



Coffs Harbour Sanctuary hosted the third annual national gathering of the Coffs Coast-based charity organisation last weekend. Photo submitted

Refugee sanctuary

MEMBERS of all 10 Sanctuary groups from around Australia, including Perth and Rockhampton, gathered in Coffs Harbour last weekend for the third annual national Sanctuary gathering.

"It was a very inspiring weekend, to be together with such a great group of caring, enthusiastic people,

all doing so much to help those who have lost everything," said Board member John Verey.

Sanctuary, founded in Coffs Harbour 18 years ago, is a hands-on, grassroots charity that receives no government funding but relies on the generosity of the community to help refugee

families suffering in dire situations around the world.

The organisation sponsors refugees stuck in nightmare camps, welcomes new arrivals, raises money to provide interest-free air fare loans and helps new arrivals with all aspects of settlement into their new community.

To save the lives of refu-

gees accepted by a host country, but unable to afford the air fare, Sanctuary set up the 'revolving' Travel Loan Fund in 1996, whereby refugees repay their air fare loan once settled, so it is recycled to help others.

Sanctuary Refugee Foundation can be contacted on 6652 2127.