



presents

Bendigo

# Our Refugee Story

*You are invited to a day of insight  
and inspiration.*

*Saturday 25th October, 10 am to 4 pm  
at the Bendigo Library*

**Discover** compelling stories

**Talk** with local advocacy groups

**Tune in** to illuminating conversations

**Immerse** yourself in art displays, photographic  
exhibitions and short films

**Celebrate** the Bendigo Karen Community  
with music, dance and life stories



**Hazel Edwards**, quirky, thought provoking author (*There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*) will read from and discuss her latest works for young readers *Hijab Girl* and *Boat Boy*.



**Najaf Mazari\***, 2014 Australian of the Year nominee recounts his long journey from persecuted Hazara in Afghanistan to flourishing business owner and family man in Melbourne.



**Julian Burnside\*** AO QC, dedicated refugee advocate, lawyer and author – in discussion with local employers and councillors – will explore his humanitarian and financially profitable model for accommodating asylum seekers in rural and regional towns.

\* **Book your place at [www.rarbendigo.com](http://www.rarbendigo.com)**

# Program

Saturday 25th October 10am-4pm  
at the Bendigo Library




Presented by Rural Australians for Refugees in partnership with Bendigo Library



## Our Refugee Story – special events

10.00 am	Launch of photographic exhibition <b>Seeking Refuge in Nhill</b> by the Mayor, Councillor Barry Lyons	Activity Room 1
10.15 – 11.00	Di Dempsey in conversation with members of the local <b>Karen community</b>	Library Performance Space
11.10 – 11.30	<b>Karen dance</b>	Library Performance Space
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Hazel Edwards</b> reads from and discusses her two new works for young readers, <i>Hijab Girl</i> and <i>Boat Boy</i> .	Library Performance Space
1.00 – 2.00 <b>Bookings essential*</b>	Di Dempsey in conversation with <b>Najaf Mazari</b> ( <i>The Rug Maker of Mazar-e-Sharif</i> )	Activity Room 1
2.30 – 4.00 <b>Bookings essential*</b>	<b>Julian Burnside</b> , in discussion with local councillors and employers, explores his model for accommodating asylum seekers in rural and regional towns.	Activity Room 1

## All morning (10.00am – 1.00pm)

<b>Footy and netball clinics</b> run by the AFL and Netball Victoria	 	Outside in library garden
<b>Exhibition</b> of paintings by an asylum seeker in detention <b>Short films</b> running continuously		Meeting Room 3 (upstairs)

## All day (10.00am – 4.00pm)

<b>Seeking Refuge in Nhill</b> photographic exhibition (Note: This exhibition remains in place until Saturday 8th November)		Activity Room 1
<p>Karen guitarist and singer plus information stalls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pledge to Asylum Seekers</li> <li>Amnesty International</li> <li>Bendigo Friends and Mentors</li> <li>City of Greater Bendigo</li> <li>Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services</li> <li>Wild Dingo Press - books for sale</li> <li>Grandmothers Against Detention of Refugee Children</li> </ul>	      	Activity Room 1 in the morning, then in the foyer for the afternoon

\* **Book your place for Najaf Mazari and/or Julian Burnside at [www.rarbendigo.com](http://www.rarbendigo.com)**