

Minutes of Buddies meeting, Sunday 23 July 2017

Chairperson: Angela Mercuri, *Notetaker:* Diana Woolley

Apologies:

Margaret Norris, Dee Williams, Lesley Willcoxson, Kristi Nageli, Margaret Landbeck, Rada Van der Werff, Margaret Norman, Penny Rivlin, Fergus FitzGerald, Libby Morrison, Mitra Khakbaz

Guest Speaker: David Copeman from Queensland Community Alliance

Dave is the lead organiser of the Queensland Community Alliance in Brisbane and was instrumental in creating the organisation. He has previously worked as a human rights campaigner for Amnesty International in Queensland and in East Africa and was a volunteer with the Movement for Democratic Change in Zimbabwe in 2002-2004.

Dave's also dabbled in trade union campaigning and working for the Queensland government, an experience that only reinforced his belief that communities need to organise around their common interests through a mechanism additional to that of electoral politics.

One good suggestion was to have 'one-on-one' conversations. Having terrific conversations helps us focus for the longer term.

Welcome to new members

Update on Abdal: Bronwyn Bell reported that Abdal had received a five-year Safe Haven Enterprise Visa. Thanks to Ehsan Azadi at Arc Migration for his assistance. Abdul has repaid Buddies \$1000 of the legal fee, Bronwyn proposed Buddies waive the remaining \$1000 so he can save to have his family visit him in Malaysia, to which the meeting agreed.

Finance:

Gillian Duffy advised that there is presently \$7,000 in the bank. Car parking at Eumundi Markets still the biggest income. Insurance due, discussion around extending the policy to include volunteer insurance - some members in favour, some not, decision made to obtain further info. Discussion around former donations to MDA - first at \$500 and then \$800 a month, lack of clarity as to why they'd ended - further info to be obtained.

Fundraising:

Sausage sizzle fundraisers at Bunnings, Noosaville - first one Wednesday 20 September, second one Sunday 31 December, volunteers needed (see Gillian). The meeting agreed that Gillian would contact Goodwill Wine and have Buddies listed as one of its recipient charities.

Awareness-raising:

Carmel Dobson gave brief report about plans for Walk Together event on Saturday 21 October, volunteers needed (see Carmel).

Next Meeting:

Sunday 27 August, *Chairperson:* Gail Price, *Notetaker:* Scott Grimmett