



# Refugee Week 2020

## “Celebrating the Year of Welcome” Program

Refugee Week celebrates contributions made by refugees to Australian society. This year it will run from Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June. Our events will run from Tuesday 16 June to Friday 26 June.

### Information about a few of our main events:

#### BUKJEH in Whittlesea

BUKJEH is a community performance project presented by the City of Whittlesea, and supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. Through creative workshops, and three Facebook live events with international artists, local artist Aseel Tayah asks the question “What if instead of staying at home you had to leave?” [www.bukjeh.com](http://www.bukjeh.com)

#### From the World to Whittlesea Online concert, 7pm-8pm, Thursday 25 June

Streamed online, professional artists, musicians, poets and storytellers perform live. Overshadowed by the impact of COVID19, the refugee experience is ageless. People have always emigrated, but many have done so against their will, facing impossible challenges, so while we lament the difficulties of staying home, this concert will remind us of those who have been forced to leave theirs.

Event streaming details for BUKJEH in Whittlesea and From the World to Whittlesea will be available upon booking. For more information, email [connectingcommunity@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:connectingcommunity@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

*The City of Whittlesea recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.*

**For more information, please visit the City of Whittlesea events page:**

[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events](http://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events)

For any enquiries please contact Emma Antonetti by phoning 0408 995 982.



Show: Bukjeh  
Performer: José Luis Alejandro Inostroza Aqueveque  
Photographer: Amil Alhasan



Vardos Trio.  
Photo: Melisa Savickas

## Full program details of all activities, films and live events presented by the Whittlesea Multicultural Issues Network:

June Date	Time	Event/Activity & Description
Wednesday 17	Anytime	<b>Refugee Week Portraits – a video</b> A visual study of contributions to our community by residents with asylum seeker and refugee backgrounds.
Tuesday 16 Thursday 18 Monday 22	7.00pm	<b>Facebook live events – By BUKJEH in Whittlesea</b> Hosted by Aseel Tayah, professional artists from around the world share their art and stories of home, journeying and displacement. Streamed on Bukjeh Facebook page @bukjeh
Friday 19	10.00am	<b>The Secret Heroes – an online storytelling workshop</b> A physical workshop using body language to explore our story, led by professional BUKJEH artist, José Luis Alejandro Inostroza Aqueveque,
Monday 22	Anytime	<b>‘What I wish I’d known’ – a video by Northern Health</b> Dr. Batool Albatat, reflects on her experience of coming here as a refugee from Iraq.
Monday 22	Anytime	<b>Our Community – a series of films by Whittlesea Community Connections</b> People from a refugee background living in our community will share their story as well as their knowledge, strengths and skills, using different mediums - poetry, art and cooking. It is a privilege to know these people. We trust that you enjoy watching too.
Tuesday 23	2.00pm	<b>Weaving words into Images – an online storytelling workshop</b> Participants can share stories of home, journeys and displacement then explore them through poetry.
Tuesday 23	6.30 – 7.30pm	<b>Life before and during COVID – an online forum</b> A conversation about refugee experiences, how this has changed since COVID and the increase of racism in Australia.
Wednesday 24	Anytime	<b>Racism Stops with Me and the Power of US! A film</b> Community voices in response to racism. Community members and leaders have used their mobile phone to film anti-racism messages. See the final film.
Thursday 25	1.30 – 2.30pm	<b>Protecting you, your family and your community – an online seminar and film</b> The Hume/Whittlesea Refugee Immunisation Project invites community leaders and newly arrived communities to learn about the importance of protecting families against vaccine preventable diseases. They will answer questions about how immunisation may affect Centrelink payments and entry into school.
Thursday 25	7.00pm	<b>From the World to Whittlesea – a one hour online concert</b> Featuring local poet Khalid Al’Hili, Bukjeh Storytellers, musicians including the popular local Duo Alcides, and an exciting trio, Vardos, who’ve performed their Romany influenced music around the world.
Friday 26	Anytime	<b>Stories of Belonging ‘Never with empty hands’ – a film by Melbourne Polytechnic</b> Melbourne AMEP, the Volunteer Tutor Scheme and Melbourne Polytechnic students take part in this Refugee Week Project. It acknowledges that all new arrivals to Australia come with rich stories to share that often remind us of the relationships and attachments we all have to place, family and culture.

**Evaluation questionnaire – your feedback will help us shape our programs in the future.**

Please take a moment to share your experience with us