

Hills Circle of Friends Meeting, 3 July 2013

LOCATION: The Hut – Aldgate, 7 – 9pm

Present: Roddy, Nathan, Ruth, Lesley, Mandi, Ali, Julie, Barry, Norah Fahy (Labor candidate for Mayo)

Chair: Mandi Whitten

Minutes: Ali Reid

Apologies: Michelle Harvey, Meredyth Taylor, Glenda Williams, Natalie Fuller, Rochelle Woodley-Baker Phd, Ailene, Christine, Sally McHenry, Helen

Acceptance of previous minutes: Lesley Walker, Roddy seconded.

BUSINESS ARISING:

(see past minutes for business arising not discussed at tonight's meeting)

- ACTION: Maternity Kits: Michelle to be reimbursed \$94 nappies
Lesley Moved and Nathan seconded
- RUTH: ACTION: Thank you to John Hodgson who did sausage sizzle at his workplace and raised \$95 *post meeting: Michelle has deposited this money to new NAB Hills COF account.*

UPDATES:

Lesley: Laurie Lever (Hills Amnesty Group) & Lesley spoke at a Rotary meeting of 30 people. Showed photos of families who have left Inverbrackie and are in community. Rotary offered their assistance to support HCOF.

Lesley: Inverbrackie – is full. There is currently a 3 monthly turnover. It is a challenge to organise visits. A number of people would like to visit but it has been difficult to get names of families even though we do ask families when visiting if they can find new names. Managing to get about 1 per week. Housing affordability and availability for people released into the community more difficult. People are struggling to eat, cope with boredom etc.

Donating second hand clothing to families at Inverbrackie: we were told that this was no longer possible but we have received mixed messages about this. Lesley has spoken to SERCO officials and is awaiting a response. Also asked if we can provide maternity kits via the medical centre. Good neighbour council tried to get an answer, but they were asked to put their request in writing. Lesley will provide information as soon as she knows. *Post meeting update: yes, we can donate second hand clothing ☺*

Port Augusta: Iraqi and Iranians – difficult, living together from different cultural backgrounds. Sarah Hanson-Young has been very supportive.

Villawood: Visited Ranjini. Eldest boy has a visa that allows him to leave the detention centre with his father, without guards. High distress levels of another family in Villawood (ASIO affected). Psychiatrist has attended and documented mental state. Lesley will write a piece for Facebook about a Vietnamese family who have been released on temporary protection visas and how their children are graduating from school.

GUEST SPEAKER NORAH FAHY (Labour candidate for Mayo):

Norah was invited to speak about refugee issues as Labor candidate for Mayo. Norah is looking at the refugee situation from a global perspective.

Norah encouraged people to to read the HOUSTON report <http://expertpanelonasyllumseekers.dpmc.gov.au/report> and DUBLIN CONVENTION. http://www.asylumlaw.org/firstaid/dublin_ii_expanded.htm

NEW BUSINESS:

Nathan: \$90 raised from the raffle. Yet to deposit it. Meredyth yet to deposit her monies. *Post meeting update: Meredyth has donated proceeds from author event at Stirling Library to Hills COF9 ARA account & Nathan to Hills COF 9 NAB account.*

Robin De Crespigny author event– “The people smuggler” at Stirling Library. Ali gave an overview of the evening and a blog has been written about the evening and included on the HCOF website.

Entertainment books have raised \$273 so far. *Post meeting – money has been deposited in new Hills COF NAB account by Michelle.*

ARA Oration 2013. Jon Jureidini. Lesley and Ali have a copy of the speech delivered at the annual oration where Jon gave a compelling speech about DECENCY and what it means to behave decently towards refugees. A copy of the speech will be uploaded on to ARA’s website soon.

Computers IT Share Bridgewater <http://www.itshare.org.au/index.php?title=Contact>

They have been running low on donated computers. IT share have kindly provided laptops and desktops free of charge to refugees in the community. William offered to buy computers online and check if they are ok. This might cost about \$106. Meeting was not sure if this was a viable option. Ruth suggested an organisation at Kent Town who might be prepared to donate computers.

Post meeting update: Ruth spoke with the Computer people called ACS Computer Recycling Group. They already help refugees through Australian Red Cross that puts in applications for people or they could apply to them direct for a cheap fully operational computer. They do charge though but this includes training plus life time support if things go wrong etc. so it is well worth the up-front fee. See their website for more information: http://sapcrg.net/pc_rec_sig/index.php/Main_Page

ACTION: Everyone: to cross promote IT Share on Facebook etc and try to generate some donated computers/ parts.

Welcome to Australia’s Walk Together – 2000 – 3000 people. Much bigger than last year. Had music and food at the end. Good event.

Financial report – provided post meeting. 1/5/13 \$3,380.09 – 31/5/13 \$3,570.09

Website - Last month 510 hits on website (month of June). Activity is increasing – good news!

Stationary Packs - Thank you to Isabella for her time and generosity in producing 19 stationery packs.

Future Meeting dates;

September 4th 7-9pm The Hut Aldgate

November 6th 7-9pm The Hut Aldgate