BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO COMMUNITIES

We are one

A new centre for aged care Celebrating the completion of our latest development in Warwick Coming together as ONE Recap of Centrifuge 2018 Churches of Christ in Queensland



Find us on













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Editor's update

At Centrifuge in July we came together as ONE to celebrate one story, one moment and one mission that we share. We are called to come together as one, in unity together as we deliver our mission. I hope you are encouraged by the stories in this edition of Networking, as you read about what we are achieving in our communities. We cannot achieve this if we don't work together, these stories flow from a movement that is moving as one, working together towards the one mission. I am reminded of our guiding principles as Churches of Christ: "In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things, love", and hope you find inspiration in this too. Gracing the cover is our One Community Choir who performed at Centrifuge. They embody how we can come together as one voice. We look forward to future performances from the choir. Please enjoy this edition of Networking.

Tim Weatherall Acting Executive Officer Communications

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 23 October 2018.

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update

Gary Edwards

n July, I stepped into the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer following the departure of Dr Paul Scully and was made permanent Chief Executive Officer on 1 September.

I have a longstanding connection and commitment to Churches of Christ in Queensland having served as a Board and Council member for several years, and before that holding various roles across a range of commercial and not-for-profit industries.

My passion is to bring the light of Christ into communities and I am honoured to serve in a role that sees this come into being.

I know that for us at Churches of Christ in Queensland, this is only possible if we travel the road together.

It's a rocky road at times, where we can take missteps or lose momentum. It is also a very privileged and rewarding road to walk along, together, not only for those we serve, but for each other.

Our foundations, all that we have achieved and what we will continue to achieve, rests on the shoulders of those who have gone before us: and indeed those who will come after us.

Our road has been a spiritual and physical journey that has brought us to where we are today, it's one that we continue along.

In taking up the role of CEO, I step down as Chair of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Board. As of 1 September our new Board Chair is Ken Ewald.

Ken re-joined Churches of Christ in Queensland Board of Directors in 2014, after having served for some 18 months in 2009/2010, and has been an active member of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee since that time. Ken has many years' experience as a senior executive within the financial planning and risk advisory sector, along with owning a farming enterprise, and is actively involved in several charitable boards. Ken attends Redlands Church of Christ and has done so for over 25 years. He brings with him, not only sound business experience, but a heart and passion for our Church movement and the people that we care for day to day.

Churches of Christ in Queensland continues to be led by a talented leadership team, with the support and guidance of the Board and Council, who remain totally committed to our reason for being. They are available to listen to you, hear, respond and act on what you have to say.

I ask you to please pray for wisdom and guidance-for us as individuals in the roles we occupy and as an organisation.

There has been so much good work undertaken in our communities and our services, which we heard about at Centrifuge and witness in the pages of Networking ahead, and our eyes remain set firmly ahead, on the best, which is yet to come

You'll read about some of these accomplishments and the wonderful impact we have made on the lives of many individuals for many of these people they have come to us and found hope.

As you read this edition of Networking, I hope you are inspired and that we can come together as one-in unity.

New committees

As an organisation, we are committed to ensuring that we have a space that is safe for all. In 2017, our Council determined that the Professional Standards Unit required a refresh due to changes in the environment our churches now operate. The Council now has two new sub committees to oversee the professional standards of our churches and church leadership: The Ministry Ethics Unit and the Healing and Redress Group. For more information about these committees. please contact the Governance group at governance@cofcgld.com.au.

Annual General Meeting and Ministers Forum

I look forward to seeing you all the Annual General Meeting on 9 November and Ministers Forum over 8-9 November. These will be held at the Churches of Christ Campus, Kenmore Community Centre, in the Auditorium. More information about these events will be sent out soon.

our

Churches of Christ in Queensland Campus Kenmore Old

Once again we will join together in 2018 to celebrate and reflect on our mission of bringing the light of Christ into communities. At our event this year we will reflect on 'Our Sacred Journey' as we join together for two days. We invite all ministering persons to join us and experience the Ministers Forum and take part in the 2018 Annual General Meeting. We also invite ministers, elders, volunteers and other church members to learn about what it means to have a safe church at the Safe Church Workshop as a special addition to the Ministers Forum.

