

ISSUE 1 {2018}

networking

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO COMMUNITIES



What matters
to you?

He is risen
indeed!
Easter
message

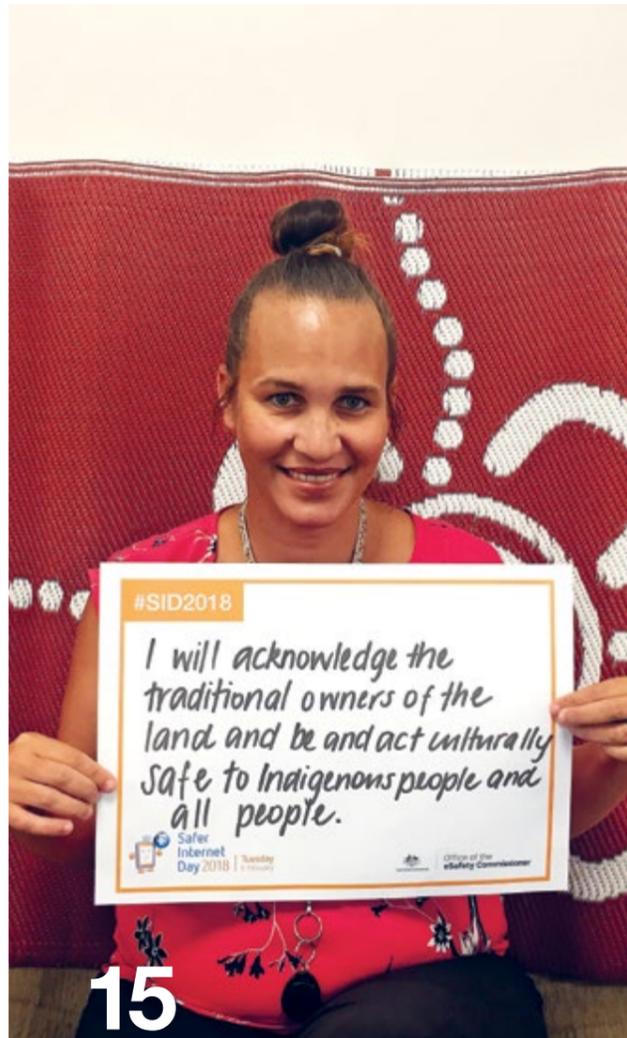
Growing
God's kingdom
Find out how CDF
is helping us achieve
our mission of bringing
the light of Christ
into communities.



Churches
of Christ
in Queensland

{ Contents }

Find us on 



15



19



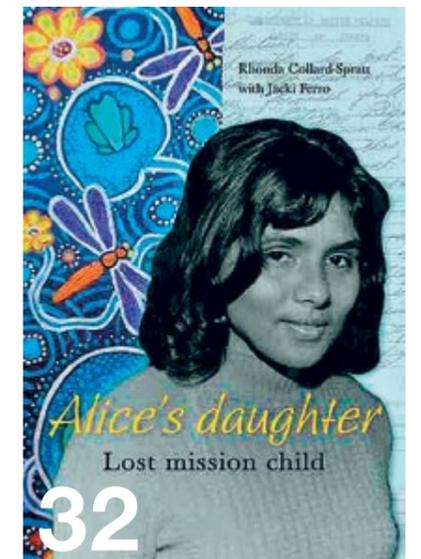
33



22



24



32

From the Editor	4
Chief Executive Officer update	5
Month of Prayer	6
He is risen indeed! CEO Easter message	7
Developments update	8
Hillcrest seniors' development announced	10
Urgent call for doctors	11
Welcome home	12
Family matters	14
Cyber security – what can you do?	15

Growing God's kingdom and your investments	16
HumeRidge creating home	18
Physiotherapy partnerships growing	19
Spreading joy	21
Bundaberg to Bethlehem	22
Esther to continue dream of helping others	23
Oak Towers enjoys new garden	24
Barcoo's 'Wanderland'	25
With an open heart	26
The Basics	27

Wellbeing at the centre of care in far-west	28
Something to learn	29
Pioneering Papua New Guinea	30
Alice's Daughter – lost mission child	32
What mattered to the ANZACs?	33
A personal reflection on Easter	34
Bringing new life into live worship	35
People and Events	36
Mad Hatter's Poem	38
Events	39

networking

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networking contains a variety of news and stories from across Churches of Christ in Queensland. Articles and photos can be submitted to communications@cofcqld.com.au

The submission deadline for the next edition of *networking* is 24 April 2018.

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Sunshine Coast, while planning is continuing on other proposed developments on the Gold Coast and at Boonah.

In February, it was announced that we are to build another affordable development for seniors at Hillcrest. In 2017 we opened Wattle Apartments on our campus at Acacia Ridge, and the Hillcrest development will join our Clive Burdeu Aged Care Service in Logan. The \$9.8 million development will deliver 24 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom apartments.

Our affordable living townhouse development in Kallangur, Kurrajong, opened in late 2017. The new residents have unpacked and settled into their new homes. Read about how moving into their new homes has changed the life of some residents.

In the lead up to Easter each year, I joined with our movement in Month of Prayer (which this year takes place 1 – 29 March). This time of prayerful reflection calls us to join together in prayer, concentrating on daily prayer guides.

We have a busy year ahead, with a number of events coming up once again that I hope you can join us. We look forward to hosting a community event at the Kenmore Campus, Centrifuge and our Annual General Meeting and Ministers Forum with you throughout the year. We will also host a two day event 'Passing the Baton' with Keith Farmer to be held on 5-6 September. More information on these events will be circulated closer to the dates.

In the coming months, we will be marking ANZAC Day on 25 April, National Volunteers Week from 21-27 May, and National Sorry Day (27 May) and National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June). Please join us in taking part in these events.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Networking as we explore what matters to us and how are living our mission of bringing the light of Christ into communities.

Desley Millwood
Executive Officer Communications

Welcome to the latest edition of *Networking*. We are well into 2018 now, preparing for the

Easter season and implementing plans for the year. You will find the Easter reflection from our Chief Executive Officer on page 7.

As we step into this New Year where we are looking at our Strategic Plan and the way forward, we are also stepping back and seeing what matters to us. Chief Executive Officer Dr Paul Scully asks us what matters to us?

What matters to you? Within these pages you will read about what matters to people and services across Churches of Christ in Queensland. From protecting children to providing a home for the vulnerable and delivering hope to communities through our churches and services. As you read, take the time to consider what it is that matters to you, and how you can leave this in your day-to-day life.

Our major development projects continue to make steady progress towards completion at Warwick and on the

Key events in 2018

- Centrifuge 17 July
- Passing the Baton - Keith Farmer 5-6 September
- Ladies Getaway Retreat 2-4 November
- AGM 8 November
- Ministers Forum 8-9 November

What matters to you?

It seems that where ever you go today, 'values' are on display. Organisations stress their values and what they believe in, succinctly listing what is most important to them.

Facebook lists: Focus on impact; move fast; be bold; be open, and; build social value. While Kellogg's promotes: Integrity; Accountability; Passion; Humility; Simplicity; and, a focus on success.

Think of the values of Churches of Christ in Queensland: Behaving with integrity. Being good stewards. Unconditional love.

How do they align with what matters to you? In reality our actions will test what we value.

Values put to the test

Imagine you have a pet dog, Fetch. You love your dog, they are a member of your family who you treat with affection and have deep affection for.

One day, you are at the beach playing your dog's favourite game. You throw the ball into the water, and Fetch goes in to catch it.

Suddenly, Fetch is in trouble, caught in a current and being dragged further out sea. You need to do something to save your beloved pet.

Just as you are about to race into the water, you hear the sound of someone frantically yelling for help from just down the beach.

As you see Fetch struggling in the water, not far from them is a child, caught in another rip, struggling to stay above water.

What do you do? Rescue your beloved family pet? Or race to save the stranger whose human life you intrinsically value?

Do you rescue your dog who you care so much love for and is such a valued member of your family who would be deeply missed if anything were to happen. Or do you save the young child?

Values are deep held beliefs that shape our feelings, thoughts and actions on a daily basis.

We perhaps don't realise just how much our values shape what we do.

From our language to the clothes we wear to the food we eat they are a part of who we are.

The monk, Telemachus, is credited with ending fights to the death at the Colosseum in the Roman Empire in 400 AD.

This young monk had travelled from the East to Rome and was drawn to the mighty amphitheatres. He saw the gladiators plating up and getting ready to enter the fighting arena. He had only heard of this spectacle—of people fighting to the death in front of a crowd for sport.

As the fighters took to the centre of the arena and prepared to fight, he was overwhelmed by the horror of what he was witnessing, and called out "In the name of Christ, stop!"

Instead of stopping, the gladiators turned and began to chase him. The crowd, thinking it was a part of the show, laughed as the tiny monk weaved and ducked as he was chased by the warriors with their whips and weapons striking his small frame.

Suddenly, Telemachus lay on the ground, dead from the attack by professional fighters, and the crowd realised what had happened.

His actions in trying to stop the fighting in the name of Christ, and his martyrdom, affected the crowd and reached the Emperor, who ended fighting to the death.

Telemachus values cost him his life. Our values can remain nice words on the wall, or they can be genuine beliefs that underpin who we are as an organisation, as teams or as individuals.

They can change our experience at work, with family or church from good to great. Values shape our relationships with other people moment by moment. Take the following examples.

Modelling unconditional love.

Working with a young person at work or in a youth group who might engage in offensive behaviour, we don't label them as 'bad', but seek to understand why are they acting this way? Unconditional love means we seek to understand rather than expect the person to come to standard before we offer love and acceptance.

Behaving with integrity. We own our mistakes, and we don't hide or blame someone else, and we celebrate other people's successes. How often Jesus had to deal with the politics



around him, where people were motivated by power rather than humility and like mindedness.

Being good stewards. We don't steal time from work or we pay our workers a fair pay. We ensure that we use of talents for the good of others.

Values are one of a number of things that shape the culture of an organisation, a church and even a family. Take some time to talk with colleagues, fellow church friends or family about the values that are most important to you.

Over the coming editions of *Networking*, I look forward to delving deeper into what each of our values means for who we are.

Update

I am currently working with the Board to develop the next strategic plan. Recently a survey was circulated to gain an insight into the views of our church leaders, members, Strategic Action Leadership Teams, staff, volunteers and our key stakeholders including funders and peak industry bodies. Your views of the organisation and your assessment of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are extremely important and will help inform the new strategic plan.

Since commencing as CEO I have been visiting our churches and service sites. It will take some time to catch up with everyone and I am certainly open to invites to come and speak at your church. I first joined the Churches of Christ when I was 19 in Newcastle and I believe more than ever in the Good News of Jesus and the power of the local church community to bring the light of Christ to others. I would love to share with you and hear your story of how Jesus is working in your community.

During the month of March we circulated a weekly prayer sheet with prayer points that focus on our churches, members, staff, services and other community activities. Please continue to pray for our movement of churches, especially that we might be live God honouring lives that under His strength we help bring a fresh work of God to reach our nation with the hope and our love of Christ.

