**March Good News Stories**

**Western Sydney University scholarship helped Afghan refugee Parastoo Bahrami fulfill her education dream**

It was the hope of educating his children that made Parastoo Bahrami's father pile his family of eight into a rickety fishing boat and sputter across the Timor Sea.

Having lived in an Indonesian refugee camp for 11 years as Afghan refugees, they made their final attempt to reach Australia in 2012.

Parastoo said her father decided to flee Afghanistan in 2001 because the Taliban took control of their town in Kapisa Province.

11 March 2021

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-11/western-sydney-university-scholarships-for-refugees/13229292

**AMES Australia opens up support for multicultural Mildura**

NEWLY arrived migrants and refugees in Sunraysia will have direct access to settlement and education services after migrant and refugee settlement agency AMES Australia opened its first Mildura offices this week.

MAR 13 2021

https://www.sunraysiadaily.com.au/news/3706988/ames-australia-opens-up-support-for-multicultural-mildura

**Restored Australian Navy aircraft allows emotional reunion for Vietnamese refugees, 40 years after dramatic rescue**

A group of Vietnamese refugees and their families have reconnected with a restored aircraft near south of Sydney, 40 years after their miraculous rescue from a "floundering" fishing boat that was helping them flee Vietnam's communist regime

In June 1981, crew on the Australian Navy's HMAS Melbourne were flying inan anti-submarine patrol plane, a Grumman S-2G Tracker 851, when they helped rescue 99 refugees from their broken-down vessel in the South China Sea, 250 nautical miles east of Vietnam.

14 March 2021

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-14/hmas-melbourne-40-years-99-vietnamese-refugee-rescued-1981/13242540

**Why football has so many diverse reasons to celebrate**

The 13 clubs across the A-League and Westfield W-League are surely the closest that one country can come to representing a United Nations of football, a literal A-Z where our diversity is championed through the playing of one sport.

As Harmony Week kicks off to showcase the array of Australia’s myriad cultures and creeds, it’s never been more evident how football in this country represents modern Australia.

Mar 16, 2021

https://www.a-league.com.au/news/why-football-has-so-many-diverse-reasons-celebrate

**Music is a way of reclaiming time': Behrouz Boochani's lauded memoir becomes a poetic musical event**

A little blond girl plays in the shallows at Christmas Island, oblivious to a tugboat filled with exhausted refugees pulling up to a pier for Australian government “processing” in the middle of the Indian Ocean. For Kurdish-Iranian asylum seeker and writer Behrouz Boochani, traumatised by nearly drowning at sea and still struggling to walk, this girl is “like the cool gentle breeze this sunny day”. She is his “first real impression of Australia”.

London-based Australian composer Luke Styles, who has created a song cycle out of Boochani’s critically lauded memoir No Friend But the Mountains, felt an affinity with the book’s striking image of the little girl because “the beach is so ingrained in us as Australians”

20 Mar 2021

https://www.theguardian.com/music/2021/mar/20/music-is-a-way-of-reclaiming-time-behrouz-boochanis-lauded-memoir-becomes-a-poetic-musical-event

**Australian National Maritime Museum’s Welcome Wall becomes National Monument to Migration**

Your story is our story’

On Sunday March 21 the Governor General of Australia, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC elevated the status of the Welcome Wall at the Australian National Maritime Museum to become Australia’s National Monument to Migration.

The monument commemorates those who have migrated from countries around the world to make Australia their new home. The name of any person who was born overseas and settled into Australia may be registered on the monument.

MARCH 22, 2021

https://www.miragenews.com/australian-national-maritime-museums-welcome-531787/

**Refugee advocates gather across Australia demanding end to 'harsh policies' for people in detention**

Refugee advocates are rallying across Australia to demand an end to the nation's "harsh" hotel and off-shore detention policies.

"Walk for Justice and a Fair Go for Refugees" events have been scheduled in capital cities and regional centres on Sunday afternoon.

The Palm Sunday rallies taking place in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Cairns, Hobart, Albany and Darwin have been backed by over 200 refugee, religious, political and human rights groups.

29 March 2021

https://www.sbs.com.au/news/refugee-advocates-gather-across-australia-demanding-end-to-harsh-policies-for-people-in-detention