As Ministering persons, within Churches of Christ in Queensland, we have been called by God to undertake a SACRED journey so that the world around us might be blessed. Sometimes we can feel alone on this path and overwhelmed at the size of the task. This is a spiritual journey that cannot be undertaken without the presence and resources of God, and one that is designed to bless and restore the whole world.





For the sake of the world

November 8-9





Coming together as one Centrifuge 2018

n Tuesday 17 July, almost 300 members of the Churches of our Christ in Queensland family gathered to celebrate what brings us togetherour one story, one mission and one moment.

Over the course of the day attendees heard from a range of presenters and were left inspired, engaged and informed

Strumming a guitar as he moved through the crowd, Steve Drinkall sang the 1971 hit by John Denver, 'Take Me Home, Country Roads'.

"Country roads, take me home To the place where I belong West Virginia Mountain mamma, take me home Country roads...."

While the crowd enjoyed singing along to the classic song, perplexed faces sat in the audience, wondering what this song had to do with who we are. Steve explained that it was at the foothills



of the West Virginian Mountains that Churches of Christ was born in 1832. From there, our history has grown, and we were journeyed through where we have come from to where we are today, detailing the story of who we are and what we have achieved.

Today, our story continues and the audience heard tales from our Children. Youth and Families service, and how the Digi Youth Arts project impacted the children and young people who took part. They heard from Housing

Services about how having a home can truly change the path of an individual or family's journey, and from our Seniors and Supported Living services, and the power that making small changes to physical activity can have on an individual's quality of life.

Guest speaker Di Feldman targeted our One Moment together. and demonstrated how we can all collaborate and work together better in our personal and professional lives.

Exploring our one mission, guest speakers Tim Hanna, Claire Madden and John Beckett provided expert guidance that inspired and enlightened, forcing us to look at ourselves and what we do.

The ONE Community Choir epitomised the meaning of the day, joining in one voice to bring uplift and joy to the audience. This is what we are each called to do as part of the Churches of Christ family.

Emcee's Paul Wetzig and Donna Savill guided the day, which, according the feedback, was thoroughly enjoyed by many.



A journey of faith 130 years at Roma

n October, Roma Church of Christ will celebrate its 130th anniversary. One of our oldest churches, it was established a mere six years after Stephen Cheek brought the Church of Christ movement to Queensland. The church will be celebrating its remarkable milestone over the weekend of 20-21 October. All are welcome to join them for a weekend of celebration and reminiscing and giving thanks to God for all those past and present who have walked the journey of faith in Roma.

The church has planned a reenactment of an early years Church Family Picnic, sharing memories over a cup of tea of church life over the years; a Faces of Faith evening where they will remember past members and honour current members, plus lots more.

The beginnings of Roma **Church of Christ** The Roma church held its first



Roma Church of Christ members outside the church in the 1900s.

meeting on 16 October 1888. Sceptical Roma resident, Mr R Whipham, heard Mr Austin Mordaunt, an evangelist of the Church of Jesus Christ, preach at the Brisbane Temperance Hall. Being convinced by his preaching and teaching, he urged Mordaunt to come to Roma. He offered to pay his fare, hire a hall, and give him accommodation if he would come and preach in Roma in the same way he did in Brisbane.

Mordaunt agreed to come. At the first immersion service, nine people were baptised. The minutes from this first church reads: "Mr Mordaunt, having immersed some believers into Jesus Christ, they agreed to constitute themselves as a Church of Christ. The whole Bible and nothing else than the Bible is held to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice."

The Arthur Street Chapel was purchased from the Congregational Church in 1896. This chapel was Roma's first church building.



Many torches shine bright at edge of the world

nen we join together and work as one, we can achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable people in our communities.

This is the truth for an outreach group who have been making a difference to the lives of a struggling community west of Brisbane.

In October 2017 Mission Action Partner Justine Cadena made her first visit to the community of about 40 families. For Justine, it was a confronting sight entering into the community for the first time and seeing the living conditions that she thought didn't exist in our prosperous nation

"Dogs bark behind every fence in protection of possessions strewn around the old caravans and their tatty annexes. The boundary between trash and treasure is completely blurred and hap-hazard disposal of broken furniture, electrical goods and cars provides a playground for the many children that roam the park," Justine said.

Today, an outreach group visit the community each Monday for afternoon tea, ready when the children get off the bus from school. The outreach group is led by Pastor Greg Muller from our Fernvale Community Church, with a group men and women of God who responded to His call to love these people.

