

Hills COF Meeting The HUT Aldgate Wed 16th January 2013 7-9pm

Present: Lesley W, Nathan R, Roddy E, Ruth R, Michelle H, Jill G, Natalie F, Ali R & Andy, Lois & John, Barry, Lis , Jo G, Don N, Mandi

Page | 1 Apologies: Michelle B, Denise M (Mt Gambier), Skye K, Paulene A (Victor Harbour), Tina (Kidman Park), Norah F, Sarah Q

Minutes: Michelle Chair: Lesley

New people at the meeting

- Welcome & introductions ☺
 - o Wow, it was very energising to have new faces at our meeting. Thank you so much for coming along and to those who put in their apologies.

Acceptance of last minutes: Michelle Seconded: Ruth

Topic	Action
Darwin refugee support group have a questionnaire for visitors going into detention centres e.g. Are you visiting? Do you want to visit? + follow up questions after they have started visiting	Lesley and Michelle to look at to see if some ideas for us.
Combined COF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meets every 2-3 months - about 15 Circles still existing - 15-20 people at a meeting 	Mandi: Add details of other COF to website.
Supporting refugees in the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We use our networks to find volunteers - Do we link families with other Circles? Requests can go out to Combined Circle of Friends. - Buying a car, finding accommodation (\$219 / week allowance), getting a computer ...it depends i.e. we can't solve everything e.g. cars are a bit beyond us generally (but we've had some exceptional cases). - Link people with their friends / community / temple / church as we don't have all the answers - Each cultural community has their connections in each town and they support each other - 	Liaise with Combined COF I.T Share donate computers for refugees. Talk to Michelle or Roddy if you have queries. If you are unsure, just talk with others in the Circle who are supporting families. You can email Michelle or Lesley with questions.
Researching info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We don't know how many people have been released into the community in Adelaide from Inverbrackie - The rules keep changing for refugees e.g pre August / post August 2012 rules - Natalie asked if there was any research about how refugees experienced having visitors at Inverbrackie – not that we know of. We just have anecdotal feedback 	Looking for volunteers to find out information about what sort of support is available for people in the community (Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Hobart), up to date stats on refugee numbers and movements
Inverbrackie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People currently staying about 3 months - Ali asked if COF are advertising visiting Inverbrackie at unis. Some of this has happened but not ongoing. 	Promotion at universities re visiting?

<p>Might work by pairing up with current visitors especially if can't visit regularly.</p>	
<p>Thank You ☺☺☺</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to Maggie and Allen for their roles as membership officer and coordinator and all the other work they did for the Circle and for refugees ☺ - to Marie for her continuing role as clothing / dictionaries coordinator 	
<p>Clothing / donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can visit Marie's place at Verdun to look through items 	<p>danielleamyot@bigpond.com</p>
<p>First time visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you get asked for toys / clothes you can contact Marie versus having to buy things and we have op shop contacts through Marie. - You can approach committee re money to buy things we don't have. - People may ask for all sorts of things e.g. expensive moisturiser. It's okay to say no. - Importance of not asking people their histories as they have to do it so many times for Dept Immigration officials. It's emotional for them / trauma. They may tell you in time if that trust is developed. - Importance for visitors of talking with others who visit. This allows you to check out what others are doing, answer any questions, debrief if you need. Sharing ideas and visiting together are great ways to get started. - Afghan / Hazara, Iranian, Sri Lankan – Tamil and Iraqi are the key groups at Inverbrackie. - Cultural rules e.g. greetings for particular cultures e.g. women don't shake man's hands. Ask them how to greet people.... - Bring photos of your family, pets. Map of Australia so can show where they are. How far cities are. - Can ask families for their phone numbers. Helps if you are wanting to check that they are going to be there. And they can ring you to say when people are moving. - Photograph and email form from phone or scan and email or post by snail mail. - Visit regularly if possible, just make sure families know what's happening. Be open about what you can commit. - Important if you do say you'll visit that you do turn up. - Helpful if you write down dates of when you are visiting to avoid English language confusion. - Communication: take visuals to talk about. - Can time it to go with them on their temple visits in the community. SERCO doesn't seem to stop this. 	<p>Michelle and Lesley to work on Intro to Visiting Inverbrackie Brochure / info modules.</p> <p>Ali to give feedback on a visiting Inverbrackie Brochure.</p> <p>More information on website with library of information – needs to be non-confidential e.g process for property.</p> <p>Visiting Hours 9-11 1-3 6-8</p> <p>Can people visiting ask for names of other families who want visitors?</p> <p>Lesley / Michelle / Mandi: Activity ideas on website e.g. games to play with kids e.g. soccer ball, bubbles, balloons.</p> <p>Ideas about what food take in e.g. fruit, sweets (depends on families)</p>
<p>Giving talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lesley happy to give talks to Rotary clubs, schools etc. 	<p>Contact Lesley les.walk@hotmail.com</p>