I hope you can join us at the events we will be holding this year, and join with us as we celebrate who we are as Churches of Christ. Blessing to you all over Easter as we remember our risen Saviour. Read my full message on page 7.

Dr Paul Scully
Chief Executive Officer

MONTH *of* PRAYER

1-29 March 2018

Devote yourselves to prayer

Colossians 4:2

On 1 March we commenced a time of focus, reflection and dedication in our Month of Prayer.

Each year, our Conference Council calls on church members, staff, volunteers and the communities to join together in this special time of prayer in the lead up to Easter. We have focused on all aspects of Churches of Christ, our mission, our people and our communities, as we look towards another exciting year.

Prayer was a priority for Jesus. His life and ministry were built on it. If Jesus needed to pray, then how much more do we?

From 1 – 29 March, we gave ourselves to prayer for everything we do, as individuals and as a movement of God.

While the Month of Prayer has passed, prayer still matters in our lives, whether you take time each day, or each week, to pray to our Lord.

Jesus was in agony the night before his crucifixion. He prayed fervently,

dreading the cross but submitting himself to his heavenly Father's higher purpose.

You will face deep anguish in your life—everyone does. When that happens, you can do what Jesus did: pray. Pray hard, pray deep, pray honestly, pray out all your feelings. Pray until you sweat and cry and fall in exhaustion. Pray with others. Pray alone. Pray as long as it takes - and then pray longer. Pray because nothing else works and keep praying when it doesn't seem to work. Pray because Jesus prayed, pray because you want to pray, pray because you don't want to pray. Pray out loud, pray quietly. Pray whenever you think about it, prayer instead of just thinking about it. Pray when you walk and when you drive and when you wake up and when you go to sleep. Pray before you forget. Pray right now.

(Taken from NIV The NIV Journey Bible)



HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Luke 24:34

Easter Message 2018

Each time we celebrate communion we remember the Lord's death as we read in 1 Corinthians 11:26: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

But it is not merely Jesus' death and sacrifice that we remember, we also acknowledge the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is critical to the Christian message. Without the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, the Christian message is empty, with Paul telling us we would be spiritually dead in our sin.

1 Corinthians 15:13 – 14 teaches us: "...If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith."

Why is the resurrection so important? Because when Jesus was raised from the dead by God this demonstrated that He was satisfied that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient and that in raising Jesus, God required nothing more. So in the

early Church we see that they preach not only the death of Jesus but the resurrection, as we read in Acts 3:15: "... God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this."

I remember hearing from missionaries working in China saying it was forbidden to preach in the official church on the resurrection of Jesus. Ironic that the authorities knew how important the resurrection was to the Christian message.



This Easter take time to reflect on the Good News of Jesus, and not merely celebrate that our sins are forgiven, but that we have been raised to a new life in Christ as evidenced by his resurrection



But the resurrection is not just about Jesus, it is to be our experience too, as read in Romans 6:4: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

This Easter take time to reflect on the Good News of Jesus, and not merely celebrate that our sins are forgiven, but that we have been raised to a new life in Christ as evidenced by his resurrection. The same power of God that raised Christ is at work in our lives too.

There is an Easter greeting I have grown fond of that I will be joining in exclaiming this Easter: "He is risen!" to which people respond "He is risen, indeed!". Yes, Jesus is risen, indeed, and we are transformed.

Blessing to you all over Easter as we remember our risen Saviour.

Dr Paul Scully
Chief Executive Officer
Churches of Christ in Queensland

Find out more

cofc.com.au/monthofprayer

[cofcqld](https://twitter.com/cofcqld)

[#monthofprayer2018](https://twitter.com/cofcqld)



■ Aerial view of the Warwick development February 2018

Warwick

The Churches of Christ development of a new campus on Dragon Street is on track for a mid-2018 completion.

The \$32 million integrated campus will include a 128-bed aged care service café, and community centre.

Director of Seniors and Supported Living Bryan Mason said the development had powered ahead in the year since construction commenced.

“We stood here a year ago and turned the first sod on this development, and to see how far it has come is wonderful. Despite some wet weather, we have remained on schedule for a mid-2018 opening,” Bryan said.

“The external structures for the two residential aged care wings, administration and community centre buildings are now erect, with internal fit outs now taking place at various stages.

“We look forward to supporting seniors from Warwick and surrounds, and helping them to stay in their community and receive the highest quality of care in a truly remarkable facility that is affordable and accessible to all, irrespective of means,” he said.

The new development complements the existing Regency Park Retirement Village and services on the site, including Ken’s Place, a respite centre for people living with dementia and providing a much needed break or respite for their carers.

“We opened Ken’s Place in Regency Park last year, and it has been supporting local people living with dementia, providing a home-away-from-home environment,” Bryan said.

Ken’s Place is named after beloved local Warwick resident Ken Eather, who was supported by his wife Pam as he lived with dementia.

Other services being developed on the campus will include home and community care services, and a community centre featuring a café and auditorium for the local community to access. They will be set amongst landscaped surroundings, with gardens and planting complementing the Warwick environment and scenery.



We look forward to supporting seniors from Warwick and surrounds, and helping them to stay in their community and receive the highest quality of care in a truly remarkable facility that is affordable and accessible to all, irrespective of means



Bryan Mason

Developments update

Our commitment to seniors’ care and bringing the light of Christ into communities is continuing with new developments in planning or construction in several Queensland towns and cities. A key feature in all our new residential aged care developments is the ‘cottage’ model of care.

This model promotes independence and freedom, and provides residents with the opportunity to be involved in everyday lifestyle activities while receiving optimal individual care.

Stanthorpe

Late last year, we welcomed the first residents into our new Stanthorpe Aged Care Service (Villa Carramar). With the opening of the new state-of-the-art service, it has become evident that we can meet the aged care needs of the Stanthorpe community by providing care under the one roof, with Carramar Hostel on Collage Road being transitioned to the new service in Alice Street. We are very thankful to the local community for their support during the past years, and look forward to continuing to provide the highest standard of care at our Stanthorpe Aged Care Service.

Meridan

This impressive and spacious Sunshine Coast development at Parklands Boulevard on 8.3 hectares will have a 96-bed residential aged care service at its heart when complete. The campus will also feature a large community hub including a café, place of worship, and smaller activity rooms.

The Sunshine Coast development was the first Queensland Government ‘Green Door’ development approved, based on its green credentials.

We have received approval from the local Council the community hub to be open to the public. This will have many benefits for both residents and the community.

Most of the structural works for the aged care service and community centre have been completed with attention now turning to fit-out.

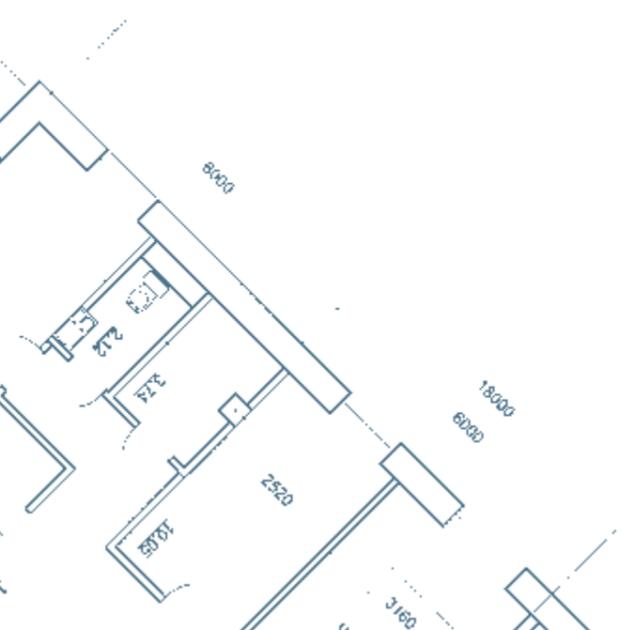
Boonah

We are investing in the future of our existing Fassifern Aged Care Service and Fassifern Retirement Village in Boonah.

We are awaiting formal advice from the Scenic Rim Regional Council on the outcomes of a development application approval for a proposed development on the site of the current services. Reports in media have presented information based on these proposals, which include a new residential aged care service, independent living units set amongst landscaped gardens.

The final plan of the development, and what it will include, is yet to be determined depending on Council requirements and our capabilities, timeframes and budget. We will keep you updated as these aspects are determined.

The Meridan development is expected to open in early-2019. ▶





Each of the facilities have served us well for many years, and require upgrades to provide high quality facilities into the future

From previous page

Gold Coast

We are currently in the planning stages of the redevelopment of our Golden Age, Lady Small Haven and Marana Gardens residential aged care and retirement villages on the Gold Coast.

Bryan Mason said we are investigating options and no decision had yet been made regarding the potential developments.

“Each of the facilities have served us well for many years, and require upgrades to provide high quality facilities into the future,” Bryan said.

“In November 2017, we updated residents and staff. In summary, there are still many matters to be resolved, decisions to be made and approvals to be obtained before we go ahead with any development at the sites.”

The Gold Coast City Council provided preliminary Master Plan development approval for Golden Age and Lady Small Haven, and approval for the first stage of construction at both sites.

“If the project is fully approved and we do decide to go ahead, we have advised residents that they would be able to speak to a Transitions Manager privately about any arrangements or related matters,” Bryan said.

It was also recognised that it has taken some time to get to this stage - it's in the nature of massive projects like this to take time and we have been thorough in our approach, with a number of internal processes undertaken to improve project management. ■



■ Artist impression of the new seniors housing development at Hillcrest.

Hillcrest seniors development announced

A \$9.8 million seniors housing complex is to be built at Hillcrest, providing 30 affordable homes.

As with our Wattle Apartments development at Acacia Ridge, the Middle Road, Hillcrest development (pictured above) is a partnership between Churches of Christ and the Queensland Government.

Churches of Christ Housing Services General Manager Frances Paterson-Fleider said this was our fourth integrated campus model in Queensland, combining community housing, retirement living, residential aged care and community care services.

She said the model enables residents to age-in-place with freedom, independence, privacy, dignity and security.

“The transitioning residents will benefit from being able to remain connected to the community, friends, family and the services they currently access, such as doctors,” Frances said.

“This project will deliver 24 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units for seniors”

“The site will incorporate multiple green and communal spaces, including a shared drying court, mobility scooter charging bays, barbecue area and community gardens.”

Logan MP Linus Power announced the project, and said it represents a new way of delivering safe, secure and affordable housing.

“This project will deliver 24 one-bedroom units and six two-bedroom units for seniors, with the complex designed to be comfortable and adaptable so that residents can feel confident their homes will be suitable for them for many years to come.”

Mr Power said the complex was near transport, shops and essential services.

The units have been designed to be small enough to be easy to maintain, but large enough for residents to have friends and family over. Eligible seniors over the age of 55 will be invited to transition to the low maintenance units from their under-utilised social housing homes.

