

-- THE TAMPA LEGACY, 6 YEARS ON --  
**TIME FOR A NEW BEGINNING**

**1PM, SUNDAY 26 AUGUST, 2007**



**Australians have opened their hearts to refugees.  
Our political leaders, on both sides of the fence, need to do the same.  
In the lead up to the Federal election, help show our political leaders how  
we'd like to see refugees and asylum seekers treated.**

*Join Refugee Action Collective, Victoria in*  
**A HUMAN INSTALLATION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE VISION,  
A NEW BEGINNING**

The commemoration will include a colourful, musical procession along the banks of the Yarra, followed by an indigenous welcome, speeches from former Prime Minister **Malcolm Fraser**, **Julian Burnside QC** and **asylum seekers**, story telling from writer **Arnold Zable** and singer **Kavisha Mazzella** and much **music, dance and song** from refugee and asylum seeker communities and their supporters.

**Gather on the north bank of the Yarra at the Sandridge Bridge,  
near the Flinders Street Station  
Please wear colourful clothes and bring banners and placards  
describing the future Australia you'd like to see.**

Further information call Tim on 0438 399 973  
or Marie on 0409 252 673  
www.rac-vic.org [refugeeaction@hotmail.com](mailto:refugeeaction@hotmail.com)



On August 26, six years ago, the Norwegian cargo container *MV Tampa* rescued 433 men, women and children from a sinking Indonesian fishing vessel. In violation of our most fundamental human rights obligations, Prime Minister John Howard declared that the asylum seekers would never set foot on Australian soil.

Howard ruthlessly denied those in need of our help in order to exploit community fears, and so laid the ground for a decisive victory at the polls later that year. And yet, after having spent two wasted years on Nauru, many of those 433 Tampa asylum seekers were accepted into the Australian community.

**Things have changed since 2001.**

Since Tampa, tens of thousands of Australians have become committed to the cause of refugee rights. The community no longer believes that mandatory detention is acceptable, that the Pacific Solution is a fair or sensible policy, or that those determined to be refugees should be forced to live a second-class existence on temporary protection visas.

**Australians have opened their hearts to refugees.  
Our political leaders, on both sides of the fence, need to do the same.**

Over generations gone by, new migrants crossed Sandridge Bridge on their way from Station Pier, to be welcomed into our community. In the lead-up to the 2007 Federal election, let's use this powerful symbolic location to show our political leaders how we'd like to see refugees and asylum seekers treated.

Let's create a community of respect, inclusion and harmony, a community that is open to those less fortunate, that values diversity and celebrates the enormous contribution that refugees and asylum seekers have made to our collective lives.

**Please join us in creating an alternative vision for Australia's future.**

