

Minutes of Buddies meeting, Sunday 23 October 2016

Chairperson: Zanette Perinoni, **note-taker:** Diana Woolley

Apologies: Kendall Snowden, Yokki Rother, Jan Sweet, Dee Williams, Lily Cheung, Margaret Norris, Margaret Landbeck, Lindel Gregory, Scott Grimmett, Patrick Buick, Kayla Szumer, Helen Thomas, Lisa McDonald, Gabby Sutherland, Terry Boyce

Guest speaker

Elizabeth Roberts was a very interesting guest speaker. She is a USC graduate and has focused her academic career on Indonesian language and culture, learning more about Indonesia's immigration policies. In 2014 Elizabeth embarked on a research project in Indonesia, initially to investigate and develop an understanding of the outcomes of Australia's 'turn back the boats' policy on Indonesia. The main focus on Elizabeth's presentation was about the existing humanitarian concerns in and by small regional Indonesian communities where asylum seekers and refugees are housed in community detention facilities.

General meeting

Welcome

Extended to approximately four new members

Finance

Fergus FitzGerald spoke about the big month, with the LEH being very successful. Walk Together involved costs of \$800. Jan Sweet kindly raised \$528 at a Garage Sale, donating all to Buddies.

Recent events

Fergus spoke about the very successful 'Walk Together' at Cotton Tree Park. This was the second year this event has been held on the Coast. It was good to celebrate the diversity and friendship and similar events were held around Australia. The guest speakers were all interesting, including the new Imam of the Sunshine Coast Sheik Zainadine Johnson.

Fundraising group

Zanette spoke about the Sunshine Coast Council's Multicultural Conversations project, designed to assist migrants and refugees new to the area.

Zanette explained that the Sunshine Coast Council has a special grant scheme in place as part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2017. She has lodged an Expression of Interest in regards to applying for up to the maximum available of \$20,000. If successful, the grant money could be used to fund a major Buddies event next year. It may also be possible to use a skilled refugee or migrant to assist prepare and plan for such an event – if the ECOllaboration funding grant is approved. Julie Lusk spoke about ECOllaboration.

Zanette reported that Vivienne Dawalibi (Caloundra Bulk Billing Surgery) has donated one week's accommodation in a Five Star Resort in Phuket (airfares excluded) for a fundraising raffle for Buddies. Discussion ensued - no final agreement reached at this point as to how best to proceed with this proposal.

Buddies Immigration Support Group

Brenda Smith reported on the legal assistance being offered by the BISG to several asylum seekers applying for protection visas.

Learn English Holiday

Rada Van der Werff reported on how successful the recent LEH program was. There were 32 applicants, with 27 attending in the end, including four families. A big thank-you to the eighteen Buddies families who hosted the visitors.

Noosa Rose Café event

Message from Gabby regarding a Welcome to Refugees event being held at the Noosa Rose cafe on Sunday 13 November.

Next Meeting

Sunday 26 November, chairperson: Terry Boyce, note-taker: Fergus Fitzgerald. Instead of a guest speaker, there will be an 'Open Forum' with the subject 'What does Buddies mean to you?'