

20 June 2018

## Fundraising dinner – Raj Indian Restrauant, Noosaville

### Celebrating World Refugee Day



Buddies held a fund raising dinner at the Raj Indian Restaurant in Noosaville on Wednesday 20 June to celebrate World Refugee Day. The event was well attended and raised \$590 for Buddies.

Noosa MP Sandy Bolton attended and made the presentations to the guest speakers. Siva Kumar, the restaurant owner offered a 2 course menu plus glass of Buddies wine at a fixed price. The menu included a Sri Lankan fish curry especially for the event. Buddies wine was also for sale at the event by the glass or bottle and a raffle was held.

31 people attended the dinner, 18 (58%) non Buddies members and 13 (42%) members. Fergus Fitzgerald gave a talk about Buddies and his experience of providing homestays for refugees. Siva, who is on a SHEV and has a court hearing in August, also gave a short talk about his experience in Australia, which was followed by a brief Q&A with both speakers. Sandy Bolton presented Fergus with a bottle of Buddies wine and Siva with a book of the Sunshine Coast and gave a short speech, in which she offered her support to Siva. Sandy drew the raffle for a bottle of Buddies sparkling cuvee, which was won by Penny Rivlin. The \$590 the event raised does not include the Goodwill donation for each bottle of wine sold.

One new member signed up, 2 people signed up for the Bulletin and six people signed the Amnesty International petition to improve the Community Sponsorship Program. Noosa Today published a half page article the next day, with colour photo of Siva, which mentioned Buddies and the website.

Overall the evening went very well and an email was received from Sandy Bolton's office to congratulate Buddies and say how much she enjoyed the evening. Everyone enjoyed the food and wine, with people particularly complimentary about the 2014 Shiraz. Siva now intends to order Buddies Goodwill wine as the house wine for the restaurant.