other refugee groups to join the coalition. As of today, 13 groups are members of the coalition coming from the Afghan, Congolese, Eritrian, Ethiopian, Kurdish, Oromo, Somali, Sudanese and Tamil communities.

For more information or membership inquiries, visit www.aucklandrefugee.org.nz or write to Kafeba on his email Kafeba96@hotmail.com