"Pastor Greg formed an outreach team who were committed to providing a weekly afternoon tea and an opportunity to form relationships and share the gracegiving love and hope of Jesus," she said.

Residents live with poor sanitary conditions and there are plethora of social issues condensed in one small place. But Justine has seen some light for the residents as the outreach team continues to attend each week, and it is this consistency of attending each week that has won over the community.

"'You keep turning up' they said. And what started with sausages and bread evolved into large scale afternoon teas



ready for when the children get off the school bus every Monday." During these afternoon teas, many life

stories of how they ended up in the park have been shared.

"Most stories involve a series of poor decisions, addictions, and problematic mental health.

"But I have been so encouraged by the willingness of our local churches and other not-for-profits to give time, energy and resources so generously to this community."

Support from the wider network of Churches of Christ in Queensland was sought to help the residents, and God's hand was clearly felt, with a number of parties coming together to provide a helping hand, including:

- Children, Youth and Families donated a no longer needed trailer Church and Community Engagement team who were able to donate it to the outreach effort.
- Whitehill Church of Christ put together 40 large Christmas hampers that were delivered to the 40 families in the park.
- the outreach team holding a very well attended Easter service in the park. The Christian message was



with a built-in barbeque plate to the

Easter this year was a highlight with

shared as well as testimonies and food, and the Lowood Church of Christ gave the Fernvale church money to purchase chocolates for Easter hampers.

- With cold weather at its peak, a number of new residents made it out to the park. Many came without possessions. A call-out for blankets was placed and Whitehill Church of Christ and Boonah Church of Christ responded generously with doonas, blankets, sleeping bags, warm clothing and money for the purchase of food for the outreach
- The outreach team began a collaborative effort with Angels of Somerset, who provide food for the weekly afternoon teas and food hampers for those in dire need.
- The charity Share the Dignity provided the outreach team with close to 30 handbags full of sanitary items for female park residents.

For this important and impactful outreach to continue however, more support is needed.

"Not all people, and not every church is called to work on the front-line, but there are many other forms of support that is required. Prayer is the first. We need prayer for soft hearts ready to receive the gospel message. We need prayer for the health and protection of the outreach team. We need prayer for provision of resources that will allow this outreach to continue and relationships to delve deeper. Then we need resources: material and financial. Petrol for the outreach team, resources to make the afternoon tea process more efficient. We need people available to be part of a working bee to renovate the communal area," Justine said.

If you are interested in any aspect of this endeavour, please contact Justine Cadena on 0423 479 649 or Justine. cadena@cofcqld.com.au

It takes a community

s the old adage goes, it takes a community to raise a child. Churches of Christ Care

is looking to the community to help a group of children and young people who have experienced vulnerabilities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are overrepresented in out-of-home care in Queensland. In 2017, the Family Matters Campaign reported one in two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care are placed away from Indigenous carers.

"Culture is a known strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and maintaining young people's connections to country and culture supports positive outcomes later in life," General Manager Children, Youth and Families Leanne Rutherford said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the right to grow up safe, with family and connected to community and culture."

The Children, Youth and Family Service is holding information sessions for people interested in becoming foster carers and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people's connections to family,

community and culture.

"Any approach to addressing overrepresentation should seek to build up Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to care for their own children and young people," Leanne said.

"Churches of Christ Care supports 2,566 children and young people thanks to the dedication of more than 1,000 foster and kinship carers.

"But we need more people to open their hearts and their homes and provide a safe and culturally connected family environment for children and young people in need."

Throughout September we are hosting a series of information sessions across Queensland to prospective carers.

"We want to connect and talk with people who have thought about helping children and young people who, for whatever reason, are unable to live at home," Leanne said.

"We are particularly seeking people who can provide vital connections to culture. You can have a family or be single, be with or without children, there is no conventional person we are looking for. You just need to be able

to open your heart and your home to provide a safe family environment, and be able to help the young person remain connected to their community."

Churches of Christ Care is strongly committed to and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to have their voice heard in any discussions that effect their children, families and communities.

For those who are interested in becoming foster carers, Leanne said they will receive relevant training and support to ensure they are equipped to care for the children and young people.

"All our carers receive ongoing training and support, including specific training to support and promote culture in young people."

More information about the information sessions and becoming a foster carer can be found at fosterwithus.com.au.

