

MINUTES OF BUDDIES MONTHLY MEETING, 25 MARCH 2018

The meeting opened 11:05AM at 24 King Street Buderim

Chair: Scott Grimmett **Minutes:** Angela Mercuri

Welcome

Scott extended a warm welcome to several new members

Moment of Reflection

Apologies:

Gillian Duffy, Rada van der Werff, Margaret Landbeck, Ana Perez, Sheila Merryman, John Brinnand, Stephanie Akers, Kristi Nageli, Kendal Snowden, Joachim (Yokki) Rother.

Vote of Thanks

Scott and Lesley Willcoxson expressed a sincere vote of thanks to Stephanie Akers and Maggie Coad for their many years of service to the Buddies cause.

Finance Report

Penny Rivlin gave the Finance Report (attached). Directors are responding to an informal request for \$1500 to assist Nazar with anticipated family reunion expenses, subject to him gaining Immigration Department permission to travel.

Penny also called for volunteers to fill a slot at the Eumundi car park after the Easter break.

Learning English Program (LEP)

Margaret Norris gave an update on the preparations being made by Kayla Szumer, Lesley Willcoxson, Margaret and a team of other wonderful volunteers to finalise arrangements for the LEP which will take place from 8-13 April 2018 at the Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Buderim. Final numbers of participants are being finalized. Kayla continues to look for more homestay hosts and drivers so as to be able to respond to last minute changes/additional requests. Organizers are grateful for the very positive response to support elements of the program, including morning tea, from several schools on the Coast.

In response to a question about the origin of the LEP, Margaret noted it was an opportunity for participants to practice their English, have a break and mix/interact with new people/form new connections.

Announcements

- Scott sought assistance in locating accommodation for an Iranian couple.
- Angela flagged an upcoming 'Words that Work' workshop being delivered by the ASRC in Brisbane on April 21 2018, and encouraged people to attend if possible. The workshop focuses on the most effective words/language to help change the debate around people seeking asylum. Further details to be posted in this week's Bulletin.
- Scott noted that the next monthly meeting would be held on 22 April 2018. Scott will be in the chair, with Mitra as note taker.
- John Ennis asked that those present take a group photo to post on social media in solidarity with others gathering in support of people seeking asylum on Palm Sunday.

The business meeting closed at 11:30am. This was followed by Lesley leading a presentation of findings from recent survey of members' priorities and initial steps to operationalize these.