

Buddies meeting minutes

Location: USQ Sunshine Coast University, E Block Room 14.
Date: 23 June 2019
Time: 11am -1pm
Chair Paul McKinlay

Agenda items

1. Welcome and apologies.

Apologies from Di Woolley, Dee Williams, Gaynore Stoessel, Jamie Seymour, Francoise Smith, Angela Mercuri, Mitra Khakbaz.

2. Acknowledging volunteer activities.

Many thanks to Kendall Snowden and Joachim Rother for their tireless volunteering including selling produce at the markets giving all profits to Buddies and assisting with Eumundi Car parking.

3. Volunteering opportunities.

To keep Buddies connected with other organisations, representatives are required for a number of organisations. The roles would mainly be just keeping in touch with the organisation, promoting Buddies, keeping Buddies members informed of any relevant activities, and recognising any opportunities for Buddies to work with the organisation. The organisations are:

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Buderim War Memorial Community Association

Nambour Community Centre. Thanks to Prav Perera who at the meeting has volunteered to follow up this organisation.

Eumundi car parking, (1st Saturday and Wednesday of the month) volunteers always welcome.

Contact Penny Rivlin (penny_rivlin@hotmail.com)

Contact Paul McKinlay 0439679588 or Andrea Douglas 0439748447 if you are keen to be Buddies representative for any of the above.

4. Refugee Week

As part of Refugee Film Week on the Sunshine Coast, Buddies held a free film night Monday 17th June at St Marks Anglican. The film shown was Constance on the Edge introduced by Elijah Buol who was the recipient of the 2019 Australian of the Year - Qld Local Hero award.

It was a very successful night with around 60 attendees, including many non members who were being introduced to Buddies and the plight of refugees for the first time.

Thanks must go to Gillian Duffy and SCRAN for co-ordination of the week's events and to the multiple volunteers who ensured the events progressed smoothly.

5. Call for Directors nominations

Three directors will be resigning from their positions at the end of this financial year. New positions will be filled at the AGM which will be held in August. Anyone interested in becoming a Director or would like to discuss the role please contact Paul McKinlay 0439679588 or Andrea Douglas 0439748447

6. Finance report

The current balance at bank (23 June 2019) is \$9,204.54. Taking into account known outgoings the end of month forecast is \$8,388.

This month outgoings included our regular monthly donations to MDA, Romero and Communitify plus a donation of \$200 to Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC).

The avocado sales contributed another \$240 which brings total receipts this year from avocados \$1,900. Many thanks to Scott Grimmett.

7. Membership reminder

Members were reminded that annual membership subscription is due on 1 July and that their \$10 subscription is so important for the work Buddies is doing. Overheads for the organisation are very low and the majority of the subscription goes to funding for refugee assistance.

Buddies membership runs from 1 July to 30 June of the following year, but payment received from new members after 30 March are treated as applying to the following year.

8. Guest Speaker: Linda Dennis, Nambour Community Centre, Suncoast Migrant Settlement Program

Our guest speaker this month was Linda Dennis from the Suncoast Migrant Settlement Program. The program supports permanent residents who have arrived in the last five years as refugees, humanitarian entrants or family stream migrants who now live on the Sunshine Coast.

Linda discussed the changes in her role since she started in 2013 Funding is now part of the Department of Home Affairs and the main focus now being English, Employment and Education with an emphasis on reporting outcomes.

There are many challenges including lack of resources on the Sunshine Coast especially access to interpreters. The lack of resources has resulted in the Nambour Community Centre becoming 'a dumping ground' by other instructions r the too hard cases. Sadly she gave examples of racism attitudes and how many migrants don't feel welcome.

9. Next meeting 11am Sunday 27 July 2019 at **the University of the Sunshine Coast, Building E, Room 14.**

On arrival at the Uni follow the signs to **Car Park 4**. Signage will be displayed to direct you to the room.

Please bring your own mug for tea or coffee after the meeting.