Churches of Christ in Queensland marked Queensland Child Protection Week 2018 over 2-8 September. The week aims to raise awareness that child protection is everyone's business. The responsibility lies with adults in keeping children safe from harm. All members of society need to play a part in ensuring children are nurtured and safe.

New homes to provide choice and independence

We are proud to have worked in partnership with the Queensland Government to help people with a disability and their parents to secure appropriate housing.

or aging parents who care for a son or daughter with a disability, they can face uncertainty and anxiety

A new Crows Nest housing project General Manger Churches of Christ

regarding their loved one's future when they can no longer care for them. by Churches of Christ in Queensland and the Queensland Government aims to alleviate some of this stress by providing appropriate accommodation to provide security, safety and independence for the parents and their son or daughter with a disability. Housing Services Frances Paterson-Fleider said she was elated to be able to offer accommodation to this specific group in the community who often get overlooked.

"We are proud to have worked in partnership with the Queensland Government to help people with a disability and their parents to secure appropriate housing," Frances said.



Artist impression of the new Crows Nest development.

"It will provide elderly parents with a real sense of security and hope for the future because they will see suitable and stable accommodation provided for their loved one with a disability. As the population ages, we are going to see more families in this situation who need assistance.

The Thallon Street development contains two separate properties, a two-bedroom unit with adjoining studio apartment and a one-bedroom unit. Each has been designed to the highest level accessibility standards, meaning it is easier for people with a physical impairment to live independently, with a range of design features making them suitable for people who use a wheelchair.

Located near shops, transport and other community facilities, the development is also close to other Churches of Christ Care services in town, including aged care service and retirement village, which, Ms Paterson-Fleider said, will be available to support the residents.

"Residents will have the option of accessing these services for daily support, including meals, laundry and cleaning."

Managed by Churches of Christ Housing Services with an affordable rent model, the Thallon Street property is available to parents aged 65 and over (or 50 if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) caring for a family member with a disability aged over 30. The single-bedroom unit will be available separately, and would suit an individual living with a disability in the community who requires an accessible home.

The development forms part of the Queensland Government's Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Initiative.

Homelessness Week 2018

Over 6-12 August we marked Homelessness Week 2018

As a Housing Chaplain, I have the privilege of guiding our tenants as they journey from house to home. I see first-hand how securing a safe, secure place to live is the starting point to a better future for many.

omelessness Week is an annual week coordinated by Homelessness Australia to raise awareness of people experiencing homelessness, the issues they face and the action needed to achieve enduring solutions. Churches of Christ Housing Services is a leading provider of housing solutions for people in need.

From house to a home

Graham Wheat, a Community Chaplain working across our Gold Coast housing developments, sees first-hand each day the impact having a home can have on an individual who has experienced homelessness.

"As a Housing Chaplain, I have the privilege of guiding our tenants as they journey from house to home. I see

first-hand how securing a safe, secure place to live is the starting point to a better future for many. I am blessed in my role, to be able to listen, guide and enable our tenants as they travel on that journey," Graham said.

Graham tells the story of a resident couple who had moved into a new home, and after two months had still not unpacked their boxes. When he asked why they had not unpacked, they said that they still thought someone was going to knock on their door one day and let them know that it was a mistake, that they were not meant to be living

in this nice place and that they would have to leave.

Graham was able to assure them that they were meant to be there and to make themselves at home.

Sleeping rough for a cause

n the evening of 14 August, supporters of the UQ Winter Sleepout gathered in their warmest jackets and with sleeping bags in tow and ventured to the carpark at Wandering Cooks in South Brisbane, where they set up their beds on the hard and frigid ground, ready to spend the night out under the stars.

Organised by The University of Queensland School of Architecture, the group was raising money as part of the Winter Sleepout event.

This year, they partnered with Second Chance Programme, a local philanthropic charity organisation, focused on helping homeless women. For this campaign, Second Chance partnered with our Youth CONNECT Program, which supports young people exiting care to avoid homelessness and thrive as adults. Money raised through the event will



Each of us has a special song or type of music that connects with us on a deep level. God connects with us in special ways just like that, which can be different for each person. He loves to speak to us in ways that touches our heart, ministers to our soul, and is just what we have always longed to hear. And His melody is captivating. Women from aged 13 - 103 will be encouraged in faith and inspired and equipped to live with identity and purpose at the Girls Getaway Weekend! Our theme this year is Music for the Soul. You will hear from Aliki who is an author, singer and songwriter, and inspiring speaker.

