

Role model refugee

THE fate and the future of refugees in Australia has been the subject of much political to-ing and fro-ing over many years.

It has been an emotive topic, at times generating heat and anger as opponents clashed over the best way to deal with the issue.

That is why it is good to report in *The Advertiser* today an unalloyed good story of one refugee who fled a terrible situation to create a new life in Australia.

Abeny Kuol is the first student from a refugee background to be appointed school captain at Walford Anglican School for Girls.

The 17-year-old fled Sudan, a country in the grip of a vicious and bloody civil war, when she was three.

The family's journey initially took them to Egypt, where they lived for two years, before being granted refugee status and moving to Australia in 2003.

Kuol is appreciative of the chances Australia has given her, acknowledging this nation has given her opportunities she would have been denied in Sudan.

Not that she has forgotten her homeland, where she has ambitions to one day return and help. It will make her a leader in two nations.