



## **Screening of “Lucky Miles” in Melbourne a Fundraising Success**

ALHR Victoria's movie fundraiser, held on 20 June 2007 to coincide with "World Refugee Day" was a great success. The movie "Lucky Miles" was screened in collaboration with Kino Dendy on Collins Street, Melbourne. Sales were boosted by generous block purchases by law firms: DLA Phillips Fox, Corrs Chambers Westgrath, Wisewoulds and Allens Arthur Robinsons.

The evening started off with refreshments and food being served before a brief introduction of ALHR's purpose and objectives, as well as ALHR's efforts in advancing and protecting the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. This was followed by two speakers both speaking from experience of the trials and tribulations of a refugee family in Australia. The first was Alice Pung, a Melbourne-based solicitor, tutor, and pastoral care adviser. Her first novel, *Unpolished Gem* is a bestselling memoir about growing up in Australia in a Chinese Cambodian family. Alice spoke briefly of her childhood years before she introduced the second speaker, her father Kuan Pung, a Cambodian refugee, who survived the Khmer Rouge killing fields and fled Cambodia in 1979.

Kuan Pung spoke candidly of his experiences during horrific Communist Cambodia under the government of Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge party from 1975 until 1979. Kuan Pung's retelling of his experiences brought home the courage, resilience, and sheer determination of refugees all over the world to survive and rebuild displaced lives. The movie "Lucky Miles" highlights many of the common hardships faced by those seeking protection in other countries. Both the film and the speakers showed that amidst any human hardship there are moments of joy and humour.

The night ended well with the remaining copies of Alice's book sold, and her generous donation of the proceeds to ALHR. Thanks must go to all those who made the event possible and a resounding success.