Housing Minister Mick de Brenni said the age-friendly housing options would include units to assist people with mobility impairment, such as wider doorways and halls, as well as handrails, making them suitable for people in wheelchairs.

Churches of Christ will build the units on their land with a grant under the Queensland Government's Housing Construction Jobs Program of \$8.38 million. ■

Urgent call for doctors



We have published many articles about the wonderful work being done by the Churches of

Christ Medical Santo team in Northern Vanuatu. You have read accounts of the difference our volunteers have made to so many lives and seen photos of smiles that can't help but touch your heart.

Right now, Churches of Christ Medical Santo urgently needs experienced doctors to join the team.

Who we need

Doctors who are a registered Medical Practitioner in Australia, New Zealand or equivalent, with acute/emergency or remote area or foreign aid experience.

They must have experience in leading clinical teams and managing a primary health care clinic, with the ability to think outside the box and solve health, medical and logistical challenges in an environment of limited resources and operational change.

The doctor will be responsible for day-to-day clinical services, governance and continued development of the services. They will support the service manager in implementing plans and managing staff



and coordinating rural outreach visits. They will also work closely to mentor and maintain relationships with the local hospital and rural health staff.

Exemplifying a Christian lifestyle, they will work in accordance with

our Christian values and are happy to engage with the local church community.

About Medical Santo

Medical Santo is based in the town of Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo, the second largest island in Vanuatu, about one-hour flight north of Port Vila.

Medical Santo is committed to developing capacity and resources within the Vanuatu Ministry of Health services both in the Northern District hospital and in rural and Northern island communities. We are also committed to assisting in the professional development of the Ministry of Health staff to bring current medical treatments and procedures into the Vanuatu system. We work together Partnering in Sustainable Health for Vanuatu.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in a new culture and helping the people of northern Vanuatu, go to medicalsanto.com or contact Lyn Cox for more information on 0407 723 685 or email info@medicalsanto.com today.

Welcome home

At the end of 2017, residents started moving into Kurrajong, the affordable townhouse development in Kallangur, north of Brisbane. The land for the 50 townhouses was donated by local philanthropists, Ian and Neva Hardy. The high-quality, affordable homes are perfect for low-to-middle income earners, and fill the gap between social housing and the soaring costs of the private rental market. Churches of Christ Housing Service General Manager Frances Paterson-Fleider said it was the role of the housing provider to help individuals contribute to society and be connected to their communities by providing appropriate housing. "Our vision is to empower communities through high-quality housing solutions and enhance the lives of individuals by providing safe, secure and affordable homes that people want to live in," Frances said. Before Christmas, Graham and Robyn, and Aiden moved into their new homes. We find out how this move has changed their lives for the better.

On the verge of homelessness at Christmas

Graham and Robyn were living in a poorly maintained two-bedroom house on Brisbane's northside paying \$370 per week. Paying high rents in the private market, they struggled to make ends meet. Graham, who is in his early 70s, worked for his son a few days a week to supplement their income. However, Graham suffers from Emphysema and early stage Parkinson's disease, making work physically challenging and unsustainable.

But that wasn't the only challenges they faced. Just before Christmas they tragically lost their son to bowel cancer. "My son told us he was dying, and Graham said 'you're not meant to go before me, this is not how it is supposed to go,' Robyn said.

Not long after their son passed away, they were hit with further bad news after receiving a notice to leave the property from the landlord.

"That was our Christmas" Graham said. "The owner decided it was time to sell the property, which left us facing the prospect of homelessness." Desperate to find a new home, Graham drove all over Brisbane's north viewing properties and putting in applications to try and find a new home.



■ Graham and Robyn at their new home in Kallangur

"With the passing of our son and the stress of having to find a new place to live in, we fell behind in our rent. We were fortunate to receive some support from the Department of Housing and Public Works, who helped us get back on top of our rental arrears."

In a desperate search to find a new home, Graham came across Churches of Christ in Queensland's Moonah Park Campus at Mitchelton and enquired with the staff as to whether they could help.

"It was there I was given the number to call Housing Services and the rest is history.

"When we received the call from [Community Cohesion Coordinator] Mark Ferrari confirming that we were approved for the property at Kallangur, I just wanted to jump through the phone and kiss him. We are so happy here, it's a beautiful home and much more affordable."

The couple, who have been together for 53 years and have four children, have remained positive and resilient, despite facing so much adversity. They have maintained their sense of humour and laughter.

"We are so grateful to have a roof over our heads and to call Kurrajong home" Robyn said. ■



■ Aiden, left, receiving the keys to his new home from Community Cohesion Coordinator, Mark Ferrari.

Enjoying new found independence

Aiden moved into the Kurrajong Townhouses after finding the brand new properties advertised on the internet. The 34-year-old lives with Cerebral Palsy, and this is the first time he has lived independently from his parents.

"I reached the point where I felt it was definitely time I found a place of my own," Aiden said.

Moving out has given him the confidence to learn new skills, including preparing meals, household chores and managing his finances.

"I like that I can learn new skills and start to grow up," he said.

Aiden lives in a one-bedroom townhouse designed to Gold Accessible standard under the Livable Housing Design Guidelines. "The townhouse is the perfect size, it is easy for me to keep clean and take care of.

"I really enjoy having my own place. My parents live at Petrie, so it's good to be able to remain close by and I can just get in my car and drive to see them."

Aiden works for Mylestones Printing, an Australian disability enterprise, where he is a table hand.

He loves sports particularly soccer and rugby and enjoys socialising with family and friends from his new home. His hobbies also include playing guitar and bass and he doesn't let his disability get in the way of doing what he loves.

Aiden describes living with Cerebral Palsy as a constant daily battle to live independently. He manages his disability with a regular exercise program and determination to give things a go.

And as for Aiden's goals and aspirations?

"Finding my own place to call home was at the top of my list," he said. "Now I can look at setting some new goals."

Aiden's new home is proving to be a great stepping stone to full independent living in the future.

Having a safe home is a springboard to achieving other things in life and Aiden is a good example of that. ■

Churches of Christ in Queensland has signed up to the Family Matters campaign. Family Matters aims to eliminate the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 2040. The campaign is led by SNAICC - The National Voice for Our Children, the peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, and is supported by a Strategic Alliance of approximately 150 dedicated Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations.

On Wednesday 14 February, we signed the statement of commitment. As an organisation committed to 'Family Matters' we will adhere to the six core principles and all corresponding actions:

- Applying a child focussed approach.
- Ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations participate in and have control over decisions that affect their children.
- Protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's right to live in culture.
- Pursuing evidence based responses.
- Supporting, healing and strengthening families.
- Challenging systemic racism and inequalities.

Through our Children, Youth and Family services, we support 20 per cent of all children in out-of-home care and in child protection in Queensland. Of this 20 percent of children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are over-represented at 43 per cent. Children, Youth and Families currently work within these principles and action the following key components that support the Family Matters campaign:

- Greater focus on Cultural Support Planning for every Indigenous child in our care.
- Build stronger partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector and communities.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention strategies through

“We want to achieve positive results by working and partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to keep children safe, cared for, with kin and connected to culture and community”



■ Dr Paul Scully (centre) with Tammy Wallace and Leanne Rutherford signing the Statement of Commitment.

Family Matters

- our Intensive Family Support Services and the Early Childhood care space.
- Working with communities and families through a strengths based community development approach.
- Hearing the voices of Indigenous peers through establishing the Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Having a broad organisational focus on the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff across all levels and programs
- Maintaining a continued commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan and deliverables.

In responding to over-representation, the Family Matters Roadmap report highlights the need for greater investment in early intervention, cultural safety, self-determination and accountability. It outlines four building blocks to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and

- culture. They are:
 - All families enjoy access to quality, culturally safe, universal and targeted services necessary for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to thrive.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations participate in, and have control over, decisions that affect their children.
 - Law, policy and practice in child and family welfare are culturally safe and responsive.
 - Governments and services are accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Further, cultural safety is a key feature of many of the strategies outlined in the report; these include culturally-competent services, compliance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and a focus on the strengths of culturally-based child rearing among others. As an organisation we are committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care. We want to achieve positive results by working and partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to keep children safe, cared for, with kin and connected to culture and community. ■

CYBER SECURITY

What can you do?

Today, one of the greatest issues we face on a daily basis is our safety and security online, and that of our children and loved ones.

In a world where social media is life, shopping is done with the click of a button, and trolls no longer live under bridges, our safety and wellbeing online is a problem of our times.

Churches of Christ in Queensland supported Safer Internet Day on 6 February 2018, in an effort to help raise awareness not only on the present dangers online, but simple things that each of us can do to stay safe online.

“Early this year, we were witness to the devastating consequences of online bullying when a young girl with the world at her feet died following relentless bullying online. All children should feel and be safe online, and, conversely, should understand the implications of their ‘faceless’ actions,” Leanne Rutherford said.

There are many benefits for children and young people accessing resources and engaging with friends and family online, and 90 per cent of parents agree. But there are many risks associated with internet use, including children accessing inappropriate content, talking to strangers, excessive use, being bullied, negative self-image and sharing personal information amongst the top concerns for parents.



■ On Safer Internet Day, staff at Kenmore shared how they will be safer online, including (from top) Briarne Manley, CEO Paul Scully and Rachel Robinson.

“I think it is important that parents don't prevent their children from going online, but are smart about how they do and monitor their usage to ensure that they are not engaging in behaviour that, while they may think is innocent, could be putting them or others at risk. It is important to allow children to be open to you about their activities online, particularly if they are being bullied, feel unsafe or access confronting content,” Leanne said.

The office of the eSafety Commissioner has a wealth of resources available for parents to keep their children safe online. There are also a number of strategies parents and guardians can employ to manage web-connected devices in their home. Apple and Android devices, as well as gaming consoles such as PlayStation, Xbox, Wii and Steam, have parental controls that prevent access to potentially harmful content. ■

For more information about being safe online, visit: The Office of the eSafety Commissioner:

www.esafety.gov.au (for children, young people, parents, carers, teachers, women etc)
BeConnected: beconnected.esafety.gov.au (for older Australians)
Queensland Family and Child Commission: www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/its-all-relative-online-safety-tips

Growing God's kingdom & your investments



In the early 1980's, as we approached our centenary year, Conference Executive wanted to find a way to use funds generated by Churches of Christ in Queensland and its churches to establish and promote the reach of our mission work.

In 1983, Centenary Development Foundation (CDF) was founded with the five members of its founding Board each donating \$50.

It has now been 35 years since this first \$250 was contributed, and with up to \$105 million being managed by the fund, the foundation has made a huge impact to our continued reach into communities and supporting people in need.

CDF Group Manager Mike Armstrong, said that the whole team is very proud and thankful to say that they continue to maintain long lasting relationships with their clients.

"We have clients who have been with us from the very beginning, including some of the original Board and founding members. Many of the families who have funds invested in CDF have been associated with us for over three generations," Mike said.

As the treasury arm of Churches of Christ in Queensland, CDF operates as a Religious Charitable Development Fund, under an exemption to the Banking Act 1959 granted by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

"Since CDF began, we have proudly assisted many churches with loans to acquire vehicles and equipment, as well as to undertake renovations and build new facilities.

