

Hills Circle of Friends 9 Meeting, 1st May 2013 The Hut Aldgate, 7 - 9 pm

Present: Helen, Don, Clarisa, Jill, Nathan, John, Glenda, Lesley, Roddy, Michelle, Rochelle, Meredith, Liz L, Mandi,

Chair: Mandi Minutes: Michelle

Apologies: Ruth Russell, Marg Bartlett, Libby Brookman, Natalie Fuller, Ailene Chan, Sally McHenry,

Acceptance of minutes: Michelle, Roddy seconded

Business Arising

Learner Drivers

- Service to Youth
 - o Action: Glenda to find out details to share on website / newsletter and provide details to Lesley who has a young man in community who needs lessons.
 - o Action: Michelle to add information she gathered about ARA & Geared to Drive organisations for website / newsletter.
- Post meeting: see info below*

Australian Refugee Association (ARA) 4-day workshop to get Learner's Licence, 8181 3306

- Course is in English
- Have to be able to read safety signs

ARA has applied for funding for above programme for older people women. Will find out in next 6-months.

Geared to Drive 16-25 years, Helping young people achieve (HYPA)
8244 1299

Sharing News

- Lesley talked about visiting Inverbrackie & Port Augusta.
- Pt Augusta: 10-12 families (Iraqi and Iranian)...some families are very young, others are stressed, looking for a safe place for 5 years...mentally wearing. Lesley has advocated for families e.g. written to Sarah Hanson Young who visited the families. She was banned from visiting Melbourne transit centre. A man and his elderly mother are being moved to community detention

(**Cumberland Park**: contact Lesley if you can provide support by visiting this family in the community). Port Augusta - small cul de sac, not much privacy, people don't get out much at all. Younger children go to primary school. In the past some people played soccer but that's not now. People have asked but nothing happens. A sad place. Quite a bit of movement with people. There have been Tamil and Vietnamese families in the past. Family accommodation.

- Good Neighbour Council has organised visitors for the pregnant women from Naru and a women's support group
- Discussed different ways of helping e.g. visiting in the community, driving lessons (promise a set amount versus indefinite. Share the load), talking with friends, family & work colleagues, reading documents for people, helping them fill in forms, writing references for people, playing music at Inverbrackie on Friday nights (contact Good Neighbour Council - Allen McMahon at allen@ignc.org or look at their website <http://ignc.org/>). Action Clarisa.
- Action: Michelle to attach Amnesty International's Re Think Refugees link to minutes. <http://www.rethinkrefugees.com.au/>
 - : Mandi to put on website
 - : Nathan to consider adding link to Newsletter

Maternity kits

- Combined circle of friends
- Strathalbyn COF provided 3 maternity kits e.g. nappies, maternity pads, teddy
- Action: send thank you card to Strathalbyn group
- John & Lois: a friend who works in APY lands left a \$100 donation towards this and his work group will have a sausage sizzle to raise money for this, another group can donate money from raffle.
- Action: Michelle / Lesley to link John / Lois with Libby Brookman as they can donate her the money for purchasing.
- Balhannah Centre Hahndorf charity shop have items / packs that are good quality which people might purchase for refugees.

Liz: happy to visit other mums with young children. Lesley knows a family / introduce Liz to this family on Grand Junction / near prospect road.

NEW Business

Migration Museum Display September 2014

Action: Mandi to chase up what is happening with Monica.

Action: Michelle to link Marg Bartlett (happy to volunteer) with Mandi, Lesley & Monica.

Newsletter

- Inaugural newsletter was a success, people read it. Many thanks to Nathan for making the newsletter happen ☺
- Mandi to link newsletter to website
- People to send in suggestions / articles to Nathan
nathan.rogers79@bigpond.com

Fundraising

- Film Fundraiser Between The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea Aldgate Hall (old cinema)
 - o \$25 / hour to hire hall
 - o Set up long tables. Provide food and catering before documentary starts. Maybe support from Organic Market Café.
 - o People could just turn up for documentary / tea / coffee / biscuits.
 - o Need people to help out on the evening and before.
 - o Fundraising committee needs more members. Currently Don / Nathan / Roddy. Natalie might be able to contribute ideas.
 - *Action: Michelle to send Nathan contact details of people. Michelle to send out request for helpers for this event. ?singers, ukulele? Piano? to entertain people on the night. Has a friend who can donate project. Rochelle Norton Summit Vineyards happy to donate wine..*
- **Entertainment Books (Michelle)**
 - o \$195 profit with sale of 10 + 1 books.
 - o 2 more sold on the evening.
 - o An easy no risk fundraiser.
- **Financial Donations:**

- ACTION: Michelle, Mandi and Nathan to add information on how to donate to Hills COF (to newsletter). Roddy to send form to Mandi.
- ACTION: Michelle to process \$100 cash donation from John's friend Ann (to go through ARA for tax deductible receipt) and let Jill know how it was done.

