

You may remember that some time ago I mentioned the charity called Mahboba's Promise, which helped orphaned children in Afghanistan and then tried to evacuate their charges when the Taliban was back in power.

They were able to evacuate 17 out of 200.

January 26 those 17 celebrated their first Australia Day at an event in Marsfield, Sydney, where they were joined by other refugees from around the world.

Laughter and music filled the air. Some children sat quietly as they ate a traditional Afghan feast, while others played games in the sun. ABC news featured a lovely segment on them and the link to it is at the bottom of my notes on the website.

Mahboba Rawi is known to these children as 'mother'. I quote:

"Hopefully in the future, they'll contribute to the Australian community. But the rest of them in Afghanistan ... we worry about them."

Latifa, an employee of Mahboba's Promise, held the children tight as they left Afghanistan and embarked on their journey to Australia.

While they made it out safely, the 27-year-old remembered those left behind and pledged to never stop fighting to bring them to Australia.

"The other children who are still in Afghanistan who were in the school with us, they are in danger and we wish that they could come to Australia," Latifa said.

While Ms Rawi is immersing the children in Australian life, she is also keeping their Afghan culture alive.

"This holiday season we took them to Palm Beach, Bell Beach," she said.

"We went to national parks so they could learn to swim, so they learned some Aussie way of life, as well as sitting on the floor on an Afghan Persian rug."

Latifa said embracing her new life in Australia was easy with strong community support.



Mahboba Rawi, who fought to get the children to Australia, is known to them as "Mother".



Mahboba Rawi says the children's life in Australia is "beautiful".



Latifa says she has a "good feeling" about Australia Day.

"I have a very good feeling about Australia Day," she said.

"Like the people who are Australian and celebrate, I have a love for this day because Australia has given me a better life away from war and away from every difficulty."

I also spoke last year about the Yazidi/Ezidi refugees who were finding a new life and freedom in Armidale NSW.

We spent the first 7 years of my life in Australia in Armidale and 4 of our 5 children were born there.

According to the ABC the Armidale Yazidi group is thriving, thanks to the acceptance, wisdom and perseverance of the Armidale Council and community.

Again, the link to this is at the bottom of my notes on the website. I sent this around our family, our almost 49 year old son said, 'The tears flowed Mum'.

They did for me too as I watched these children learning to swim in the massively upgraded swimming pool where the children and I spent many hours in summer.

I wanted to share the follow up to these inspiring stories to remind us of the importance of continuing to help and support those who need it most.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Christine Bradbeer

[abc.net.au/news/afghan-orphans-celebrate-first-australia-day-in-sydney/
100783934](https://www.abc.net.au/news/afghan-orphans-celebrate-first-australia-day-in-sydney/100783934)

[https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/the-ezidi-refugees-who-are-calling-armidale-home/
13694486](https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/the-ezidi-refugees-who-are-calling-armidale-home/13694486)



Traditional Aghan food is one of the ways Ms Rawi is trying to keep the children connected to their culture.



Refugees gathered in Sydney's north-west to celebrate Australia Day.