Funds under management have increased from \$250 in 1983 to as high as \$105 million. We are still growing thanks to the support of many churches and loyal individual clients," Mike said.

To increase their visibility in the marketplace and amongst churches, CDF have launched a new website (cdf.org.au), a new Funeral Plan booklet to assist clients, as well as their active Facebook page and revamped documentation.

If you would like to help us achieve our mission of bringing the light of Christ into communities, and take practical action towards helping others, one way to do this is to invest with CDF.

Two new investment products will be of great interest to those who wish to support our mission activities, while the traditional term investments and Funeral



Since CDF began, we have proudly assisted many churches with loans to acquire vehicles and equipment, as well as to undertake renovations and build new facilities



Plan remain the mainstay of our product offerings.

New investment products Growth at Call investment

This investment is ideal for both our churches and paid staff—something between 'at call' and 'term', with an interest rate that increases with bonuses. It's an ideal way for staff to save for a specific goal such as a holiday or anniversary or to set funds aside for an emergency.

Churches who invest in a Growth At Call investment will find their interest income is significantly more than they would usually earn by leaving funds in their bank working or at call accounts.

Funds will always be available at call and can be transferred to a bank account on the same day the withdrawal request is received by CDF, if before 3pm.

Churches and paid staff are encouraged to contact us for more information.

Chaplaincy Fund

The Chaplaincy Fund allows investors to support the Christ-inspired care and compassion that our chaplains provide to vulnerable people at different stages of their life journey.

Chaplains serve across our services and in our wider communities providing the very best pastoral and spiritual support to people every day.

In any one month, our chaplains in our residential aged care services engage in more than 800 conversations with residents and their families.

Our housing and community chaplains deliver over 240 food hampers to struggling families each month. They intervene in personal crisis situations, host barbeques to build relationships and connection, and listen to people wherever they may be.

Our chaplains visit and support people suffering with grief and loss in

rural areas, provide pastoral care to those in many local communities, and work with them to create the kind of healthy community they may imagine for themselves.

The Chaplaincy Fund basics:

- A special launch offering for new funds only, of 3 and 6 month term investments with variable interest rates initially set at our current term rate for each period, plus 0.25% pa.
- Rates:
 - 3 Months $1.95 + 0.25 = 2.20\%$
 - 6 months $2.00 + 0.25 = 2.25\%$
- Investors have the option to donate part/all interest to Churches of Christ in Queensland to fund our Chaplaincy work - a Tax Deductible Receipt will be issued.
- Minimum investment amount \$3,000.
- Choose the term of investment: 3 or 6 months with auto rollover available.
- Fund will be unsecured but covered by assets of Churches of Christ in Queensland.
- Donation of capital is also possible at maturity and again, a Tax Deductible Receipt will be issued.

Grants

Since 1986, CDF has provided over \$1 million worth of grants to churches. This has only been possible because of the faithful support of our loyal clients - churches and individuals alike. Once again, we are proud to be offering grants totalling \$25,000 this financial year.

With your support, this amount can increase next year. ■

Invest with CDF

If you would like to invest with CDF, please call one of our friendly team on 1300 659 644 or email us at: info@cdf.org.au.

Our new website also has everything you need to know including frequently asked questions www.cdf.org.au

Helping hand

HumeRidge Church of Christ holds a number of programs to help people in the community, particularly those like Deng who have found a new home in Toowoomba.

HumeRidge English Centre

HumeRidge English Centre was established in 2012 to meet the growing needs of community. The centre supports refugees, migrants and students in learning English, understanding Australian culture, driving assistance and supporting practical needs as they arise.

TESOL Classes

Wednesday Night 6.30-8.00pm
(during school terms)

These classes cater for students in Beginner and Advanced levels.

Saturday English 10am-12:30pm

For students from on all levels - beginner, intermediate and advanced. ILT's assistance is also available on Saturday's.

Homework Help

Tuesdays 3:30-5:00pm
(during school terms)

Homework help is provided to students from migrant and refugee families. Children and youth from Prep to Grade 12 are assisted through one on one and small group interaction.

Leaders and helpers at Homework Help are required to hold a Blue Card. For further information contact Pastor Ross Savill or Youth Worker Lauren England.

Conversational English

Understanding Australian conversational English can be very difficult for new speakers of English. Through one on one and small group interactions we seek to assist in helping our students understand how to communicate in everyday life situations.

Driving Instruction

HumeRidge assists learner drivers by providing supervision for learners. Learner drivers must supply their own vehicle and be fully insured. Blue Cards are held by all supervisors driving with youth under 18 years of age.



■ Deng Arok and Ross Savill (left and second from left).

HumeRidge creating home

HumeRidge Church of Christ in Toowoomba will be cheering by the road as one of their own, Deng Arok, carries the Queen's Baton through the streets in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in April.

Deng was born to South Sudanese parents in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya in 1999, in the midst of the Second Sudanese Civil War.

In 2004 his family found a home in Toowoomba, where, Deng said, he has only ever felt welcome.

Deng is a mentor to other young people at HumeRidge Church of Christ under the guidance of Pastor Ross Savill.

Ross said Deng was "an outstanding young man" who "exemplifies" all the good in people.

“We didn't have any strategy. It just began because kids turned up at our programs and all of a sudden there were more coming”

Ross manages youth programs and a homework help initiative that attracts a number of young people from refugee backgrounds, and is just one of the many community organisations in the city who are committed to helping the newly-arrived refugees find connection in their community.

"It's hard to put a finger on one thing that's made a difference," he said.

"The Toowoomba community...

it's not perfect by a long shot, but I think there's a lot of people who have worked hard to assist with this whole deal.

"I'm not saying that's not happening in other places but we've been very fortunate."

On his own church's work in the refugee community, Ross said "it was not planned."

"We didn't have any strategy. It just began because kids turned up at our programs and all of a sudden there were more coming.

"We've come to hear their stories and understand their situation, and based on our beliefs, getting involved and trying to help these people is an important part of how we believe we should respond.

"Foundationally, we believe that everyone matters and everyone is as important as each other," he added. ■

Physiotherapy partnerships growing



■ Physiotherapy students from Griffith University found out there is much more than they expected to working with people living in aged care.

Four young budding physiotherapy students in their first year of their master's program have completed their first ever placement at Churches of Christ Care Marana Gardens Aged Care Service on the Gold Coast.

The students didn't know what to expect.

"I'd heard that aged care was all about massage," physiotherapy student Zi said.

"We weren't even sure if we were going to work with a physiotherapist but I was fortunate enough to get placed with a physiotherapist who really cared about my learning experience."

The students were involved in hands-on manual therapy treatments, running high level balance classes, and strengthening residents in their new gym at Marana Gardens, dubbed the Marana Muscle House.

"I never thought I'd be doing chest presses with a 101 year old on placement" said William. "I think staying active is such an important aspect of life that will help people live fuller lives for longer. I've seen how impactful physiotherapy can be to the aged population."

While gaining valuable experience, the placements have also removed the stigma surrounding entering aged care as a physiotherapist, which is not seen as the most glamorous area to practice.

"I completely changed my thoughts

“I think staying active is such an important aspect of life that will help people live fuller lives for longer. I've seen how impactful physiotherapy can be to the aged population”

about [working in] an aged care facility and what you can do for elderly people as a physiotherapist. It is not just about massage and assessment but more about getting residents active. It was awesome to see and help the residents to participate in the fun fitness class and using the equipment in the gym," Zi said.

Taylah helped run a balance class. "I forgot halfway through if I was having fun or actually doing work" she admitted. "I would seriously consider this as a future career."

"We were aware that regular resistance exercise resulted in increased muscle mass, reduced falls and better bone density in people in their 90s," said Tristan. "It was great to see that out in the real world."

The students at Marana Gardens were among 15 Griffith University physiotherapy students placed across nine residential aged care facilities in the south east region.

"We don't normally receive feedback from students out on placement. But all we've heard (from Church of Christ Care) is students raving about their experiences" said Taryn Jones, head clinical co-ordinator at Griffith University.

Marana Gardens physiotherapist, Scott Rissmann, is a former Griffith University Master of Physiotherapy graduate and is really excited about the partnership that is being built with Griffith University. The young students and their classmates are all potential future employees.

Churches of Christ Care has recently hired two new graduates from Griffith who are now working at the Gold Coast in our residential aged care services.

With continuing growth in the aged care sector, it is a privilege to be able to shape the minds of young passionate physiotherapists and equip them with the skills to deliver best practice therapies and to give our residents the best quality of life possible. ■

Together, as churches, mission and care services, we invest in unique and innovative programs and ministries that bring uplift and transformation to the lives of individuals and communities. We invite you to partner with us through making a regular or once of gift.

Listen. Comfort. Empower.

Give the gift of a Community Chaplain.

Bring sustainable health solutions to Northern Vanuatu.

Support Medical Santo deliver vital health care.

Help a young person in care re-engage in education.

Support CYCLE - Believe and Achieve program. (Child, Youth Centre for Learning and Employment).

Every contribution makes a difference and helps ensure the long-term sustainability and expansion of these vital ministries and programs. These initiatives do not receive government funding and are only made possible by donations, partnerships and income from other Churches of Christ in Queensland activities.

To find our more, visit cofc.com.au/mission-enterprises.

Give today: 1800 600 900
cofc.com.au/give



Bundaberg Church of Christ provided Christmas Lunch for 153 people from the local community.

Spreading the joy

I would like to support: Community Chaplains Medical Santo CYCLE

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 Exp Date ____/____ CVV _____
 Name on card: _____
 Signature: _____

- Cheque/Money Order is enclosed payable to Churches of Christ Care
- I have included Churches of Christ in Queensland in my Will
- I would consider including Churches of Christ in Queensland in my Will

Churches of Christ in Queensland values your privacy and will only send you information regarding news, events and special appeals that are conducted by Churches of Christ in Queensland. We will never pass your information to a third party. For our full Privacy Policy please go to cofcqld.com.au.

For further information please phone **1800 600 900**

I want to be a regular giver.
 Please charge my Credit Card
 \$ _____ each month until further notice.

Or
 My gift today is
 \$100 \$50 \$30
 Other Amount \$ _____

On Christmas Day Bundaberg Church of Christ provided a free, three-course luncheon to 153 people from the Bundaberg community. Leaflets were distributed through the various community service providers in Bundaberg, and for the third year in a row, the event was booked out with a week to go.

Food was largely donated by local businesses and prepared by volunteers. Visitors got to enjoy choices of entree and dessert, and there were generous helpings of the main course.

On the day 24 people helped to serve, clean up, and interact with the guests, and two buses ferried many of the people to and from their homes.

Event Director, Peter MacSween said "The value of the volunteers was incalculable. Everybody had a heart for the event. Their input was greatly appreciated - from the meeter/greeters right through to the people who washed up and cleared the hall. Irrespective of the type of job they



This is now the third year we have run this luncheon, and each year I am amazed by the generosity of so many local businesses who provide food

were doing, they all put their heart and soul into it and that was the true feeling of why they were involved."