Media:

- Discussion about media and responding to request from media
- Brad from Welcome to Australia was suggested *Post meeting update: Michelle contacted Brad and he replied:*

- o We'd be happy to be the media contact you refer to - my mobile number is 0410 548 637
- o It would be good if you could let us know what issues they are going to raise with us and any local perspectives you have so that we can present your thoughts effectively.

And I asked Brad for pro-refugee pollies in lead up to election. This is his response:

- o Pro-refugee Federal folks in SA include Steve Georganas (our biggest supporter), Senator Anne McEwan and all the Greens.
- o Most Labor State MPs are pro-refugee, but especially the Premier and Kyam Maher.
- o Liberal MLC Jing Lee is one of our ambassadors, Dignity for the Disabled MLC Kelly Vincent is too, and all the Greens again are big supporters.

And here's a thought if you're thinking whether to get in touch with a pollie:

Tell them their policy will influence your vote and they really do pay attention to this - they calculate that for every person who takes the time and effort to do this there are 10,000 in the community who feel the same but won't make the effort. - this is Green Peace research from during the anti whaling days - so get on the blower(taken from Prue Blackmore Thrive By Design e-newsletter....er, without her permission! But I'll email her to let I know I cut and pasted this bit)

- Idea of being proactive with giving information to media about facts: would someone like to volunteer to put something together re how we feel people who come by boat should be treated. Look at mission statement we have [MICHELLE]

- Linking in with local labour candidate Norah Fahy: would someone like to get in touch with her re her position on refugees? ACTION: Nathan will follow up with Norah.

Post August 2012 conditions for people on Bridging Visas

- Conditions are difficult. Minimal furniture, bedding etc. Cold. At Pt Augusta summer doonas...people are cold. Red Cross & ARA have requested blankets.
- Action: support asylum seekers and refugees by donating \$25 to buy a blanket contact ARA for this:
<http://www.australianrefugee.org/support-us/donations/>

Finances

- Jill to investigate with NAB whether we can set up a bank account which our fundraising monies can go into where we don't need to provide ARA with receipts in advance to access our money. Receipts are still necessary to be accountable to people who donate money to us but some people may find it hard to be financially out of pocket while they wait for the receipts to be processed. *Post meeting update: Jill has done this. NAB has a no-fees account. We will look at Jill, Michelle and Lesley as signatories to the account & how we set up protocols for managing this.*

Computers for refugees in the community

William volunteers at IT share & has offered to help families in the community if they are having problems with their computers. Michelle to contact Jo and get William's details.

William Gale, william@margale.net, 0416370877. Note: I suggested that people who know the family check out the problem first before asking for William's help e.g. Michelle checked out a family who were having problems with their printer. It was just a matter of showing them how to select the correct printer in the printer set up.

Clarisa's son Robert might be willing to help families if needs it. Clarisa will let him know about IT share as he might have connections re computer donations.

Currently IT share is low on laptops (*and desktops*).

Don wants to send PC to Brisbane for family there. [Romero Centre / Tamil support] ACTION: meeting agreed to fund \$60 for postage. Clarisa to talk with Don as she might be going to Brisbane.

Wool and material donations

Lesley to give some wool to our volunteer lady via Michelle and rest to women in Inverbrackie.

1/month can book to use sewing machine at Inverbrackie....so not a heap of access to sewing machines.

STORAGE of clothing etc:

Helen to ask her dad if he's happy to let us use his shed in Bridgewater. Michelle to contact Claire to see if we can still use her shed.

Are there volunteers who can sort the materials / clothes? We can purchase storage materials if needed.

Liz has access to toys: good for people in the community.

Contact group for people in community: Don (mainly Iranians)

- Jill interested in this
- Help with PCs, toys for children, bicycles, signing on at the library
- Monthly social meeting. Don isn't a local so hard for him to make suggestions on what to do.
- Join in with Iranian picnic
- Families live at Blair Athol, Goodwood, city.
- ACTION: send out invitation...can you fish? Winery visit? People invite them into community. Lis happy to help esp Goodwood e.g. take them to beach. Don to invite Lis to monthly meeting. Happens in the house of a friend.

Jill would like something similar for Tamil families

ACTION: Don to write up his article about Iranian group that he started. Put on website.

ROTORAC GROUP - under 20s

- Lesley brought in donated stationary packs (68 stationary packs)
- Some distributed on the night. Many THANKS to Rotorac ☺ Lovely idea.