

Buddies Meeting Minutes

Location: USC Sunshine Coast University, E Block Room 14.

Date: 28 July 2019

Time: 11am -2pm

Chair Paul McKinlay

1. Apologies.

Dee Williams, Gaynore Stoessel, Janine de la Begassiere, Penny Rivlin, Margaret Norris, Margaret Landbeck, Mitra Khakbaz.

2. Volunteering opportunities.

Following our request we now have volunteers to be our representative for ASRC- Lynda Utting, and Nambour Community Centre - Prav Perera. Thanks extended to these volunteers.

We still have volunteering opportunities to represent Buddies for a number of other organisations. Contact Paul McKinlay 0439679588 or Andrea Douglas 0439748447 for further information.

Eumundi car parking, (1st Saturday and Wednesday of the month) volunteers always welcome. Contact Penny Rivlin (penny_rivlin@hotmail.com)

Buddies will be running sausage sizzles at Bunnings Noosaville on September 22 and December 4 and volunteers are definitely needed as some of the regular volunteers are unavailable. Contact Penny Rivlin (penny_rivlin@hotmail.com)

3. English and Nature Immersion week-end for refugees - Crystal Waters

Florence Teillet talked to the members about the weekend for refugees organised to be held at Crystal Waters 14-15 September 2019. The aim of the weekend is to strengthen links, improve communication, build confidence and resilience and introduce refugees to Australian nature. Lesley Willcoxson has been working with Florence providing her with knowledge from LEH to assist in the planning of the weekend.

Buddies will provide some financial assistance for transport getting the refugees to Crystal Waters. Florence and co-ordinators from Crystal Waters will run the weekend - no additional volunteers or funds are required. An evaluation after the event will be conducted to explore future opportunities and learnings.

4. Walk together

Discussion took place about the feasibility of conducting the Walk Together event in October. A number of volunteers organising the event are now unavailable and it may be difficult to take over organisation at this late stage. Further discussions will be held and a decision made when we have more information. Paul McKinlay will identify the current plans and arrangements.

5. Call for Directors nominations

Three directors will be resigning from their positions at the end of this financial year. New positions will be filled at the AGM which will be held in August. Anyone interested in becoming a

Director or would like to discuss the role please contact Paul McKinlay 0439679588 or Andrea Douglas 0439748447

6. Membership reminder

Members were reminded that annual membership subscription is due. Buddies membership runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year, but payment received from new members after 30 March are treated as applying to the following year.

7. Finance report

The month began with cash at bank of \$8,800 and ended with a balance of \$8,288.

Outlays - overall \$2,960 so far which were:

- The monthly donations to Communitify (Asylum Circle), Romero and MDA (Multicultural Development Australia) of \$350 per month each.
- \$500 was donated to ASRC.
- Annual Insurance premium of \$1,310

We have, so far, 64 members who have paid their membership fees of which \$400 was received this month alone

A 6 month forecast indicates we will be solvent by the end of the calendar year but funds will be low and a membership drive, and fundraising is essential.

8. Guest Speaker: Hui Li

Our guest speaker this month was Hui Li from the Romero Centre in Brisbane. The Romero Centre supports people seeking asylum in Brisbane. Hui told us about the work they do and the various types of support provided to refugee. She stressed the importance of Romero remaining independent from Government funding, freeing them up to help refugees without getting tied up in red tape or government legislation. Consequently donations from organisations such as Buddies are essential.

Hui provided the meeting with copies of the Romero Centre flyer which summarises the work her centre undertakes. This flyer is available on the Buddies website.

9. Buddies Annual AGM 2018 2019

11am Sunday 25 August 2019 at the **University of the Sunshine Coast, Building E, Room 14.**

On arrival at the Uni follow the signs to **Car Park 4**. Signage will be displayed to direct you to the room.

As per item 5, the AGM will include a call for members to fill the Directors positions which will be vacated at this year's AGM.

Please bring your own mug for tea or coffee and join us after the meeting for a chat.

Note: Due to limited time, the following items of the July 2019 agenda were agreed to be held over to the September meeting (the August meeting being focused solely on the AGM).

Item 2 - Discussion/feedback on our new venue

Item 5 - Good news reports (Vigil at St Marks and Update from Communify)