One guest expressed her appreciation by email: "Thank you! I was dreading Christmas Day on my own. Friends go to family. My nearest relatives are in New Zealand. The meal was excellent! To all involved, thanks." "This is now the third year we have run this luncheon, and each year I am amazed by the generosity of so many local businesses who provide food, and for our amazing volunteers who so willingly give their time on Christmas Day, in order to give enjoyment to others," Senior Pastor Symon Pratt said. "While I find it sad that there are so many people out there who have no one to share Christmas Day with, I am so encouraged by the volunteers' willingness to serve. Our Christmas Messages have centred on the concept of 'Jesus in the Neighbourhood', and I am so glad that as a church, we have demonstrated, in practice, what this means." ■



Bundaberg to Bethlehem

Last December, Churches of Christ in Queensland provided sponsorship for Bethlehem Live, a four-night event run by the Combined Churches of Bundaberg, in conjunction with Scripture Union. More than 8,000 people walked through a replica of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. To enter the village area, guests had to register for the census and many Roman soldiers made sure they conformed.

The village of Bethlehem, while not strictly authentic, provided an atmosphere that was sufficiently realistic for visitors to see what it would have been like in Jesus' days. As they walked down the streets, they saw fishing nets being made by hand and a full-sized, wooden donkey cart being crafted.

There were weaving stalls, samples of fine material, stone-ground bread and the inn with a sign that said NO ROOM.

In a separate area, the nativity account was proclaimed at intervals each evening while local Christians and Middle-Eastern animals brought the scene to life. There was even a cantankerous donkey that refused to carry Mary.

The success of Bethlehem Live was, in no small way, due to the good-natured co-operation and hard work of more than



■ Above and top Bethlehem came to Bundaberg in December, depicting life in the time of Jesus' birth.

500 volunteers from 20 local churches, supported by 50 Youth With A Mission interns from all over the world.

Event director, Lisa Hardie, said "It is exciting to be in a community where churches are passionate about working together. Our event has grown quickly over the past two years and I have been amazed at how well it has been received by both Christians and the broader

community."

The organisers were pleasantly surprised to discover that visitors had driven from places as far away as Brisbane, Toowoomba and Gladstone just to see and experience this amazing event.

Outside the model village, organisers also set aside space for service providers, including our local care services, to set up displays that gave them an opportunity to connect with their client base in an informal setting.

Our care services worked together to promote our local programs across the Children, Youth and Families services, and Retirement Living. Anne McWhirter, the Service Manager for the Wide Bay Children, Youth and Families, said "It's been a great event. Lots of people who've come through have said they have really enjoyed being part of it. Seeing everything live has been really good, and it's been lovely seeing kids enjoying the space here."

Sponsorship support of Bethlehem Live was greatly appreciated by the organisers. "It has been exciting to see sponsors come on board to support the event and to be on-site to provide support and information about their services," Lisa said. ■

Esther to continue dream of helping others



■ Ken Wiltshire (left) and Carol Kesson (centre) with Esther Ballantyne as she received her scholarship to study towards a career in the caring profession.

Each year, Ken Wiltshire proudly presents the Beryl Wiltshire Scholarship to individuals who are destined to study towards a career in the caring profession.

In 2017, the worthy recipient was Esther Ballantyne from Springwood, who will be completing studies to re-enter the nursing profession after her registration lapsed following the birth of her third child in 2013.

"My hope is to return to work to care for the very young and premature babies, or working in aged care.

"As a family, we [also] wish to undertake a two year secondment in 2019/2020 to somewhere we can make a unique difference. We are currently in contact with [Churches of Christ] Medical Santo in Vanuatu. We have returned from a two-week trip last year with much enthusiasm and love for the people of

Vanuatu and the clinic that is making such a difference to the local people,"

Esther said she wanted to work in the caring profession since she was a young child, when she could often be heard declaring that she wanted to work as a missionary doctor. She has worked as a missionary nurse and midwife in a rural hospital in Zambia.

"I chose this career as I feel God blessed me with skills to care for others in many different ways. I love helping, caring and making a difference in others lives," she said.

Esther is a committed member of Springwood Church of Christ, where she teaches Sunday School and has taken on a vital role in the church playgroup and she teaches religious instruction at the local state school, and has done so for the past 10 years.

"I have held jobs in the caring and community sector since I was legally able to, and with this scholarship money, the adjustment to my going from full time stay-at-home-mum to studying to returning to work will be made much more comfortably."

Beryl Wiltshire AM was a highly respected leader in welfare and community work in Australia especially during her long and distinguished career with Churches of Christ Care. She was also Queensland Mother of the Year and received the Order of Australia for service in the field of social welfare on Australia Day 1996.

She was a friend, counsellor, and mentor, to any who were in need and sought her help and advice. Beryl had a particular talent for identifying the potential in people and quietly assisted many with funding for their education and training to get them started in their career. This scholarship continues the tradition she established and is designed to meet the tuition and associated costs of a person or persons who wish to embark on a career of service within the social, welfare, human services, and caring sector.

An annual sum of \$5,000 is available to fund one or more scholarships for study towards a qualification at any educational or training organisation which may lead to a career in the caring profession. The scholarship is open to persons of all ages and there are no conditions for candidacy. ■

Oak Towers enjoys new garden



It started with a desire to turn an under-utilised area into a new garden space to be enjoyed by all, but thanks to local generosity, Oak Towers Aged Care Service in Oakleigh received a garden overhaul.

Gardens and gardening are so important to health and wellbeing, particularly for people living in aged care. Oak Towers' Lifestyle Coordinator Sally Davoren approach Bunnings hardware store to see if they could help with donating supplies to create a space for the residents.

"With the idea of turning an unutilised area into a new and improved garden that can be enjoyed by our residents, I approached our local Bunnings for possible assistance. Bunnings are committed to participating in the communities in which they operate and can contribute and provide on-going assistance and support to local projects.

With a visit from their activities coordinator, it was suggested the bigger the project, the more stores they could approach to lend a hand so why not look at it from a wider scope looking at all areas of the facility that may need improving.

"With the promised hands-on assistance, I began working on plans. My major focus was creating our new garden space in between our Boronia and Hibiscus unit that could be used also as a healing garden. It was to be a garden that stimulates all five senses - sight, smell, taste and touch. The plants and materials in the garden are specifically chosen for their scent, texture, colour and edibility."

After many emails, meetings and visits over 10 months, the day finally arrived.

"We had up to 25 workers arrive from over five stores with an abundance of donated plants, mulch and material.

The volunteers spent the day sanding and varnishing outdoor benches, revamping areas with new plants, working on the new sensory healing garden and building a new raised vegetable patch for the new resident garden group.

"We put on a morning tea for the helpers who had a chance to meet some of our residents whose lives they were truly enhancing.

The garden was further uplifted thanks to the work of an artist who was volunteering on the day.

"We were lucky enough to also have the presence of one of the workers being an artist who was able to paint a mural on a wall in our new garden.

"The project was slightly bigger than expected to have completed all in one day. As the day came to an end, the coordinator advised the work would be on-going and they would continue with their support and relationship with us.

"Our new healing garden is already being enjoyed by the residents and will continue to expand as we contribute and add our own personal touches to the space focusing on stimulation of all five senses.

The first Oak Towers garden group meeting took place on 13 February, and as promised Bunnings returned and assisted with potting flowers in hanging baskets and pots that once again were kindly donated by our local South Oakleigh Bunnings store. We are



Barcoo's 'Wanderland'

A well known quote from Audrey Hepburn goes: "to plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow".

It is the reflection of the great times and memories about the past and the hope and belief in a just as wonderful if not better tomorrow, that has been the symbolism and meaning behind the vision for the Wanderland Garden at Barcoo Living Multi-Purpose Service in Blackall.

The dream for Wanderland drifts way back over two years ago when the team noticed the lack of an enjoyable, relaxing, serene garden space for their residents to enjoy. This spurred our From Little Things, Big Things Grow Garden Project where a cohort of residents, staff and volunteers transformed the small garden space at the back of the facility into a private, relaxing garden scene, mostly grown from cuttings from the retirement village.

Service Manger Lorraine Withington said that to witness the purpose and motivation spark up within residents as they took ownership of this garden was extremely rewarding and was the key motivation to think bigger and better on what more goals we could achieve here at Barcoo Living. "One of the special roles that came to life from the project was our very own landscaper and horticulturalist 96 year old Edna who was the driving force behind that project," Lorraine said.

Lorraine said the idea came from a bigger vision. "As the project name suggests 'from little things, big things grow' the idea for a much larger, dementia orientated, secure garden that would give all our residents the autonomy and liberty of being outdoors as they please came to light, and the determination to see the concept come to fruition was amazing," Lorraine said.

For Lorraine, comparing our lives to gardens doesn't deny the fact that life is filled with toil, sweat, and pain and nor does it deny the fact that our lives are subject to elements completely outside our control (such as seasons of growth and abundance, seasons of death and decay, storms disease and weather).

"Life, like a garden also affirms the idea that there is a tomorrow and that



■ Above, a section of the completed 'Wanderland' garden. Top, a resident helps to tend to the garden.

you have the power to cultivate your life and the richness within the gardens of our lives is less dependent upon what nature (or circumstance) does to it, and more dependent on what we do to it."

One of the best lessons learnt from gardening is that life is dependent upon lives of others.

"Plants and gardens simply do not exist on their own, they require the shared elements of life. No plant can live for itself, it lives because of others and it lives to give life to others. In a similar way our lives are not purely for our own will and pleasure. We live because of others, we live to give to others. That is what defines the 'Wanderland' garden, it has come to life because of many people who have given of themselves to give life to this garden," Lorraine said. "Let's look at what gardens can teach us about life and we also hope you see the hidden fact that we might think that we are nurturing a garden, but of course it's our garden is really nurturing us." ■



■ Volunteers are currently required for a number of opportunities, including supporting those who live in aged care live an abundant life.

Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good without financial gain.

Each year we celebrate the dedication, commitment and contribution of our amazing team of volunteers during National Volunteer Week from 21-27 May.

We are privileged to have over 1,300 registered volunteers who assist across our communities.

Group Manager Volunteer Services Jodie Mears said that in the past year, volunteers have made a significant impact to the lives of thousands of people.

“Thanks to the open-heartedness of people in our communities responding to the call to action, our volunteer program continues to thrive and make a difference across Queensland, Victoria and Vanuatu,” Jodie said.

“Our volunteers willingly donate their time and skills so that we can add value to the great work being achieved by our paid workforce, and most importantly they are donating their time to connect

With
an
open
heart



with and build a sense of community around the vulnerable people we are all here to serve. We can easily identify the benefits of volunteering. There are benefits to society, benefits to organisations and benefits to all of the people involved. In its purest form, volunteering is simply people helping people.”

“We offer a diverse range of opportunities for people who are interested in making a meaningful difference to the lives of others.”