Where: Maroochy Waterfront Camp and Conference Centre 42 David Low Way, Diddilibah, QLD 4559. Enjoy twin-share, motel style, air conditioned accommodation with all linen provided.

When: 12 pm, Friday 2 November 2018 to 12 pm, Sunday 4 November 2018 For more information, call 3327 1661 or email mission@cofcgld.com.au





allow Second Chance to support young women in the Youth CONNECT Program by paying for the initial rent payment to their landlord, and rental bond to be deposited with the Residential Tenancies Authority. The effect of this funding puts new tenants on a level playing field when setting up their tenancies, and provides a lasting legacy in the bond, which can assist with securing independent accommodation into the future.

Youth CONNECT Service Manager Kate Leslie said the money raised through the event would greatly assist the young people who enter the service with very little."Thanks to this donation, young women who are experiencing such extreme vulnerability will be able to have a leg up as they take the first steps to achieving a brighter future for themselves." Kate said.







Out of homelessnes

haron found herself homeless in middle age. She described her journey from "homelessness, to getting a house and making that a home" and the part that art

has played in that journey. "As a woman on my own, it was probably one of the most crushing experiences... with no one to nurture or support me," Sharon said.

She was able to find a home seven years ago with Churches of Christ Housing Services.

"Once I closed my door [on my new home] I was safe."

As her confidence grew with having her own home, she started buying painting supplies and getting back into her art.

One day, she was approached to do a painting for the new Housing Services office opening in Southport. Sharon said that this time was a turning point for her, finally feeling that she was safe.

"I felt my housing wasn't insecure anymore. I started appreciating myself. I wasn't frightened anymore," she said. "Now I can paint because I have a home... I can leave it out if I want to. I don't have to share and worry about someone coming into my home."





Sharon Purcell, front right, with her family in front of her artwork at Centrifuge 2018, and below, John with his artworks

Healing & growing through art

rt can bring us together.

It can heal hurts and it

can share culture and

artists associated with Churches of

Christ Housing Services presented

their works at our Centrifuge event in

July. Their artworks graced the walls

in an exhibition, with attendees able to

purchase the pieces. Here, we find out

"Mending the tears" is how Sharon

Sharon says her art is a visual

Purcell describes the meaning her art

representation of her life as an individual,

"They [the paintings] are a centre point

mother and daughter and are about her

for me. Telling me how I am going. A

personal gauge and monitor as a human

Sharon describes her inner response

"I am an Aboriginal. I should be able to

"My heritage is a heart culture. It is

about the heart in man. Not what man

Sharon's housing journey began

with Churches of Christ seven years

ago. In recent years she has enjoyed

stability, a rekindling of self-worth and a

reconnection with herself and her family.

reaches out for fellowship and support

when she needs it. Her housing journey

has been a difficult one at times but

these days, Sharon is very much 'at

home' in all senses of the word.

She enjoys life on the Gold Coast and

more about the two artists.

Sharon Purcell

has for her.

life's journey.

expression.

can do or get."

being," Sharon said.

to a need for deeper personal

put dot to paper. It is my heritage.

life meaning. Two visual

John Doherty

John Doherty (pictured below) is a Brisbane-based artist, who has been engaging in community art groups and initiatives for over 15 years. With a lived experience of schizophrenia,

homelessness and marginalisation, John has found art to be a form of therapy and purpose.

Recently, John successfully exhibited an extensive retrospective of works at Hope Street Café, an activity of Micah Projects.

John confessed that he will continue to paint and exhibit his art so long as he has a bit of paint and a brush in hand. John has a distinct style of freely brushed colours in which you can see a strong influence from Impressionist artists such as Chagall and Cezanne-artists he refers to as heroes.

John's paintings transform an internal psychological conversation into a whimsical landscape of religion, community and his love for film and music. He adores Audrey Hepburn and often features her in paintings alongside his idol, Bob Dylan.

"I've got a huge collection of artwork at home, and try to paint daily. Art is very good for my health; it is very uplifting for the spirit and it works to communicate good vibes to people."

"Painting is a very good thing to do. It keeps you in a state of peace".





