

# Minutes of Buddies meeting, 24 September 2017

*Chairperson:* Thorsten Kels, *Note-taker:* Margaret Norris

Apologies: Rada van der Werff, Ana Perez, Margaret Norman, Lesley Willcoxson, Kendall Snowden, Joachim Rother

## **Guest speaker:**

Dr Mark Copland from Toowoomba, who spoke particularly of the work of the Dignity Project.

## **Finance:**

Penny Rivlin reported income of \$2048 and outlays of \$395. Our overall position is very positive at approximately \$9,000.00. Not all accounts have been paid for the last Learn English Programme. The donation to MDA will be held over until a report from that organisation detailing how they would use the money.

Gillian Duffy is happy to organise extra wine for people.

## **Learn English Holiday:**

Kayla Szumer and Margaret Norris reported on the latest programme

- o 13 host families, 26 participants, 53 teachers and volunteers,
- o Held at Immanuel Lutheran College, St John's provided the bus again.
- o Jenny Hughes, Kristi Nageli and Rochelle Dillon spoke of their experiences as hosts
- o The provision of a laptop for one of the participants (Pacifique) was discussed. Bronwyn Bell suggested that she has two that might be appropriate and the meeting decided that we should investigate whether these might be suitable for his engineering needs before buying one. The meeting approved a purchase up to \$1500. Kayla to follow up.
- o Overall costs - \$970

## **Noosa Welcome Refugees:**

Thorsten reported on the group's successful book launch 26 August and sausage sizzle 20 September. The group meets tomorrow. Gabby Sutherland is needing help for the making of a film.

## **Welcome Australia Walk Together:**

Carmel Dobson reported on planning for this event 21 October at Tickle Park, Coolool, starting at 9am. Note – this is the day before our next meeting

- o Speakers – Bishop Jeremy Greaves, Rahgad and Luay, Gabby Sutherland
- o 5 food stalls committed
- o 10 community organisations
- o Help needed for: MC, PA system (Thorsten), Buddies Stall (Dee Williams and Anna Mollison), Tent set up, Marshalls for walk, Raffle (Dee), Photographer / video, Clean up and bins

## **Legal Support:**

Bronwyn reported on what seems to be happening given the October 1 deadline.

- o 9 cases of people have been referred to the group, 5 having their claims rejected
- o There are no costs forthcoming and moral support may be what is called for
- o Bronwyn emphasised the fluidity of the situation, and the potential for quick action
- o Gillian asked if any other groups were supporting these people and as they are “double negatives”, no there aren't
- o Given current government policy it is likely that the people needing this assistance will decrease

## **Film Night:**

Bronwyn Bell reported on planning for the film night fundraiser - Victoria and Abdul.

- o Hope to sell 200 tickets
- o Parking should be OK
- o Need more food
- o Bar – different from other times, but available

## **Romero Centre collection:**

Kristi reported on proposed collection points for donations of non-perishable food items and toiletries to be taken down to the Romero Centre at regular intervals (further details in Bulletin)

## **Next meeting:**

Sunday 22 October, chairperson: Angela Mercuri, note-taker: Scott Grimmett