Here are just a few of the volunteer programs and opportunities currently available.

Imagine the difference you could make - current volunteer opportunities

DigiAsk

Vulnerable people without digital skills or access to the latest technology are more likely to encounter profound disadvantage because they miss out on the online opportunities that improve

health and social connectedness, education and employment.

DigiAsk is a Churches of Christ Housing Services initiative and we are currently recruiting Human Wayfinder volunteers who will use their mentoring skills to help disadvantaged and vulnerable people learn about the range of services available to them through using the latest technology.

Volunteers not only need information technology expertise, but also need to be enthusiastic and willing to share their knowledge and experience. They will spend their time with a variety of clients, ensuring they have a positive and rewarding experience.

Supporting seniors in residential aged care

Our volunteer program creates the vibe in our residential aged care homes. Bringing uplift, significance and socialisation to the people living in an aged care environment is a very rewarding experience for everyone involved. Volunteer roles like ‘Dust & Chat’, ‘Knit & Natter’ and ‘Rise & Shine’ help embed our Positive Wellbeing Model of Care. We are seeking volunteers to join with us in providing individualised activities, social experiences, dementia care, beauty therapy and many other aspects of keeping our people connected with everyday life, fun and adventure. If that sounds like something you could be a part of, we have a place for you now.

Volunteer Doctors - Vanuatu (Experience essential)

As you will have read on page 14, we currently urgently need experienced volunteer medical doctors to support the provision of health services to the people of northern Vanuatu. We need medical doctors who have sufficient experience to adapt to the limitations of practicing in a developing country and who will respect and work with the local culture. Experience in developing countries or rural and indigenous health settings would be an advantage.

For more volunteer opportunities and to express your interest, go to imaginevolunteering.com.au or email volunteers@cofcqld.com.au. Join with us in celebrating and thanking our dedicated team of volunteers during National Volunteer Week from 21-27 May. For more information, go to nvw.com.au. ■

The Basics

When I was in my late-teens, a family moved from India back to Australia and joined our church. They had been serving as medical missionaries for many years on the sub-continent and had achieved an incredible amount over that time. The lives of many very poor people were served and healed physically and spiritually because of their sacrifice.

Naturally, when they returned to our church we were interested to meet these people who previously we had only heard stories about through letters and the occasional photo. We were also all pleased that their return included their five teenage and young adult children who swelled our youth group instantly.

What we didn’t predict was their expectation that youth group was not about running social games nights but about discipling young people in the Christian faith. Prior to their appearance, youth group was pretty much about fun and games with a small devotional tacked on before the cordial and biscuits. These returned missionaries were horrified that the youth of the church were not ‘on fire’ for Jesus!

They immediately started a Sunday afternoon Bible study at their place and invited the youth. Not many went at first but a couple of us were tempted by the food after the Bible study – wonderful, spicy Indian cuisine! I along with some others eagerly ‘smelt’ our way to their house and endured the Bible study before stuffing ourselves with the most wonderful flavours... seeing how hot we could take it!

However, slowly over the months that passed, each of us became ‘hooked’ on the Bible we were studying. The food was still great but our primary motivation was now the Bible studies and deep conversations and prayer that accompanied them. The little Bible study group started to burn with the flames that that couple had been praying for as each of us made decisions for Christ and started walking the path of a disciple of Christ through baptism. The adults of the church saw the transformation of its youth from social animals to serious followers of Christ as month by month numbers of baptisms increased. In a couple of years our little group increased from about 15 to 120 as we shared with and invited friends along.

We do so much, busy activity in church these days. It is my privilege to visit many churches across Australia. They are filled with warm hearted people who often offer hospitality. The music is increasingly professional, the lighting is good, the seats are comfortable and the services are well curated but I often wonder whether it is sometimes getting in the way of a personal and transformative encounter with Jesus. All the series and programs are designed to help that, I know, but we best remember that our primary goal is a life changing encounter of each individual and community with Jesus. It is my experience that prayer, simple worship, Bible study and warm fellowship are the things bring people to Jesus. It changed my life 35 years ago and I am eternally grateful. ■

*Dr Andrew Menzies
Stirling Theological College*



■ Warrawee resident John enjoys the focus on wellbeing and the freedom, security and comfort he has experienced.

Wellbeing at the centre of care in far-west

Staff at Churches of Christ Care Warrawee Aged Care Service, St George, have embraced a new approach to their service delivery to seniors in the Balonne region.

The award-winning Positive Wellbeing Model of Care was introduced at the service, which focuses on individual's preferences in the care they receive.

Late last year, the new model to the service, which means staff deliver more individualised care that focuses directly on the five essential needs of an individual: comfort, identity, occupation, integrity and attachment.

Regional Manager Lynda Summers said that each aspect has been designed to cater to the specific requirements of quality care.

"No longer is the service a 'nursing home' focusing on the old ways of doing things. The focus is on making each person's day the very best every day," Lynda said.

As part of the implementation of the

model, said a number of innovative programs to involve individuals and groups are being designed to cater to individual preferences.

John Mills, a retired banking executive, is a resident at the service and expresses his satisfaction with the care he receives.

"Ever since I have been here I have had freedom, security and comfort. The rooms are spacious, the food is good and I get to do what I want to do. The staff are very friendly and I can see positive improvements in what the management and organisation is doing for the residents here," John said. ■

There will be a number of opportunities coming up for the community to visit the Alfred Street, St George service and discover more about the changing face of care for older people in the Balonne region. For more information, contact Warrawee Aged Care Service on 07 4620 2000.

Something to learn

You know what it's like. The sermon has just finished, and suddenly you think 'I've got no idea what I just heard'. Or perhaps 'I heard it, but I wish I didn't'. Hopefully it doesn't happen too often, but I suspect we've all been there. You sit through a sermon, and afterwards wonder why. Why would I want to listen to that?

I've been training preachers for eight years, and I've heard all the extremes along the way. Ironically, perhaps the worst thing that can happen to your enjoyment of preaching is to learn about preaching. I remember attending my first preaching class in 1995. We learnt a lot about what good preaching is, listened to our fellow students preach and tried to provide helpful feedback for them. And somewhere in that process of listening to others and studying great preaching, I learned to be a critic. Suddenly my appreciation for listening to a sermon fell, as I'd compare a sermon I heard to what it was "supposed" to be.

Others have told me that listening to sermon podcasts makes it worse too. They listen mid-week to Andy Stanley, John Piper, Bill Hybels, Erwin McManus and Greg Boyd, then turn up to church on Sunday and are surprised that their home preacher doesn't reach such lofty heights.

There are a few things you can do though, to help you find something in every sermon.

In every sermon, there is something in it for you. It might not be what the preacher intends. It probably isn't what you expect either. But, if God wants you to be His representative here on Earth, if He wants you to join Him in His mission, if He wants you to become more like Jesus, then you'd have to expect Him to challenge, guide and communicate with

you. Given that the preacher is filled with God's Spirit, prayed over the message during preparation, prayed for impact before and during their preaching, and that you too have God's spirit, then surely, surely, there is something in the message for you. So, look for it. Pray for it. Don't sit through the sermon thinking How does this compare to the world's best preacher I listen to on my podcast? Don't look for material for your weekly pastor roast over lunch. Instead look for



“ look for what is good in the message, look for what God might have in there for you. Surely the wisdom of Phil 4:8 can help us here whatever is good - think about such things. ”

what is good in the message, look for what God might have in there for you. Surely the wisdom of Phil 4:8 can help us here whatever is good – think about such things.

As well as praying that you can find what God has for you in the sermon, there's other praying that can help too. As he or she starts, pray that they feel God's presence, are guided by Him as they speak, that lives may be changed. Pray before, during and after the message for the preacher. Try praying for the listeners too, that they too can find something good in the message. Maybe, just maybe, God would like us to be different as a result of this day.

Finally, if your judgment says that most of the sermons you have heard are awful, then notice carefully what is common with them all. I'm sure you're right, that there are massive weaknesses in the sermons. There are in mine. But all too often, our so-called critical discernment of preaching is not much more than our own judgment in action. What does it say about our own hearts when we constantly see what is negative? How does that fit with Phil 4:8? What if God looked at us that way? When I was in primary school, teachers often would say that when you point your finger at someone else, remember that three fingers are pointing back at you. Jesus said something about that too. Let's be careful that we don't develop bitter, closed and judging hearts.

While you're praying for something for you in the message, for the preacher and for other listeners, how about pray for your own heart too? ■

Stephen Parker works for the Australian College of Ministries



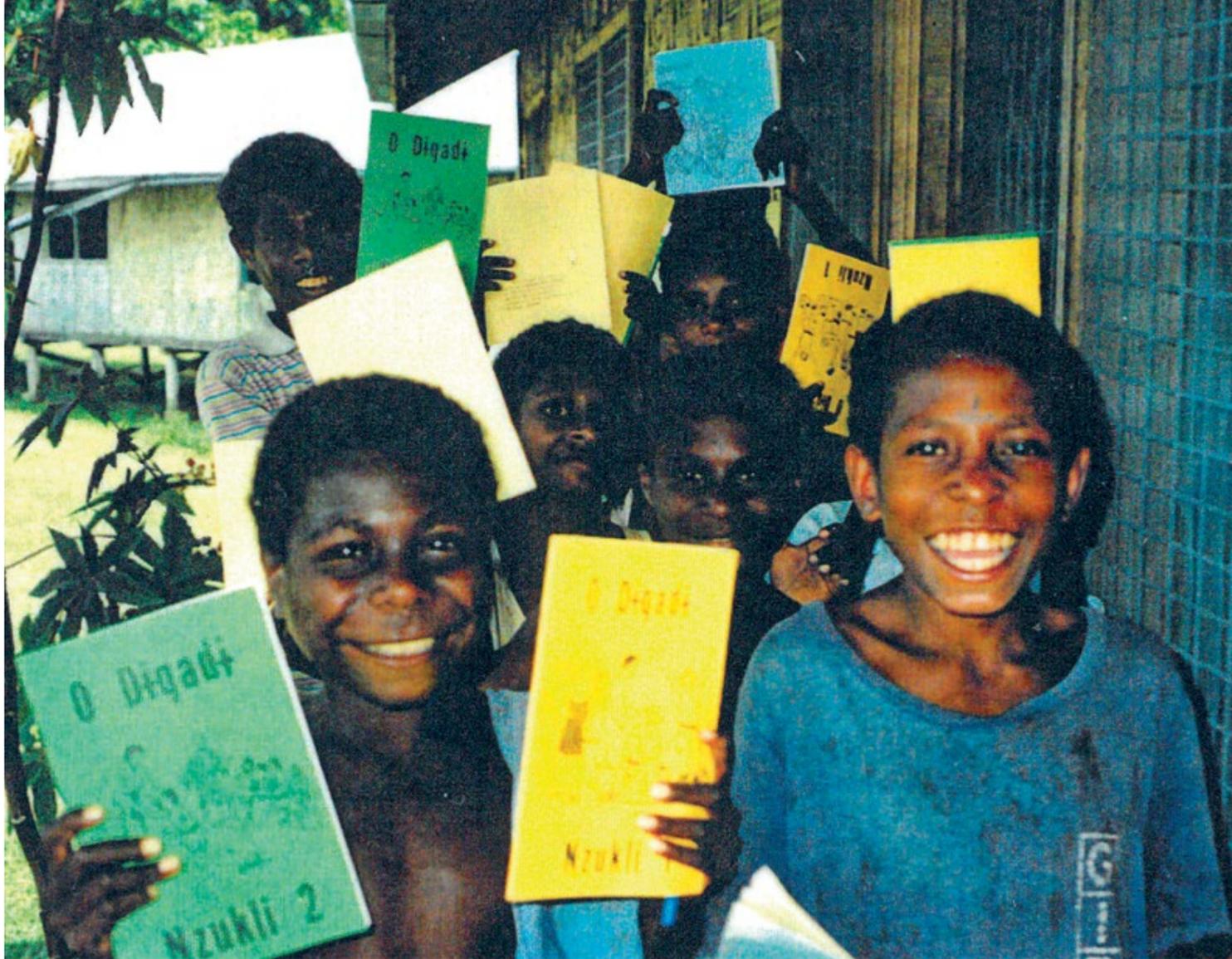
Pioneering Papua New Guinea

Our connection to Vanuatu is well known and talked about. But Churches of Christ in Queensland also has had a standing relationship with our northern neighbours, Papua New Guinea. Frank Beale and Harold Finger, two eminent figures in our history, were tasked with establishing a mission in an area with no school, hospital or other major church presence. The following is an extract from *The Church from the Paddock* second edition.