Members of Marist180 who helped create a usable garden at our Bruce Street complex.

ne of the joys of having your own home is having your own garden, where you can potter and toil to create a space that you can watch thrive. For many residents of our Housing Services,

gardening is a keen pastime that plays a large role in their lives. From award-winning resident gardens

to community garden spaces, residents can get involved in gardening in ways that suit them.

Residents at Bruce Street, Redbank Plains have long waited for a community garden space to be created where they are able to come together and not only garden, but also hold barbeques and celebrations.

Joan Day recalls her fellow resident Barry Brough, who shared his dream of creating a garden, and drew up a plan back in 2011 for what it would one day look like.

"Sadly he has passed away before any real progress was made, but he planted the idea of a community garden in resident's hearts," Joan said.

Over the past six months, with a revitalised garden design, some extra funding and access to a team of workers, things have developed quickly and the garden area has now become a reality.

More

While the creation of the garden space and brightened resident's lives, the building and design has also given young people the opportunity to participate in a traineeship and gain real-life work experience and life skills. Working with a specialist youth employment initiative provider, Marist180, Community Chaplain Lynne Feldon applied for the Building Our Future Traineeship initiative, which allowed 15 young people to be engaged in a traineeship through the project.

On-site supervisor Tim Dart explained



that the program gives these young men and women an opportunity to gain work and life skills.

"We have all enjoyed the process of creating something that the Bruce Street residents can enjoy. As an organisation, our hope is that these young men and women will be able to use the skills that they have gained through this project, in future employment opportunities," Tim said.

For Lynne, she said it was heartwarming to witness how the area has changed from a wasteland into the beautiful space that it is today.

"We have welcomed these young people into our complex and watched as they have transformed the space. It's a wonderful transformation and we are very grateful. A great example of community coming together to help each other," Lynne said.

The young people worked at Bruce Street for around 16 weeks and the garden area was completed in late-June. In addition to the garden area, the team built a new shed and created a range of outdoor furniture for the residents to enjoy. The residents very much appreciate their efforts and thanked the Marist 180 staff and team at a recent barbeque.







The local community turned out at the Warwick Open Day to tour the new state-of-the-art facility

eptember heralds the opening of our Warwick Aged Care Service, and the completion of the first stage of the Warwick Campus.

The integrated campus features the new 128-bed state-of-the-art aged care service, 99 unit retirement village, community centre with auditorium, function rooms and café, office space for Community Care, a venue for Warwick Church of Christ and regional hot desks.

Executive Director Services Bryan Mason said the completion of the campus was a major milestone for the organisation and for the Southern Downs community.

"We have created a campus that we are truly proud of and look forward to watching the campus community grow and take advantage of the wonderful facilities this site has to offer. We are proud to be able to provide these quality services to support the Warwick and Southern Downs community," Bryan said.

"More than being simply a service provider, our integrated community approach enables us to provide uplift to the entire community. For example we hope to see schools access these



facilities in future, and there is the possibility of a playgroup using them next year. The café with its safe carpark and playground is very family-friendly."

The site was completed in August, with a community open day on 18 August bringing people from across Warwick and surrounds through the gates to tour the buildings and see what the campus has to offer. Our Board also visited for the regular meeting on 23 August, and local health professionals toured the development on 17 August.

"The completion of this \$32 million aged care service and community centre, to complement and join our existing retirement village, is the culmination of years of consultation and planning. We are proud to have delivered such a wonderful campus to support the local community," Bryan said.

The community centre and café will be open to the local community and be a focal point of activity, with the auditorium a place of worship for local faith groups, including Warwick Church of Christ.

Residents will be gradually moving into the new aged care service. Service Manager Megan Minasi is thrilled to be establishing the new service.

"We want to be a real centre of excellence for the community. I'm looking forward to creating a homelike environment for our residents where they can receive the highest quality of care," Megan said.

The Mission Action Partner Craig Sadler is excited about his role in bringing the integrated community together and seizing opportunities for future partnerships.

"There is already interest among Retirement Village residents to volunteer at the new aged care service, and the local Church has offered to clean village residents' homes in spring to get rid of the last of the construction dust.

"Negotiations are also underway to help a local theatre group for people with a disability mount a production in September that might not otherwise have seen the light of day. These are just some practical examples of working together for the overall community good," Craig said.

For more information regarding the development and key features of the campus, visit www.cofc.com.au/ developments/warwick.

cross Queensland we have teams of staff out in our communities helping people remain independent and living in their own homes for longer.

