

Buddies meeting minutes

Location: 24 King St Buderim
Date: 24 March 2019
Time: 11am -1pm
Chair Paul McKinlay

Agenda items

1. Welcome and apologies:

Apologies were received from Shaye Yuill and Diane Woolley

One minute silence was held for the victims and families of the New Zealand massacre.

2. Monthly meetings

- Buddies currently negotiating with SCU to hold the members monthly meeting at the university. Information on this change will be sent to members once finalised.
- Based on some members feedback it has been decided to trial having the guest speaker as first item on the agenda.

3. Communication

- Myths brochure update is underway
- Apology for not distributing the February meeting minutes. This was because the lines of communication between new people had not been clearly defined. This has now been remedied.

4. Recognition of volunteers workers

This month volunteers have been involved in:

- Eumundi Car parking
- Border politics Film night - a combined SCRAN initiative. A successful evening with 160 attendees. Further analysis of event logistics is available on request.
- Harmony Day - a combined SCRAN initiative. Another great success. Further analysis of event logistics is available on request.
- Blackall Range Independent School. A simulation exercise with 80 children between the ages of 4-18years.
- Avocado picking and sales. An excellent fund raiser this month

Thanks to the many volunteers that worked on these projects. A special thanks to Gillian Duffy who organised the two SCRAN events and Lesley Willcoxson for surviving 80 school children.

Len Mangan was recognised and thanked for his numerous volunteering activities, including his role in SCRAN and SC RWZ.

5. Up and coming events

- Learning English Holiday (LEH). Planning well underway for LEH to be held April 7-12. Still plenty of tasks for volunteers available
- More volunteers are required to help with the Sausage sizzle held in Noosaville 28 April

- There is an opportunity to have a stall at Montville markets on the second Saturday of the month to increase community awareness of Buddies. We are looking for someone who would like to take on this project either as a one off or ongoing.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these projects can email refugeebuddies@outlook.com

6. SCRAN update

- Buddies has agreed to auspice the Walk Together event and has indicated this to SCRAN and Sunshine Coast Council. SCRAN (Amnesty International) have submitted a grant application for the event later this year.
- Buddies has agreed to loan our videos to SCRAN for Refugee Week film festival and will work with St Marks Anglican church to host a Buddies event at the festival between 16-21 June.

7. Finance report

The finance committee comprises of Penny Rivlin, Dee Williams, and Tricia Reade. James Fowler has taken over the role as bookkeeper.

Closing bank balance at 24 March 2019 was \$8,107.57 up \$600 from the opening balance.

Funds were received from the Eumundi car parking and sales of Avocados.

Outgoings for the month included the regular \$250 monthly contributions to Asylum Circle, Romero and MDA.

The reason for these regular payments is that the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) provides a basic living allowance, case-work and access to torture and trauma counselling. From June 4th 2018 two thousand or more people have been terminated from the programme. Buddies has been providing monthly donations to these organisations that provide support to people affected and we have extended the funding to 31st May 2019.

A directors and finance committee are in the process of developing more comprehensive financial guidelines and criteria to assess funding requests.

8. Other

- The Buddies AGM will be held at the end of the financial year. Buddies will be seeking 3 new Directors. Any interested members can contact the any of the Buddies directors to discuss the role.

9. Guest Speaker: Rahila Haidary, refugee and human rights advocate.

An inspirational young woman who at an early age questioned why Afghanistan girls did not have the same rights as boys, did not have right to be educated. At 6 years old after attending school dressed as a boy she was threatened with death and forced to flee her home in Afghanistan and relocated without her family in Pakistan. In 2009 her father fled Afghanistan to Christmas Island and later her family arrived in Australia as refugees. Now aged 24 years old she is an inspirational young leader advocating for gender equality and human rights.

This year Rahila is launching her social enterprise 'Afsana' to economically empower woman in Afghanistan. More information about this enterprise will be posted in the Bulletin

10. Next meeting 11am Sunday April 28 2019 Location to be notified.