

# Minutes of Buddies meeting, Sunday 17 April

**Chairperson:** Patrick Buick

## **Welcome to new members**

**Apologies:** Jenny Hughes, Audrey Raymond, Libby Morrison, Brenda Smith, Margaret Norman, Garry and Carolyn Bates

## **Guest Speakers**

- o Lisa McDonald - Q & A format re Nauru (following on from previous meeting). Illegal to protest; leaching of plastic into drinking water because of heat.
- o Grant Allen - Environmental Refugees. A discussion re the need of refugees to relocate in response to climatic events. Grant emphasised the impact on people because of the huge increase in severe weather events.
- o Bob Cullen and Grant Allen - Sanctuary in Participating Churches for Asylum Seekers Facing Deportation. An initiative supported by the National Council of Churches in Australia.

## **Finance: Fergus Fitzgerald**

Link to Finance Report in Bulletin

## **Lobby Group: Margaret Landbeck**

- o Discussed a Forum to be held later in the year at Sunshine Coast University. Also a possibility of a forum titled A Third Way including a Keynote Speaker. General consensus at the meeting that this would be a good idea.
- o Report on Multicultural Conversations in body of Bulletin
- o Reminder regarding personal privacy and the care needed when sending emails and using 'Reply to All'

## **Learn English Holiday: Kayla Szumer and Kendall Snowden**

A wonderful week – very successful. Eight adults and five children. Held at Solutions for Learning in Nambour. Funded by donations from sales of fresh produce, etc. Next one will be held 11 – 15 July.

## **Refugee Welcome Zone**

Approval from Council for Sunshine Coast to be declared a Refugee Welcome Zone is still pending.

## **World Refugee Day**

Suggestion a Buddies Choir to sing It Could be You and Prayer of the Children

## **Next meeting**

Sunday 22 May, volunteers for chairperson and note-taker still needed. Contact Margaret mlandbeck@ozemail.com.au 5438 2789