

Minutes of Buddies meeting, 22 July 2018

The meeting was opened by Scott Grimmett at 11.06.

Minute-taker: Thorsten Kels

Apologies: Dianne Woolley, Kayla Szumer, Peter Hogg, Agnieszka Swiatlowska , Kristi Nageli, Margaret Landbeck, Mitra Khakbaz and Penny Rivlin

Finance Report

The finance report was presented by Margaret Norman.

Announcements

Learn English Holiday planning (Lesley Willcoxson)

The next LEH will run 23-28 September. As always, we are looking for members who can host our students during this week. Please contact Mel Bacon (buddieshomestay2018@gmail.com) if you want to become a homestay host.

Mel Bacon, a social work student from USC, is working with Kayla and Robin Dobson to identify homestay hosts and match them with LEH participants.

The LEH team is also looking for volunteers to help, when available, with one-on-one or small group work in the classroom.

Lesley is looking for someone with experience teaching ESL or a foreign language who could be available for a week in the March or September school holidays to run the LEH classroom program when Lesley isn't available. Please contact Lesley (lesleyw3@bigpond.net.au) if you are interested in helping her.

Buddies is looking to get in contact with teachers at schools to start an outreach program to develop better understanding of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Immanuel College has organised a social justice awareness week for their year 10 students and they have invited four of the previous LEH participants to talk about their stories and what brought them to Australia, in an attempt to dispel the myths about refugees. Matthew Flinders Anglican College is also working with their students on refugee social justice issues.

Lastly Lesley mentioned that Buddies are 1 of 6 finalists in the Queensland Multi Cultural Awards which will be presented in August.

General Business:

Gillian Duffy reported on events held during Refugee Week. The dinner at Raj Indian restaurant in Noosaville was a great success with around 40 guests. Raj Indian is run by Shiva, a refugee from Sri Lanka who is currently on a SHEV visa. Shiva had a lot of positive response after the local media reported about the dinner and has shown one of the many success stories of refugees in Australia.

Buddies sold out the Majestic Cinema Nambour screening of the movie "The Staging Post". The screening was followed by a Q&A session with the director and some of the cast via Skype hook-up. Thanks to the successful Q&A the cinema has now decided to install Skype facilities in the larger cinemas, too.

Rada announced Noosa Welcome Refugees is going to screen the movie "Stop the Boats" at Noosa Events Cinema on 18/08. Tickets and details are available at

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=405152>

After the meeting our guest speaker Father Chris Bedding arrived to give a short talk and a Q&A session about his work with CARAD, (<https://www.carad.org.au>) a refugee support group in WA. Father Chris is an Anglican Priest, social activist and entertainer from Perth and he gave a very inspirational and personal talk about his work and his motivation. One successful action was using the footpath outside Julie Bishop's electoral office as the drop-off point food donations for asylum seekers!

"Peter Dutton recently said that one act of compassion would unravel the Government's border protection efforts, and the good news is that he is absolutely right!"

The next Buddies meeting will be the AGM on 26 August 2018. Starting 11AM at 24 King Street