

Sydney Alliance Newsletter

7th March 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2



ACTING COALITION DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

2011 is a big year for Sydney Alliance and we've started the year full steam ahead. With the **Founding Assembly** coming up on the **15th September**, we will be bringing together members across our partner organisations who are relationally engaged, to fill the town hall, launch the Sydney Alliance issue agenda, and put our claims on the decision makers across Sydney, be they politicians, business people, or other community leaders.

This month, the Sydney Alliance Leaders Council endorsed the way we decide on the Sydney Alliance issues agenda which we will launch at the Founding Assembly. This will happen at the **Discernment Assembly** on 15 May 2011 where key leaders from each partner organisation come to share the stories and issues raised by their members, and those issue that people are prepared to act around, coming out of their listening campaigns. We will choose our issue agenda based on how much energy there is to work on issues that are raised.

Now is the time for your organisation to run its **listening campaign** so your members can have a say. Hundreds of members' hopes, dreams and challenges have already been heard from across the spectrum of our organisations. You need to have done your listening by the end of April so the outcomes can be fed into the pool of potential issues.

Jennifer Acklin

FOUNDING ASSEMBLY, SEPTEMBER 15 – 26 WEEKS TO GO!

Are You Involved?

The Founding Action Coordination Team (FACT) provides a significant opportunity to connect with the process of organising the Founding Assembly. It is here that all partner organisations can contribute to and be informed about the organising process. If you have interest in the discernment assembly, research action teams, political engagement, communications strategy, fund raising, leadership development, logistic and founding assembly then there is reason to be at the next FACT:

- 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Thursday 7th April
- Western Sydney Community Forum
- L4 / 146 Marsden Street, Parramatta

FACT meets on the first Thursday of every month – 10 am to 12 pm – so block out April 7th / May 5th / June 2nd / July 7th / Aug 4th / Sept 1st

CONTACT: rburgess@sydneyalliance.org.au M: 0435 846 520

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

A district or regional meeting is an opportunity for you and your organisation to raise issues, and discuss potential actions and strategy with other organisations in your geographic area.

St George Sutherland Regional Action Meeting

- A meeting is being planned to determine the level of support for regional action within this region and depending on the outcome to form the core group that will coordinate this action
- If you are interested in being involved please contact:
- Ron Burgess – Sydney Alliance Organiser
E: rburgess@sydneyalliance.org.au M: 0435 846 520

Fairfield Liverpool Regional Action Meeting (includes Campbelltown)

- 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- Tuesday 29th March
- St Francis Xavier Church, Webster Road, Lurnea
- Contact: Peter Smith - smithpeter@ozemail.com.au

Penrith Nepean Regional Action Meeting (includes Blue Mountains)

- Contact: Evan Ellis - Evan.Ellis@ccss.org.au for the next meeting

Parramatta Regional Action Meeting

- Contact: Mary Waterford - eo@wscf.org.au for the next meeting.

Blacktown Region 2 Day Alliance Building Institute

- 2nd & 9th April 9:00am-5:00pm
Hosted by Sydney Alliance Blacktown Region & Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown

Register at www.sydneyalliance.org.au

The **Harbour** District includes the regions of **CBD & Eastern Suburbs**, **Inner West**, and **Northern Suburbs** from Epping and Ryde to Mona Vale. Each held a regional listening campaign in late February & early March.

Each region will attend the Harbour District Assembly. If you are interested in linking in with listening, action and leadership development in Eastern Suburbs, Inner West and North of the Bridge contact gpowell@sydneyalliance.org.au.

- **Harbour District Assembly- @ 7pm, 27 April, Pitt St Uniting Church**

Contact e:gpowell@sydneyalliance.org.au

2 DAY ALLIANCE BUILDING INSTITUTES, NEXT WEEK!

Do you have colleagues, members or friends who would be interested in 2 Day Training? Register now for next week's training – places available.

2 Day Alliance Building Institute, CBD

15 & 16 March 9:00am-5:00pm

Hosted by Cancer Council, New South Wales
153 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo

Register at www.sydneyalliance.org.au

2 Day Alliance Building Institute, Liverpool

16 & 17 March 9:00am-5:00pm

Hosted by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Lurnea
71 Webster Road, Lurnea

Register at www.sydneyalliance.org.au

STORIES & PHOTOS



North of the Bridge Regional Action Listening Campaign



Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Union (LHMU) Campbelltown School Cleaners' Listening Campaign

BANKSTOWN UNITING CHURCH & ASIAN WOMEN @ WORK

My name is Neil Smith and I am the minister of Bankstown Uniting Church and also the regional coordinator for Sydney Alliance. As I was contacting the local organizations which belong to the Sydney Alliance, I had a conversation with members of "Asian Women at Work". We talked about things that their organization and the Uniting Church might do together and we came up with the idea of bus trips where people from different cultures could travel together and get to know each other and the Asian women could practice their English.

We have now had two trips and last Sunday two of the women from Asian Women at Work came to a church service to thank the members of the Bankstown Uniting Church. Lucy told people of how she has lived in Australia for years and how she has worked for long hours with low pay in the textile industry with little interaction with English speaking Australians. She said that she became afraid to go out because she felt insecure about her spoken English. She spoke of how much she has enjoyed the opportunity to spend up to five hours talking with someone who wants to listen and help.

We travel to a scenic place and Alan King, the driver gives some history of the areas we are going through and tells some jokes and some information about English words. We stop for morning tea and then the Asian women provide a wonderful lunch with a great variety of tasty food. We then return in the afternoon, often very tired from talking and listening and being understood. The Asian women have talked about wanting to have cooking lessons to learn how to bake a sponge cake and make scones and mashed potato and so some Aussie cooking lessons may be on the agenda and I'm sure there are people who want to learn some Asian cooking tips.

Send us stories & photos from your organisation intern@sydneyalliance.org.au