

13 September 2018

## ***Staging Post* film screening**

### **Berkelouw Books, Eumundi**

On Thursday 13 September 2018 over 40 people attended the screening of the *Staging Post* film at Berkelouw Books in Eumundi. Buddies organized the event in partnership with Berkelouw Books, Berkelouw Café and Starry Nights Outdoor Movies. The event was publicized in the Noosa local press, including with a short piece in the Eumundi Green Magazine.

Someone who was walking past on the evening decided to stay for the screening rather than go home as intended to mark exam papers!

This event was a great success on several levels. Firstly, because Berkelouw Books generously waived the initial venue hire fee and also provided a \$50 gift voucher. Berkelouw Café made Buddies a generous offer for the provision of delicious finger food. Trent Harvison of Starry Nights Outdoor Movies very generously donated his professional time and equipment to screen the movie.

All three businesses publicized the event through their own networks and Kylie at Berkelouw arranged a window display of topic related books prior to the event.

Gayle Enkleman, of doTerra Wellness heard about the event and attended and generously donated another \$50 gift voucher. All of these partners have expressed a desire to continue to support Buddies' work in the future. I also want to acknowledge that Berkelouw Books and Berkelouw Café previously supported the current bid to revive the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's Refugee Welcome Zone proposal.

Importantly, through this event, Buddies was able to reach a new audience and raise awareness about people seeking asylum and refugee issues. The *Staging Post* is particularly appropriate because, while confronting, it is also uplifting and powerfully gives people seeking asylum the voice they have been robbed of in Australia through off-shore detention. The film gives them personal agency which is inspiring and audiences respond positively to this. Many people were interested to learn more about the Cisuarua Refugee Learning Centre on which *The Staging Post* is based. Third, the screening gave Buddies an opportunity to raise awareness about the current national campaign to get children off Nauru [www.refugeebuddies.org/sign-a-petition](http://www.refugeebuddies.org/sign-a-petition) and encourage people to join up and support it. Finally, while the event was a free one, Buddies made a small profit from the night through generous donations and raffle takings.

Anyone keen to host a similar film event through your networks, feel free to contact either Gillian Duffy or Angela Mercuri.

