

## **The Sanctuary Women and Children's Refuge**

### **Administration Officer's Report**

**Annual General Meeting. 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

Despite the tight framework of almost every day needing to respond to some time frame, whether it is client needs, legal compliance issues with many and varied governmental departments grant submissions, acquittal procedures, constitutional issues, or double bookings for fund raising; we have survived, and we have provided for many women, who would otherwise be homeless.

We should all be proud of that. Along that road we have met strangers, contributors to our cause, partners in our cause, random volunteers, odd bods whom we have drawn into our cause and a myriad of sponsors in just 12 months.

It has been a steep learning curve for many on the Board, who came from a charitable intent and little knowledge of legalities/compliance issues/bureaucracy at its worst etc. An example of this is that when the women from Destiny Rescue addressed our meeting, many were surprised to find that cash raised at functions had to be co-counted, and co-signed off. I'm sure many charities are not compliant on this issue.

The original minutes read that we need an Ambassador. Suggestions were made for this to be Margot or Delta. There was no recorded follow up by anyone on this. This would indicate that people at meetings can say they will do something, but they never deliver, which means that they are not accountable. Simone, again, has found Toni Childs, through her own endeavours. We think that Toni will be an ambassador for our cause, but she is an international artist, and not often in Australia.

Board members **must** be accountable for what they sign up for at meetings. This will decrease the load of those who **do** perform their allotted tasks. Minutes recording actions taken as a result from Business Arising from previous meetings will now be published and signed off on, at the next meeting. An example of this is, if I said I would phone/write/investigate/turn up/bake, and I **didn't**, then I would be accountable, as being a non contributing member of the Board.

It has taken a while for our minutes to be presented in a proper format, and Michelle has worked hard to ensure this is happening. This is a new experience for Michelle, whose insistence on professional standards meant that the Forum was a great success.

The funding arrangements for The Sanctuary Women and Children's Refuge are complex. Thanks to Sharon for being able to decipher transfers between bank accounts and to produce her results tonight.

Of all the funding submissions which I have worked on, only two have been successful, but we are into the second round of a \$64,000 one from AMP. Simone has already had a telephone interview for progression to the next level.

Most of the grant rejections have been most disappointing, especially when Simone's "experts" tell me that the submissions are "great/fabulous/professional/ ticked all the boxes" etc. We are left wondering what else we can do. Apart from conspiracy theories, suggestions have also been made that we do not have the correct "political alignment". This may be correct, as many MP's and local councillors have ignored our correspondence, and not even visited the refuge.

I am concerned about the state of the grounds. When I first submitted grant information I talked about the beautiful tranquil fragrant grounds, which Debbie and I worked so hard to restore to their former glory. Random gardening forays have not kept the Refuge up to that standard. A grounds person is a definite must. Maybe this can happen under the new Qld Government offer of subsidising long term mature unemployed.

Three new grants have been applied for.

- Hesta Community Awards, which is an actual nomination for Simone and her community contribution to the cause. \$10,000 individual grant.
- Honda Community Awards. For a loan car for a year or more, in return for advertising. We just have to get the local dealership manager on board to support the application.
- Awards Australia. Another Community Achievement Award. Very different format, in that they give the spiel and I fill in the details. No opportunity to really sell our difference. It includes sections such as Initiatives and community contributions, How Barriers have been overcome, etc.

When I look back on how ambitious and naive the initial meeting sounded, I find it astounding that so much has been achieved by so few. Simone, in her inimitable manner, has established networks of sponsors and volunteers, who have delivered significant renovations for capacity increase, which will allow for the mortgage to be covered, as well as the utilities, for the foreseeable future. The community has been extremely generous with donations for the women, children, animals and the actual accommodations.

It has been a journey. Fraught, but fulfilling. I can only reiterate Simone's thanks to all those who have contributed in any way to the success of The Sanctuary Women and Children's Refuge.

I have included a long list of sponsors for the refuge. Hopefully this list will be posted on both our website and Facebook.

Gae York.

## **SPONSORS of The Sanctuary Women and Children's Refuge.**

A privately funded accommodation service for victims of Domestic Violence on the Gold Coast.

Sponsors of **The Sanctuary** with in-kind support include:

- ❖ Sawtells Transport
- ❖ Boral
- ❖ Kennards Hire
- ❖ Bunnings
- ❖ Symcorp Building Services
- ❖ Hutchinson Builders
- ❖ Fight Like A Pro
- ❖ Better Men
- ❖ Reef cosa electrical
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- ❖ Woolworths
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- ❖ Zonta
- ❖ Uniting Church Mudgeeraba
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