



VIGIL FOR THARNICAA

16 June 2021

Report by Buddies Director Len Mangan

Yesterday afternoon at about 2.30pm people started to arrive at St Marks Anglican Church Buderim to show support for the Biloela Family & for those strong stubborn people in Biloela who just won't give up on their family. All up, with some comings & going, I estimate there would have been approximately 15 people who turned up, at short notice, for the vigil. Some didn't attend because they thought it would be cancelled because of recent developments I.E. the family reunited in Perth.

There was a few pedestrians and a steady stream of traffic which was often delayed by the traffic lights which gave them time to read our placards.

We received a few tut tut looks, shakes of the head and one fellow shouted "send them back they're terrorists" but all that was overwhelmingly drowned out by the support expressed in horn blowing, thumbs up, mile wide smiles, shouts of encouragement & people stopping to offer verbal & financial support.

We received \$75 in donations and after discussions with the Church leaders we decided that the money should go directly to the family (Diana Woolley we will need your contacts). One 10 year old girl (daughter of Gaynor's niece - good blood lines) gave \$50 of her own pocket money. We (mum & I) convinced her to take the money back home make up a card for the two girls & put the money in that card before sending it off (they'll be in touch Gaynor).

Buddies also received \$30 in renewed & new membership.

A couple of other people made inquiries about joining Buddies and volunteering. A teacher from Siena wants to be involved in the next LEH & is interested in knowing more about our proposed school program (Lesley, Margaret Norris has her details).

Another woman is aware of three African men refugees, one of which was reunited today with his wife & three daughters. They may need assistance (I'll follow this up).

It was generally agreed that holding the vigil was a very worthwhile thing to do.

A very sincere and heartfelt thanks must go to the parishioners and leaders of St Marks for the use of their facility (it's a great spot if you want to be seen) and, more importantly, for their attendance.

