

Minutes of Buddies meeting: 28 May 2017

Chairperson: Margie Cosgrove, note-taker: Thorsten Kels

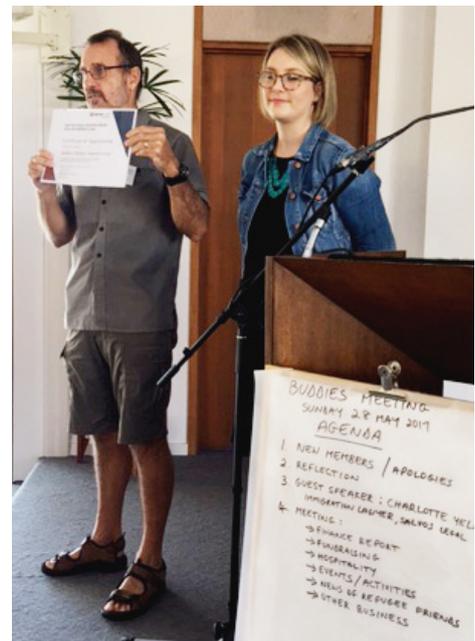
Guest Speakers

Charlotte Yellowlees, Immigration Lawyer for the Salvos Legal Service and Victoria Lenton, former employee of Department of Immigration, now working for Salvos Legal Service

Charlotte explained how the Salvos Legal Service is funded and how they are able to represent people that can't get legal help by other means. They are currently supporting asylum seekers that fall under the legacy case load of the department – filling in forms, helping with client statements and conducting reviews and preparation for the department interviews. She emphasised the importance of maintaining up-to-date country information and including it in the applications.

A team of the Salvos Legal Service is based at the MDA offices in Brisbane to provide direct support to refugees and asylum seekers.

There wasn't a lot of time for questions as the AGM had run over time and the speakers had to leave for other commitments.



Finance

Welcome to Gillian Duffy as a new member of the finance group. Margaret Norman has offered to stay on for the moment until a replacement is found.

The fundraising concert was well received and a great success.

McGrath Real Estate made a donation as part of a property sale.

Bronwyn Bell supported a request made by Denise Williams for a donation of up to \$1000 for Azim's Volleyball Team in Brisbane. There was a discussion about what the donation is to be used for. A motion raised by Mikhail and seconded by Margaret that upon receipt of an invoice copy Buddies agrees to donate up to \$500 towards the training venue rent.

More details are available in the monthly finance report, linked to via the Bulletin.

Refugee Week

Constance on the Edge is screening on Monday 19 June at Caloundra Cinema.

The Fundraising Group is looking for food donations and raffle prizes – more info can be found in the Bulletin and on the Buddies website under Events.

Freedom Stories is screening on Saturday 19 June at the Maleny RSL.

Learn English Holiday

Kayla Szumer reported that the next Learn English Holiday program is to be held in the first week of September.

Noosa Welcomes Refugees

Gabby Sutherland spoke about the Noosa Welcomes Refugees group. The group is aiming to provide respite and training for refugees and is seeking an MOU from Buddies as a sub group. Most members are also members of Buddies.

Asylum seeker friends

Bronwyn updated us on Nazar, the Sudanese Refugee who lost his wife and whose children are still in Sudan.

Unfortunately the news wasn't good. It looks like there's no visa option to get his children to come to Australia. He wants to go to one of the neighbouring countries of Sudan and meet his children there. Bronwyn suggested that Buddies could do some fundraising to support him in this.

Next meeting

Sunday 25 June, chairperson: Denise, note-taker: Margie Cosgrove