

Forging community ties

By Jim Gainsford

WHEN Anna Yuan arrived from China to start a new life in Australia, she had no idea where to go for help.

Now she devotes her time to helping other new arrivals and will be sharing her knowledge when Rockdale Town Hall hosts St George Migrant Information Day this week.

Mrs Yuan came to Australia with her family in May 2005 and worked first as an interpreter. But the work was not stable and someone suggested she try her hand at community work.

"I didn't have any idea about community services," she said.

Mrs Yuan went to TAFE to study for a diploma in community services and decided to forge a new career helping other new migrants from China find their way in Australia.

"There are many people from China who are isolated and have no idea what services are available to them here," Mrs Yuan said.

"In China, they don't have community services. That whole area is blank.

"Community life is not as active as it is here.

"They don't have sports clubs or family support services. The main resource is family and friends.

"It was such a surprise when people arrive here and find these things are available."

Mrs Yuan works for a family



Helping others: Anna Yuan is happy to help Chinese migrants connect with their new community.
Picture: Lisa McMahon

support service that has a group especially for Chinese women with children.

"I tell them my experiences and talk about their needs and what services are available to them," she said.

Mrs Yuan also runs a parenting program and works with individual families giving information

on parenting, finances, health, housing and family relations.

The St George Migrant Information Day aims to help new migrants and refugees connect with services available for them in the St George region.

There will be information stalls and workshops, guest speakers and multicultural performances.

STARTING TOMORROW

St George Migrant Information Day will be held at Rockdale Town Hall, corner Princes Highway and Bryan Street, Rockdale, tomorrow (Wednesday, October 22), from 10am-1pm.
Details: 9579 5455.