



BUDDIES REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP LTD
ABN 40 606 820 302

Monthly meeting

Held on 22 September, 2019

At USC Sippy Downs, E Block, Room 14

MINUTES

1. Opening and Welcome

Paul McKinlay opened the Meeting at 11.05am. The director welcomed Members and Guests.

2. Attendance and apologies

Apologies were received from: Dee Williams, Penny Rivlin, Di Woolley, Glyni Cummings, Lesley Willcoxson, Tricia Reade

3. Recognising Volunteers

While recognising Learn English Holiday is just starting this week, the hard work going into the organisation and preparation was recognised. Miranda Rowlands thanked Lesley Willcoxson for her excellent communication and information about the program to the volunteers.

4. Volunteering opportunities.

ASRC. Asylum Seekers Resource Center, based in Melbourne has an office in Brisbane and representative in Caloundra. Andrea Douglas volunteered to follow up with ASCR and see what opportunities exist for us to work closer to the organisation.

BWMCA. We are an affiliate with Buderim War Memorial Community Association and if a member could be active in attending meetings etc we could promote Buddies to the BWMCA group and maybe take advantage of some of their activities.

Romero Centre. Members were thanked for their contributions to date for the food donated to the Romero Centre. Non-perishable foods and toiletries can be brought to meetings for delivery by Janine de La Begassiere. Thank you Janine for your ongoing work.

Eumundi car parking, (1st Saturday and Wednesday of the month) volunteers always welcome. A potential opportunity exists for a third slot at Eumundi Car parking commencing November. This is an excellent fund raising opportunity and 6 volunteers would be required. More details are available in the Bulletin or contact Penny Rivlin (penny_rivlin@hotmail.com)

Buddies will be running a second sausage sizzle at Bunnings Noosaville December 4 and volunteers are definitely needed as some of the regular volunteers are unavailable. Contact Penny Rivlin (penny_rivlin@hotmail.com)

The members discussed the need to encourage more volunteers and the need for clearly defined task/times. Miranda Rowlands offered to be involved by talking to members. Paul McKinlay will follow up with Miranda.

Len Mangan and Lynne Johnson are exploring opportunities to involve more USC students in helping Buddies as part of their studies. Updating the Myths Brochure is one possible task.

5. Festuri

Paul McKinlay talked briefly about the Festuri event held at Cotton Tree the day before (21 September). Buddies had a presence as part of the SCRAN stand. It was well attended and many visitors discussed the refugee issues with volunteers representing Buddies and the other SCRAN organisations. A more detailed report will be published in the Bulletin. A discussion followed about the skills required to talk to the visitors more negative about our message. Margaret Landbeck mentioned an excellent program Buddies participated in (Words That Work) and suggested it would be beneficial for a repeat of the program. Scott Grimmett will follow up.

6. Movie Event

SCRAN has been offered an opportunity to show the documentary film 'Against our Oath' sometime late October. The film highlights the ethical conflicts for doctors when the Australian Government override clinical decisions made for asylum Seekers.

Buddies has agreed to work with SCRAN and more details will be made available when details have been finalised.

7. Finance report

The financial report was presented by James Fowler, Bookkeeper.

Last month - August - final wrap. The month began with cash at bank of \$6,383. Income was \$902. Outgoings were \$2,115 which included

- one-off payment of \$500 toward a refugee family reunion
- \$300 to the Indooroopilly Uniting Church.

By 31 August balance of \$5,170 remained.

This month - September - progress as at c.o.b. 21 September

- Current balance at bank is \$4,890

Income - \$836 to date

- We expect to make around \$900 from a sausage sizzle being held today in Noosa.
- Memberships. We have added 11 memberships this month.
- There are two standing donations still to arrive which, if the Sausage sizzle meets expectation will give us a total of around \$1,800 for the month.

Outlays - \$1,116 to date

Non-routine outlays

- Annual Web-site fees \$175; costs incurred by SCRAN of \$77 last June at a film night; cost of stationery consumables for LEH \$99.

Upcoming items to 30 September

- A rent top-up payment of \$25
- Monthly donations to Romero and MDA (Multicultural Development Australia) to be paid. Total \$700.
- LEH has exceeded expectations in terms of attendees and will require about \$3,000 to fully fund. This is approaching twice the amount we normally spend, but as there will be no LEH in the first half of calendar 2020 the annual expenditure will be close to previous years.

By September 30, we expect to have only \$2,166 at bank - assuming that all LEH costs are paid this month.

Six Month Forecast to the end of March 2020

If all of the proposed outlays and fund raising come to fruition, the bank account will be \$2,667, below our recommended buffer of \$3000.

Buddies needs to

- implement strict budget controls from today and review proposed outlays
- increase focus on fund-raising
- attract new members
- more widely publicise our mission, goals and achievements. Enlist a Patron?

The reason although Buddies is a charity why donations are not tax deductible was questioned. James will follow up.

8. Other Business

Paul McKinlay received a call from Jon Brown, a local artist involved in a few local bands, including the folk/blue outfit Strangest Dreamers. Jon flagged the idea of a potential live music event to help with raising awareness and as a fundraiser. Attending members thought it may have some potential. Paul will follow up.

Gabby Sutherland from Noosa Welcomes Refugee was suggested as possible guest speaker for a Buddies monthly meeting. Len Mangan will contact Gabby.

Meeting closed at 12.30pm.