Our Community Care staff, particularly those supporting rural communities, travel hundreds of kilometres each week to help people maintain their independence. Glen Gibson and Danielle Milligan are based out of our Stanthorpe Community Care Service. In June, Glen celebrated one year as

a Community Care Worker. The former army Lieutenant

"I always knew I wanted to help people. I love being able to help people maintain their independence and assist them in their own home for as long as possible.

role are similar in many ways, because at their heart is service and both require loyalty and dedication. Glen's role allows him to offer very

a carer and is ageing also, it can be hard to do things they've done independently all their lives. There's a gap there that Community Care can help to fill.

"If I could offer any advice to people who may be finding it difficult to maintain their independence at home, it would be to talk to us. Information is free and there's no harm in finding out what is available.

when they start out, but if they keep an open mind, anything is possible. they don't need to. There's nothing



"My previous career and my current For couples growing older together, practical and meaningful assistance. "Often a person's partner becomes

"People can be a little apprehensive "People thank me for what I do, but



Glen (centre) and Danielle (right) with Service Coordinator Marianne Angel (left).

that's too much trouble."

Our Community Care team leader Danielle travels hundreds of kilometres every week across Stanthorpe, Warwick, Boonah, Killarney and Allora to provide nursing care, support and assistance.

She adores her role supporting seniors across the Southern Downs and Granite Belt to live independently at home.

"I love helping people, spending time with them and making somebody's life a little bit easier," Danielle said.

Danielle completed her training as an Enrolled Nurse in 2014 and has realised community care is her passion because it can meet individual needs and preferences while living at home.

"Our community service is personcentred, which means it's all about the person's needs, wants and choices.

"It can take a lot of pressure off families to have support and it's good to know people feel they can trust us.

"Sometimes allowing somebody you don't know into your home can be daunting, but we offer reassurance and get to know people and their families. We're very flexible to fit in with what people and families need."

tegrated munities

Gold Coast redevelopment works to commence

In July, the first stage of the redevelopment works at our Lady Small Haven Retirement Village and Aged Care Service on the Gold Coast were approved by the Churches of Christ in Queensland Board, with construction planned to commence in mid-September.

Bryan Mason said the redevelopment was critical to ensure that we can continue to deliver quality services to our retirement village residents.

"The current accommodation has a number of constraints due to the age of the building. This is the first step in our longer-term vision for the site, which will bring many benefits to the residents and address the need to quality retirement and aged care facilities on the Gold Coast," Bryan said.

Stage 1 of this redevelopment will involve the construction of a six-storey building housing 65 retirement living units ranging from one to three bedrooms, and a clubhouse over two levels.

The building has been designed to respect the privacy of adjoining residents as much as possible and most units have an appealing northern or eastern aspect, with views to the surrounding Sir Bruce Small Park and the broader Gold Coast region. There will be sufficient car parks to meet resident needs and all units will be wheelchair-friendly.

Retirement village residents are excited about the inclusion of a new clubhouse. which will include a function room, hair salon and self-service café space.

A display unit and sales office will also be set up near the front of the Lady Small Haven site by March 2019, with Stage 1 expected to be completed by early 2020. Early construction works will include the demolition of some retirement living units and one wing of the residential aged care building to make way for the new buildina.

"Throughout these early works, our builder McNab will make every effort to keep impacts to a minimum. We have been assisting residents in the retirement village units in the demolition zone to make a smooth transition to refurbished units on site. We have also relocated residential aged care residents where needed," Bryan said.

For further information about the redevelopment of our Lady Small Haven site, please visit www.cofc.com.au developments.

Little Mountain

We are currently hurtling towards the final stages the construction of our integrated community at Little Mountain on the Sunshine Coast, with the focus moving to the construction of the two swimming pools-a large lap pool and a smaller learn-to-swim pool-and landscaping across the site.

This exciting development includes a 96-bed aged care service and community hub, with café, place of worship and hair salon. We expect construction of the buildings and pools to be complete early in the new year.

Artist impression of the new retirement living development at Lady Small Haven.



Paynter Dixon win award for Stanthorpe

Congratulations to builders Paynter Dixon who won a Master Builders Award for our recently completed aged care service in Stanthorpe. We're thrilled to be able to offer superb facilities for the local community.

