

## Minutes of Buddies meeting, 26 November 2017

*Chairperson:* Bronwyn Bell, *note-taker:* Scott Grimmett

*Apologies:* Sheila Merriman, Lisa McDonald, Stephanie Akers, Gail Price, Kayla Szumer, Gillian Duffy

*Guest speaker:* Frederika Steen, former immigration officer and well-known refugee advocate

### Reports

#### **Directors' meeting:**

Angela Mercuri reported on the November meeting of the Board of Directors and their consideration of activities to emphasise in 2018.

#### **Finance:**

Margaret Norman presented the November finance report (see link in Bulletin). Buddies has been thanked by Ali from Gifts for Manus and Nauru for the \$1,000 for medicine on Manus Island, by the Romero Centre for our grocery donations and by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre for a \$500 donation.

#### **Schools invites:**

Bronwyn reported that Buddies had received invitations to speak at both Caloundra and Mountain Creek State High Schools in the last few months. She was able to speak to the year 11 students of Mountain Creek SHS. Caloundra has deferred until next year.

#### **Eumundi car-parking:**

Lesley Willcoxson reported that this fundraising venture has been established and co-ordinated by Kendall Snowden and Yokki Rother, but that they are now looking for someone else to take on this role. 3 groups of 2 people are rostered to cover each 6 hour shift. This is a good earner for Buddies and an important public profile.

#### **Wine tasting evening:**

Penny Rivlin reported that the event was great fun and raised \$346 (see finance report).

#### **Noosa welcomes refugees:**

Gabby Sutherland spoke of the movie documentary Stop the Boats which is to be released in the next few weeks. Two years in the making, the film features refugees on Manus and Nauru, Julian Burnside and our own Buddies member Gabby ... trailer <https://vimeo.com/240151356> website <http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/films/3920/stop-the-boats>

#### **Future events:**

Carmel Dobson mentioned the need for early planning of Refugee Week 2018, from 17-23 June. She proposed that Buddies collaborate with Noosa Welcomes Refugees, Welcome to Maleny and Caloundra Catholic Social Justice to run local events for each of the four groups during the week and to finish with a combined event at the end of the week. Carmel also mentioned the Walk Together 2018 on 21 October and again the need for early planning. Please email Carmel with any questions and ideas and/or to volunteer [cmayrd@hotmail.com](mailto:cmayrd@hotmail.com)

#### **News of asylum seeker friends:**

Bronwyn reported on Nazar's on-going planning for his family reunion visit in Egypt in April 2018.

#### **Other business:**

Rada Van der Werff noted that protests are planned for Brisbane in December. She advised any members interested in being informed of future Brisbane protests to join the mailing list of the Refugee Action Collective. A person to co-ordinate groups of members to attend these events would be a great asset. Attending as a group enables car pooling and helps raise the Buddies profile.

#### **Next meeting:**

28 January 2018, *Chairperson:* Gail Price, *note-taker:* Alison Green