

# Benefit concert raises \$4000 for Sanctuary

VICTORIA Akek, who arrived in Coffs Harbour from a refugee camp in Northern Uganda in February, was in the audience for last week's Sanctuary Benefit Concert.

Sitting in Gillian and David Helfgott's house at Gleniffer listening to Chopin and Gershwin is a far cry from the dust, dirt and danger of a refugee camp. Which was the whole point of the concert, performed by pianist David Helfgott and young singer Amy Corkery.

George Negus also spoke about the work of Sanctuary, and the desperate situation of refugees who have fled from war.

The event raised more than \$4000 which will fund an interest-

free travel loan for a Burmese family from Mae La Refugee camp on the Thai/Burmese border.

Sanctuary Refugee Foundation in Coffs Harbour is now the national office of the Sanctuary Federation, representing ten successful Australian community Sanctuary refugee support groups. Each group raises money in their community to provide interest free travel loans to unfunded refugees approved by Australia, who are at risk of losing their visas, and often their lives.

Sanctuary Refugee Foundation has no connection to the Government's local Anglicare refugee settlement contract, administered by Anglicare in Sydney. For more information ph. 66522127 (bh).



George Negus, hosts Gillian and David Helfgott and refugee and new Coffs Coast resident Victoria Akek with Sanctuary representatives Jayne and Dr Michael Douglas and Peter Hallam at the Sanctuary Benefit Concert. Photo submitted