<p>Fundraising</p> <p><i>Music Concert</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nathan has contact details of potential musicians. - Possible venues: Stirling Organic Market, White House Hahndorf – outdoors options is fairly limited during the week - Maybe ask families who were at Inverbrackie and now in community to attend - Raffle: Nathan is collecting prizes - Mehala Kinetic singer (Lesley knows them) <p><i>Movie fundraiser</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ruth hasn't had a response yet. 	<p>Nathan to get back to committee about this. Plan for end March / early April.</p> <p>Promote this early on so people save money to go our event and not spend it all on the Fringe and Festival</p> <p>Prize request to go on website?</p> <p>Lesley can contact her refugee friend who is a singer.</p> <p>Ruth: to continue following up movie fundraiser.</p>
<p>Committee Positions</p> <p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Don happy to help - Natalie happy to share fundraising ideas (Spice Kitchen - Kensington) - Ali: cooking demo idea is fun (have attended at Spice Kitchen) - <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jill Golden YAY thank you ☺! <p>Coordinating Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natalie happy to help with this once she has done some visiting. Sharing amongst people and following up visitors. <p><i>Woo hoo! BIG THANKS to all our new committee people and all the ways people are helping.</i></p>	<p>Michelle to send Don and Natalie's emails to Nathan and Roddy.</p> <p>Lisa and Roddy can help Jill with taking on Treasurer role.</p> <p>Natalie to let us know after she has done some visiting when she is ready to support other visitors ☺</p>
<p>Letter Boxing / Promotion / educating people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facts about refugees 	<p>Ali is happy to letterbox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Photos, stories, what we do - Hills COF who are we - Michelle: add our bank account info re donations onto flyers & send out draft to committee for feedback & work on blurb / facts about visiting. <p>We are on FACEBOOK and have a Website</p>
<p>Half the Sky</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ali has been reading this book...has useful information about how to get people interested....ie the more you personalise the story, the better. - 	
<p>Donations of goods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If we can't use it items can go to Red Cross who directly support refugees on community detention or to the Australian Refugee Association op shop 	

Financial Report – info sent from our treasurer Lisa

9/1/13 ending balance \$3,789.09. *Minutes: sorry, Lisa did provide more information e.g. how much we had in December etc but I haven't minuted this and have handed on the info. More details next meeting ☺*

Visiting Refugees in the community, a few ways to help....

- driving lessons
- providing emotional support
- helping people find accommodation
- delivering donations
- fundraising
- putting together welcome packs e.g. toiletries, maternity packs e.g. nightie for in hospital.

Past minutes info re Fundraisers

- Wine...Roddy...maybe with 2013 raffle
- Nathan: musical concert.
- Movie ideas: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea Jessica taylor (Marie);
- Pray the Devil Back to Hell (Ruth).....maybe do this as a Winter fundraiser.
- Open Garden next Spring (Leoni)

MEETINGS 3rd WEDNESDAY of every 2nd month

Wed 20th March	7PM	THE HUT ALDGATE
Wed 15th May	7PM	THE HUT ALDGATE
Wed 17th July	7PM	THE HUT ALDGATE