

# Buddies meeting minutes

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

## Agenda items

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Paul welcomed members and guests and apologies were received from Lesley Willcoxson, Angela Mercuri and Margaret Norris.

Board members and new committee members were introduced.

### 2. Strategy meeting review and major outcomes:

The strategy meeting held January 23rd 2019 identified a major issue is Buddies taking on a lot of work with too few people. This is resulting in stress and losing good volunteers. It was decided to have one director under-pinning each of the 5 major activity areas and developing a group of volunteers within each of these major areas that have the passion to drive that area of activity. The group will be given more power for decision making and the direction of that activity. The director under-pinning the group will provide assistance and support. Each director will be contacting members who have expressed interest in their particular area. The directors activities areas are:

Refugee Hospitality and Support - Scott Grimmett

Community Education - Lesley Willcoxson

Lobbying and advocacy - Paul McKinlay

Fundraising - Mitra Khakbaz

Members Communication - Shaye Yuill

### 3. Recognition of volunteers workers

Penny Rivlin and Dee Williams were recognised and thanked for their tireless fundraising by manning the Eumundi markets car parking once a month on a Saturday and Wednesday and organising and running occasional sausage sizzles.

The previous hard work by Margaret Norman coordinating the food drive was recognized and a letter of thanks to be sent to Margaret by Buddies Secretary. Janine de La Begassiere who is taking over the role was introduced and she encouraged the members to make just a small food donation each meeting.

### 4. SCRAN update

Len Mangan and Di Woolley are Buddies representatives on the SCRAN committee. Len presented an overview of the network's plans and requests for Buddies involvement. These include:

- Volunteers needed for Harmony Day to be held March 23. Interested people contact Len.
- SCRAN needs a large unbranded tent for Harmony day; if anyone has one, contact Len 0419 664 524

- The Myth Buster Pamphlet needs a review and update. Mitra to look at the text. Scott has the art work for the current brochure if required.
- SCRAN's request for grant to S.C. Council for Walk Together to be submitted by March 18 2019. Buddies to decide whether to Auspice the grant. Decision to be made at next directors meeting March 11.
- Film festival in Refugee Week. Will Buddies loan the videos for use and host an event. Decision to be made ASAP. James Fowler to check terms and conditions for using videos and directors decide what Buddies involvement at meeting March 11

#### 5. Learning English Holiday (LEH)

Planning well underway for LEH to be held April 7-12. Margaret Norris currently talking to school-children. Gyni Cumming offered to fill the spot at Matthew Flinders 28<sup>th</sup> March. Call for other volunteers needed will soon be out in the Bulletin.

#### 6. Goodwill Wines

Despite bottles no longer being branded the decision has been made by Directors to continue our relationship with Goodwill wine. In the past 12 months it has been a good contributor to funds. Whilst the wines are delivered directly to the purchaser and cannot be branded, Buddies will explore ways of branding bottles that are purchased by Buddies as gifts/prizes.

#### 7. Finance report

James Fowler presented the financial report for the past 3 months. His first report since taking over the role. He acknowledged the good job previously done by Gillian Duffy, her excellent booking keeping and records have made his transition into the Treasury role much easier.

At the end of December the Buddies bank balance was \$7,990.63. The balance as at the date of this meeting is \$7,575.57. It was acknowledged that there has been limited fundraising over the holiday period. Eumundi car parking remains the one major regular source of monthly income.

One fundraising idea raised by Janine was setting up a Buddies account for the recycling bottle refund that any Buddies member can use returning bottles. James to explore the process of setting up an account.

Over the past three months regular significant monthly outgoings have been contributions to

- Asylum Circle - providing accommodation for families.
- Multicultural Development Australia (M.D.A.) - providing support for families.
- Romero Centre - providing groceries and food vouchers.

Other significant sums of a one-off nature

- Money to assist the purchase of school items and travel to Mater Hospital for 4 orphaned children from Burundi living with their Grandmother in Nambour. This was organized by Ms. Linda Dennis, Migrant Settlement Officer of the Nambour Community Centre. A letter of thanks was received from the grandmother with a photo of the 4 children in their school uniforms.
- Money to assist in living expenses to a Brisbane family that has had their Temporary Bridging Visas withdrawn and have no access to government funding. Dee Williams (on

behalf of Kendall Snowden) today presented a further Funding Proposal for consideration for this family.

It was mentioned that clear criteria is needed to assess funding requests for specific individuals. Scott to add this item to next directors meeting agenda.

#### 8. Advocacy

Paul discussed the need for members to continue to talk/write letters to their Local, State, and Federal members on the need for fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. He emphasized the need for a short but balanced message.

#### 9. Meeting location

There is the potential to move the monthly meeting to the Sunshine Coast University. The major benefit is more flexibility in the room layout which would be more conducive to members' interaction in the meeting. The room would be available on a Saturday or Sunday. Weekend parking at the University is free. Members at the meeting were supportive of the change. A member's survey about the monthly meetings is planned and this option will be explored in the survey.

#### 10. Good News

Paul stressed the need to celebrate the good news as well as being disturbed by the current situation. This month they include: All kids off Nauru; Behrouz Boochani's 'No Friend But the Mountains' writing from Manus Prison winning the major award at the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards; and Abdul Aziz Muhamat, who has been on Manus island since 2013, was named the 2019 Martin Ennals Award Laureate at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### 11. Guest Speaker: Kim Price , Community Development Officer, Multicultural Portfolio Sunshine Coast Council

Kim discussed the 3 priority of the Councils Multicultural Action Plan and the successes that have been achieved in each of these priority areas.

##### 1. Valuing Cultural Diversity

Acceptance and recognition of diverse cultures enriches experiences for people from all walks of life. Taking steps to settle and engage new residents and visitors in a manner that makes them welcome and connected to the Sunshine Coast community builds a sense of belonging.

##### 2. Accessing Opportunity

The fostering of relationships, building of business networks and involvement in business events provides for improved skills and career opportunities. The promotion and effective involvement of people from a multicultural background in these activities supports a prosperous future for all.

##### 3. Enabling Contribution and Participation

Expanding knowledge and fostering an environment that enables people from a multicultural background to actively contribute and participate in community life strengthens the cohesiveness of our community.

In 2019 Council will focus on Harmony Day, Swim Safely Program and Developing an online Welcome Directory providing a wide range of information about organisations, services and other relevant information for new migrant arrivals to the Sunshine Coast.

Action items	Who	By
Contact members re interest activity area.	Directors	To be advised
Letter of thanks to Margaret Norman	Andrea	28 February
Review text Myth Busters Brochure	Mitra	To be advised
Auspice for Walk Together Decision	Directors	Done 25/2/19 Agreed Len notified
Buddies films terms and conditions	James	11 March Directors Meeting
Buddies involvement in Film Festival	Directors	11 March Directors Meeting
Criteria for funding individuals	Directors	11 March Directors Meeting
Survey re monthly meeting	Andrea/Scott	11 March Directors Meeting
A Buddies account with bottle recycling	James	11 March Directors Meeting
Seek alternative labelling for Goodwill wine bottles	Scott	To be advised

The Treasurer reports that a total of \$350.00 was received during the meeting, comprising

- “The Box”                                 \$220
- Donation                                     \$10
- Membership renewals                 \$20
- Scott’s avocado sales                 \$100

**12. Next meeting 11am Sunday March 24 2019**