

6 March 2019

Screening of 'Border Politics', Majestic Cinema, Nambour

The Sunshine Coast Refugee
Action Network (SCRAN)
recently hosted a sold-out
screening of the Border Politics

documentary at Majestic Cinemas, Nambour. Organisers were heartened by the strong community response to the documentary, with over 150 tickets sold through Fan-Force, an online platform to help people get the films they want into cinemas and the ability to help connect disparate groups of people into communities and, importantly, to help sell tickets! The need to continue to reach a new audience with whom to engage on refugee and people seeking asylum issues remains critical in the lead up to the federal election and while so many people's lives are still in limbo on Manus Island and Nauru.

The documentary follows human rights and refugee advocate and barrister, Julian Burnside AO QC, as he traverses the globe examining the harsh treatment meted out to refugees by most Western democracies.

Burnside defines humanity with the universally recognised Golden Rule – do unto others as you would have them do unto you, as a benchmark. He questions whether the West has lost its moral compass by adopting ideas that reject humanity and undermine democracy.

One of the audience members, Emeritus Professor Henry Nix AO, commented afterwards "It is the best documentary film I have ever seen – and I've seen a lot!" Other audience members suggested it ought to be shown more widely including in schools, which SCRAN hopes to do over coming months.

The documentary captured some heart-warming stories of communities abroad that welcomed displaced families into their communities. It would be fantastic to see this realised in our own communities in Australia through an expanded and improved community sponsorship program for refugees.

The documentary was followed by a lively Q&A session with a panel. Audience members were very interested to know about activities on the Coast and how they could support refugees and people seeking asylum, including those on Nauru and Manus Island. They were encouraged to sign petitions, lobby their MPs and donate food items and cash to the Network member organisations.