There was a strong Queensland connection to the opening of a new mission field in Papua New Guinea, which was authorised by the Federal Conference in 1956. Frank Beale, along with Harold Finger, was asked to form the advance team to scout out a location in the lower Ramu River in northern Papua New Guinea to base the mission. It was a region that was without schools, medical facilities or other 'major' Protestant missions. Beale and Finger arrived in May 1958, and soon found that there were numerous challenges, including the terrain, the climate, and the numerous languages spread across different people groups. Beale reported that when they built the mission station at Bunapas, the villagers from the five closest villages spoke five different languages. Beale was also joined by his wife, Win, who had a significant medical ministry as well, and their two

young daughters. Beale reminisces that he built "a house from local bush timber with palm bush floors and no doors or fly screens over any opening [resulting in] plenty of mosquitoes!" Over the next decade, Beale and his fellow workers pioneered new mission stations on the Ramu and Keram Rivers and their tributaries. Beale's practical theology of mission that he recorded in the 1950s still strikes one as being relevant today. He advocated a view of mission that certainly has an affinity with the modern day workings of Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners and the missionary outlook of many churches. As the work in Papua New Guinea began to consolidate, Beale believed that mission stations or missionary outposts should only be established at the invitation of the local people; he believed that missionaries needed to "develop a sense of belonging" to a community before they

evangelised, and that they also needed to learn the beliefs and practices of the groups they were reaching, "without condoning them - allow the Holy Spirit to change people from within." He also advocated the gospel being presented as "God's love revealed in Jesus" and not as law based system of "do's and don'ts". One of Beale's strongest beliefs and practices was that the missionaries came as friends - often to the extent that if the missionaries walked into a village, but there was no villager prepared to introduce them, or there was hostility toward their presence, they would simply move on. All the while, these pioneers had a vision of a Papua New Guinean church that would be in existence some 50 years later, self-supporting and reaching out. The work progressed relatively quickly from the pioneering stages. In 1961, a site was chosen for a hospital complex at Bunapas, and



by 1964 work had been established in six villages, four of which had schools, and there were three locations that had medical work. Importantly, the fledgling churches in the regions were growing. Beale and the others sought to replace themselves in order to establish a truly indigenous form of church and conference system in Papua New Guinea. Sometimes this was not easy, as Beale himself reflected: "At times missionaries experienced heartaches as they watched the indigenous church make decisions". Yet they knew that,

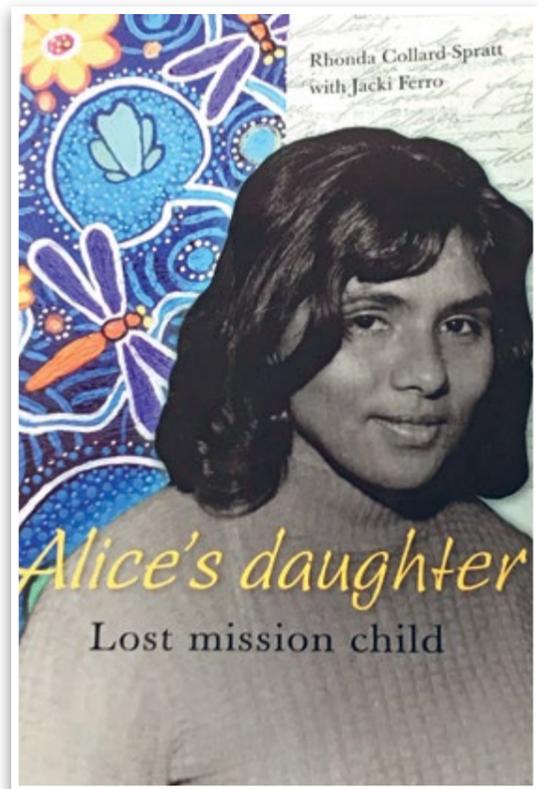
just as they had been led by the Holy Spirit and allowed to make and learn from their own mistakes, so too could the indigenous Papua New Guinean church. Frank Beale's summation of his and Win's time in Papua New Guinea pays testament to that belief: "I spent 15 years being scared and out of my depth. Then when the growth took place it was like body surfing. Working with the Holy Spirit means that you are being carried along with your head only just above water and if you don't ride with it you get dumped and left behind. It was

the greatest 15 years of my life." Frank and Win Beale left Papua New Guinea in 1972, having shared the wave of the work of the Spirit with their co-workers and the growing indigenous church. Frank and Win continued to contribute to the Churches of Christ in Queensland, including church work at Townsville, with Frank also working in chaplaincy at Churches of Christ Care's Fair Haven aged care facility in Maryborough and spending time as the Director of Christian Education for the Queensland Conference. Win died in 1989, and Frank remarried in 1990 to Ros, whom he continued to serve with in both Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Remarkably, some 50 years after riding the wave of the Spirit in Papua New Guinea, Frank was still actively preaching and teaching. Frank Beale passed away in 2016, leaving a legacy of a PNG with an emphasis on evangelism. ■

“Working with the Holy Spirit means that you are being carried along with your head only just above water and if you don't ride with it you get dumped and left behind”

Alice's daughter Lost mission child

A book review



“Alice's Daughter by Rhonda Spratt is a powerful personal story of the author's journey of loss and trauma as she was separated from culture and family. But it is also a story of not being held captive by one's past and being more than a survivor. If anyone is trying to understand and appreciate the impact of Australia's past treatment of the First People, this is a good place to start or to gain a women's experience of that time. It is deeply personal story, which some might find challenging but that in many ways is why it is a good read.— Dr Paul Scully.”

In 1954, aged three, Rhonda Spratt was taken from her Aboriginal family and placed on Carnarvon Native Mission in Western Australia. Growing up in the white-world of chores and aprons, religious teachings and cruel beatings, Rhonda drew strength and healing from her mission brothers and sisters, her art, music and poetry, and her unbreakable bond with the Dreaming. Alice's Daughter is the story of Rhonda's search for culture and family as she faces violence, racism, foster families, and her father's death in custody; one of the first deaths investigated as part of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Coupled with Rhonda's vibrant and powerful paintings and poetry, Alice's Daughter is a journey of sadness, humour, resilience and ultimately, survival.

On the 25 April we recall those who served and died in war. It is a day we remember those who departed the safety of our own shores, for the discomfort, uncertainty and horrors of war in foreign territory. It is a day to remember those who still sleep where they were left, in unknown resting places in every land and whose grave is in the unending sea. It is a time for all Australians to reflect upon the sacrifice of others, made in the struggle of freedom and peace.

It is also an opportunity to explore for the purpose of this article, explore four basic values of the first ANZACS (and that of the Australian Army) that are: courage, initiative, teamwork and respect. My desire is that people from all nations could embrace the words of Jesus Christ being, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). As we progress into the year ahead as people of peace, may we consider what mattered to them:

Courage. Initiative. Teamwork. Respect.

Courage – moral and physical, to act in the best interest of yourself and of others. For a moment, let us consider the unequalled courage of the first ANZACS landing at Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915.

"You have got through the difficult business, now you only have to dig, dig, dig, until you are safe."

It is more than likely that you or I will never have to participate in being fired-upon by a hail-storm of machine-gun fire while jumping out of a landing craft, and charge across an exposed beach with a rifle and bayonet. However, in life we do often face incredible challenges in our lives, whether they be personal or in our chosen profession. Courage – often involves having the fortitude to take on a certain challenge amidst uncertainty. What are some of the challenges in your life at present that require courage?

Initiative – to explore opportunities and embrace innovation to improve our lives. Talk about courage, what of initiative? In the ensuing stalemate at Gallipoli in late 1915, Lieutenant-General William

What mattered to the ANZACs?

WORDS BY HAYDAN PARSONS

Birdwood was given task that meant life or death for the remaining soldiers:

'Birdwood had to get 80,000 troops off two battlefields. He had to do it at night. He had to do it so well that each day when the sun came up everything looked the same as it had the day before. He had to get off 200 guns, 2000 vehicles and more than 5,000 horses and mules and piles of stores.'

Lieutenant-General William Birdwood had his hands full with the logistical nightmare of evacuating the remaining ANZACS and all supplies. With courage, skill and creativity he took employed his initiative and those around him, to successfully evacuated the shores of ANZAC Cove on the 18 December 1915. Often, there are times both in our personal lives and as an employee within Churches of Christ Queensland, when we see what needs doing and take the initiative to get the task done. It often requires careful consideration, skill, courage, and seeking out the right people to help achieve the task.

Teamwork – is to support each other, our families, community, and organisation.

The troops of the Allied Forces that landed at Gallipoli included Infantry, Medical Corp, Light Horse and support from the Royal Navy to name a few. It took much courage, initiative and teamwork to land, support and eventually

evacuate the troops.

Respect – for ourselves, our colleagues and our neighbours. Of the one million men involved in the Gallipoli campaign between one third and one half became casualties. However, one of the greatest acts of mutual respect to come from the horrors of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915, are the moving tribute to the Anzacs killed at Gallipoli is often attributed to Atatürk in 1934:

"Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well".

Ataturk's words of receiving what was were once adversaries, now as sons, is an example of kindness afforded through respect. I believe that the command from Christ to 'love your neighbour' relates directly to the value of respect. In Australia today, there are people from different cultures and perspectives that all have a story, one that we can listen to and learn from, and in doing so grow closer together and build a stronger community through the value and action of mutual respect.

