

## **St. Columba's Social Justice Group**

Notes From our Meeting 7 February 2018

Present: Fay Hair, David Hair, Evelyn Umali, Daniel Umali, Therese Briggs, and Elizabeth Mulrennan.

Special Guest: Moones Mansoubi Coordinator Rozelle Welcome Centre, Humanitarian Settlement Programme

Apologies: Tim Nelson, Belinda Morissey

We welcomed and thanked Moones for attending our group.

Moones began by explaining her role and what has happened at the Centre so far. Community Capacity building is a significant aspect of her role, connecting new arrivals with existing communities.

There has been much consultation with community groups, Induction programs for new arrivals, and social events.

But 2018 is the real year for events and activities:

Plans are in place for story telling workshops, holiday camps for children & young people, swimming classes for adults, sewing classes through [Social Outfit](#).

Also Art workshops at the Centre with refugee artists, in engraving, painting and photography.

Plans also include Barista, Cooking and Kitchen Hand Courses through TAFE, some of which will be conducted at the Centre.

Events linked with Refugee week with SSI to include community groups and new arrivals.

There is a requirement that volunteers at the Centre receive training, a course in Human Rights Education run through TAFE is being offered free of charge. Those who have received similar training & would require Recognition for training and relevant experience are requested to direct their claims to Elizabeth for referral to Moones and Ingrid De Meyer at the Council for consideration.

Ingrid's email is [Ingrid.de.meyer@innerwest.gov.au](mailto:Ingrid.de.meyer@innerwest.gov.au)

Volunteers will also need a Police check and Working with Children check

Fay suggested talking to schools to connect new arrival youth to local communities; she has offered to make contact with schools. She will also approach them for donations for musical instruments.

Dan suggested getting in someone from Toastmasters to hold public speaking courses in the school holiday program, he will follow this up.

Moones explained that there is a requirement that any staff at the Centre not be on their own. We suggested that there may well be times when one of us is available to accompany her.

We asked her what she thought may be the ways we could assist her in her work.

She responded:

Maybe an event from the local schools, e.g. a performance at the centre during Refugee Week. Suggested dates 20 June & 24 June at this time

Assistance with bus transport, for example, with the swimming group. Some suggestions were offered to her, the Transport Workers Union have a community bus & may have available drivers.

The commercial kitchen at the centre needs pots.

Possibly fund raising to pay trainers and other operational costs.

Thank you Moones! You have given us much food for thought.

Other items:

Fay suggested that we each get a copy of Laudate Si, and share at the meetings as a 'trigger'. Fr Peter Smith has agreed to bring copies for the group.

Fay also provided a copy of a newsletter from the Josephite Social Justice group regarding the plans by the Australian Government to increase weapons exports. The link is

<http://www.cathnews.com/media-releases/1195-180202-sosj-merchants-of-death-profiteering-from-the-arms-trade/file>

We agreed to write as individuals to the Government on this matter and Therese will place a notice in the bulletin.

We agree that Tim should invite Felicity to our next meeting if possible to discuss Solar Power in the community and schools.

Dates for these meetings:

It makes sense that our meeting should happen the week before the Parish Council meetings. And that we would take it in turns to attend the Parish council meetings as representatives of this group.

Therese has volunteered to attend the next Parish Council on behalf of the group.

So the next Social Justice meeting will be on the 7 March (due to availability of members,) and the following meeting will be on the 28th March & thereafter on the final Wednesday of the month.

Many thanks

Elizabeth Mulrennan

Post meeting update: The commencement of training has been deferred by one week.

Ingrid has agreed to look at the matter of Recognition of prior learning & experience for Volunteers