This 25 April is an opportunity to remember those who have served and died in war. It is also an opportunity for reflection, both individually and corporately, to ask ourselves how might we employ further the values of courage, initiative teamwork and respect? ■

Haydn is a Community Chaplain and represents our Movement as a Chaplain in the Army Reserve of the 11th Brigade, here in Queensland. www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/ataturk

ANZAC



A personal reflection on Easter

I've been reflecting recently on the key women in Jesus' life who supported him, learned from him, and were the first to tell of his resurrection to the rest of his disciples. I was intending to read on, however I couldn't go past one particular encounter at the empty tomb recorded in Matthew chapter 28 and John chapter 20.

Mary Magdalene is outside the empty tomb crying and when she turns around, she sees Jesus but doesn't recognise him, until he says her name. She falls to her knees, clasps his feet and worships him. He tells her not to be afraid but to go and take a message to the disciples.

Imagine you were Mary Magdalene at the tomb. Just a few short years earlier, Jesus had healed you and you had given everything to follow him. How could you do anything else? He showed you acceptance and respect when others showed fear and condemnation. He looked into your eyes and you saw love and compassion in his. His touch was gentle yet powerful. You saw him heal the sick, raise the dead, touch lepers, eat with the outcasts, give women places usually reserved for men. He brought total transformation to your life, and you saw him do the same for countless others. You were at his crucifixion. Even when others had fled you stayed. Your love and devotion caused you to stay and witness the most brutal execution.

And while the disciples were in hiding, you went to the tomb with the other women to anoint the body of your Saviour with spices. But you didn't find him there. In your confusion you wondered if the body had been stolen, until you met him. You didn't recognise him at first, you were hardly expecting to meet him like this! But when he said your name, everything became clear.

Everything you witnessed over the past few years came flooding back. The moment your life turned from darkness to light. The leper healed, the little boy raised to life, the feeding of the five thousand, way he taught with such authority, and such love. The time he up-turned the tables in the temple, and saved the women from being stoned. His trial, and brutal execution. His last breath. Your grief was almost too much to bear. But now he is here, alive. How, how could this be?

But you don't wait to ask, you fall at his feet and worship him. And you hold him so tightly you don't want to ever let go. Part of you is afraid. Afraid this isn't real. Afraid he will leave again. And part of you is so filled with love and devotion you don't ever want to leave him again, but he asks you to. He says "Shalom" (which means peace) and tells you not to be afraid. Then he asks if you will be the one to take the message of his resurrection to his disciples and tell them where they can see meet him for themselves. And so you go, you still have tears in your eyes but now they are of joy, not of sadness, of awe, and wonder at what has just occurred.

My question to you is this: how did you bring yourself to let go of him? Such a miraculous, moving and memorable encounter. Did you want to hold him for a moment longer? Did you look back? Was it hard leaving him? Or was it that when he said "Peace", that your whole being stilled like the wind and waves were stilled in the midst of the storm at his very word? And when he said your name was it that the feeling of being truly seen and known and loved so filled your soul that you would do anything he asked?

Do you remember that moment now? Do you tell others? I can imagine the love in your voice as you re-count the stories, remember his touch, his voice, his teaching. It is my prayer that we can catch just a glimpse of what you experienced this Easter. That even the briefest of our glimpses or encounters with Jesus will be memories we hold dear. That the stories we read from you and his other disciples would help us to see Jesus more clearly. And that we might, even in a small way, experience the wonder of the empty tomb and the risen Jesus this Easter. ■

Donna Savill, Mission Action Partner



■ Women from across our movement enjoyed a time of reflection, relaxation and Karaoke.

Bringing new life into live worship

Carolyn Stocks, Renee Shibuya and Ludeen Stocks have been serving our churches and communities in providing worship for church services, playing at community events, providing worship and music at conferences and camps and have been heavily involved in some of our major events for women in Queensland. Carolyn and Renee host the Garden Party at Eimbah on the first Saturday in May and have been instrumental in the new look and feel of the Girls Getaway Retreat on the first weekend in November, where Carolyn has served many years as camp leader.

Carolyn and Renee's gift for leading people in worship shines through at all of their events and draws people together as they join as one to sing in worship. The amount of time in preparation for the music and the messages throughout is evident in the seamless transition and in their ability to create an atmosphere which puts people at ease, puts a smile on everyone's face, and must put a smile on God's face as people are encouraged to allow Him to speak to their hearts.

The Girls Getaway Weekend in November was a testimony to their ability to bring everyone together the



Carolyn and Renee's gift for leading people in worship shines through at all of their events and draws people together as they join as one to sing in worship

great job that Carolyn and Renee do, along with other members of the team: Andi Owen and Donna Savill where over 90 women enjoyed a retreat at Maroochy Waterfront Camp and Conference Centre in air conditioned, twin share, waterfront units. The ladies appreciated the relaxed atmosphere from the time they arrived on Friday afternoon and the inspiration they received on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Saturday afternoon was spent a variety of ways, from relaxing on the verandas, to shopping trips at Maroochydore to boating and paddle boarding adventures on the river.

Women from 20 churches were represented, and even those who hadn't attended a church before felt welcome and inspired by the messages from Heather Foord and Janette Phelan. We look forward to another great retreat again this year from 2-4 November, and to catching up at the Garden Party on 5 May. ■

For more information or to make sure you are on the list to receive registration forms please email Donna Savill on donna.savill@cofcqld.com.au. The 2018 Girls Getaway Retreat will be held 2-4 November.

{ People & Events }

in our communities



Moments in Moonah

Moments in Moonah captured the lives of residents from our Moonah Park Aged Care Service. The exhibition was a part of a project by PhD candidate Tricia King, who spent time at the service getting to know the residents and capture their lives and learn about their own personal histories.



Stanthorpe open day

On 9 December, members from the community had their chance to check out the newly opened extension at Stanthorpe Aged Care Service. Featuring a cottage-model, where residents can enjoy homely comforts while receiving the highest quality of care, the community enjoyed touring the future of aged care in the Southern Downs.
Ros Wells OAM



Generous donation for Access Place

Access Place in Atherton received a helping hand from the local community thanks to a generous donation from the Lions Club Atherton.

Safer Internet Day – meeting

On 6 February, Chief Executive Office Dr Paul Scully and Cheryl Vardon, Chief Executive and Principal Commissioner at the Queensland Family and Child Commission, came together to mark Safer Internet Day and discuss the importance of internet safety.



Buzzing friends at Kenmore

The Kenmore Campus recently welcomed some new residents to their hillside site. Two hives filled with native bees were welcomed to the site. The stingless species of bees, native to the local area, will find plenty of food on the site. The bees represent our commitment to our Reconciliation Action Plan and embracing the flora and fauna native to the area.

Reconciliation in action

On 17 February 2018 Elder Richard Johnson, Elder of the Gooreng Gooreng Nation of the Gladstone Queensland region, invited Christians in the city to share communion on the hilltops of Gladstone. Some 230 years earlier, Rev Richard Johnson, Chaplain to the First Fleet, had held the first Communion for the British colony on Australian soil.



Mums and Bubs at Clive Burdeu

Mothers and their young ones from a local mums and bubs group in Logan visited residents at Clive Burdeu Aged Care Service at Hillcrest recently. The infants brought smiles to the faces of the residents, who enjoyed interacting with their young guests.



Minister visits Ipswich office

The Hon. Mick de Brenni, Minister for Housing and Public Works; Minister for Digital Technology; Minister for Sport visited our Housing Services office in Booval, Ipswich recently. He is pictured with General Manager Frances Paterson-Fleider and CEO Paul Scully with the Housing Services mobile office.



New uniform launched

On 20 March we launched our new uniform range with a fashion parade and chance for staff to view the specially curated range, which includes a custom designed pattern on the material and flattering, stylish and comfortable garments.



Ros Wells OAM

At the front of the choir pictured above, is choir leader Ros Wells. In January, Ros was awarded an OAM for Service to the Performing Arts in the Australia Day Awards.



Farewell Jane Carter

In January, we bid farewell and thanks to long-time staff member, Jane Carter. Jane, most recently Children and Youth Advocate, had a long career with Churches of Christ championing the care and wellbeing of children and young people. She is pictured above with members of the Children, Youth and Families team at Head Office.

Mad Hatter's Poem

It is heart-warming to see the gratitude of clients who have received care, to see that the work of the dedicated staff in our care services truly makes a difference to people's lives.

This poem appeared in the 26 February edition of Woman's Day.

*They bathed me like a child,
They bought by groceries
Although I couldn't eat,
They made my bed
and washed by floors,
They laughed and
joked and let me know
They would be there
to help me
Whenever I had the need.
Dave the gardener came,
and Dave the Gardner went,
With a smile and
a friendly chat.
Todd came by and
did a job or two,
And he never missed a cue.
The girls on the phone were
cute as a button,
They took all the messages
And kept it all runnin'.
Marianne and Danielle
Were the rock of Gibraltar,
Nothing got past them
That they couldn't alter.
Special thanks to Rhonda, Maria
and all the other housekeepers,
They coped when the vacuum broke,
and then again when the mob head fell off.
And with the dogs yapping at their feet,
They patiently did their job.
The weeks went by,
and then the months.
My strength came back, and
I realised the love they gave
me helped me through.
I now stand tall and pass
onto you the faith you
can have
So they can help you too!
Thank you Church of Christ.*

{ Events }

Find us on 

March

MARCH 1 - 29
Month of Prayer

MARCH 8
International Women's Day

MARCH 21
Harmony Day

MARCH 30
Good Friday

April

MARCH 31 - APRIL 9
April National Youth Week

APRIL 1
Easter Sunday

APRIL 2
Easter Monday

APRIL 7
World Health Day

APRIL 13-15
L10 Conference

APRIL 25
ANZAC Day

APRIL 25-30
Foster and Kinship Carer Week

May

MAY 1-30
Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Month

MAY 7-13
National Volunteers Week

MAY 13
Mother's Day

MAY 21-27
National Volunteers Week

MAY 21-28
National Palliative Care Week

MAY 26
National Sorry Day

MAY 27- JUNE 3
National Reconciliation Week

June

JUNE 5
World Environment Day

JUNE 11-17
Men's Health Week

July

JULY 8-15
NAIDOC Week

JULY 17
Centrifuge

August

AUGUST 6-12
Homelessness Prevention
Week

AUGUST 18-26
Queensland Seniors Week

AUGUST 18-26
Queensland Road Safety Week

September

SEPTEMBER 1-30
Dementia Awareness Month

SEPTEMBER 2
Father's Day

SEPTEMBER 2-8
National Child Protection Week

SEPTEMBER 5-6
'Passing the Baton' with Keith Farmer

SEPTEMBER 13
RUOK Day?

October

OCTOBER 8-14
Anti-Poverty Week

November

NOVEMBER 2-4
Ladies Getaway Weekend

NOVEMBER 8
Annual General Meeting

NOVEMBER 8-9
Ministers Forum

More information on
key events will be circulated
closer to the date.

Bringing the light of Christ
into communities



cofc.com.au