The \$14.5 million extension at Stanthorpe Aged Care Service opened in December 2017. The state-of-the-art service caters for 103 local seniors, most in cottage-style accommodation and incorporates a range of design principles that support best practice in aged care. The 68 new rooms link with the existing building, which had been refurbished to match the overall development.



and have loved them." Unity is fundamental to our Churches of Christ movement.

Mission Action Partners are tasked with bringing light to communities, and have found wide collaboration and consultation to be essential. It is exciting when kindred spirits share ideas to create wholeness and uplift. A mixed team is a powerful resource, which develops visions beyond the scope of one entity: the sum is truly greater than the parts.

From the far north to the south east, we have implanted ourselves into communities and delivered solutions to support their individual needs.

Dean Phelan, Gerry Weatherall and I met Phil Bignill at The Lakes Church in Cairns. We had been dreaming of a chain of community Access Places where people could meet and access the Kingdom of God. Phil told us of the Cairns churches' vision of a café/drop in centre. We secured a shop in Atherton and 12 months later, in partnership with church and community groups, the Atherton Access Place was born. Atherton church leaders initially felt threatened but as they saw how it enhanced and extended their work, they embraced the Access Place.

Further south in Kallangur, north of Brisbane, I spent months walking streets with the local community chaplainconnecting, listening, and researching



The food pantry at Kallangur is an example of our Mission Action Partners. have worked with the local community to meet needs.

Unity in action

Words by Janette Phelan

esus' prayer for his people was to "be one ... to let the world know that You sent me

In 2012, then Chief Executive Officer

potential Access Places.

God rejected one plan after another. But, our conversations led to a virtual community of people seeking hope and wholeness. These people, who were seeing and experiencing food crises, worked out how they could run a Food Bank at minimal cost. In its current form, Moreton Bay Community Matters partners with Rivers Church of Christ to provide more than 100 food hampers each week, and referrals and support during crises. Most volunteers came seeking food. Through volunteering, they have developed community and found new purpose, new skills, new self-confidence and an openness to God's presence.

Unity has transformed Churches of Christ in Queensland. Everyone has stories of collaboration: flood victim support; integrated communities; safe and supportive housing communities; Men's Sheds; community gardens; street chaplains for people enjoying a night out: employment help for young people: accommodation, coffee and support for hospital patients and families; community craft activities supporting needy people; coffee and meals child care families; and many more. They are collaborative ventures between service streams, churches and community members, uplifting not just those in need but all who volunteer.

Such diversity of expression and needs, yet we are united by Jesus' two greatest commandments: Love God and love one another.

festivities Southern





Ben Boland waltzed around the room with residents during the inaugural Stanthorpe Winter Ball and above. our tree of roses in Warwick as part of the Jumpers and Jazz festival.

but I haven't danced for

ur services on the Southern Downs made the most of the winter months. Residents from Regency Park Retirement Village in Warwick took part in the annual Jumpers in Jazz festival, which brings crowds from far a wide to the City of Roses.

This year. Churches of Christ Care decorated a tree in the main street of town, covering it in over 400 handmade knitted and crocheted roses.

The Warwick community also took part in the Warwick Campus Community Open Day on 18 August, where locals had the chance to take a tour of the new state-ofthe-art campus.

Residents at Stanthorpe Aged Care Service celebrated in style with their first Winter Ball. In the lead up to the event. local opportunity shops brought ballworthy attire for both women and men to the service for two shopping days, where residents got to try on their outfits and strut their stuff down the catwalk and buy their special outfit (or two).

When the big day arrived, Community Chaplain Ben Boland said, there were belles in frocks and suavely dressed gents. The volunteer team had gone into overdrive preparing a variety of winter treats.

"We were also blessed with a volunteer pianist who had been learning waltzes and other traditional dances especially for us and having a professional photographer donate her skills. Indeed without a huge team effort the ball would simply not have happened," Ben said.

However, the highlights of the ball were not culinary, but the happiness experienced by the residents.

"Listening to the residents laugh, watching a gentleman lying in a tub chair cry as a staff member danced with him, people clapping and cheering each other was profoundly touching. One lady in a wheel chair said 'I haven't danced since I was 18', another lady confided 'I used to dace right across the district but I haven't danced for years'."

Service Manager Valerie Taylor described the event as "magnificent, a high point of winter."

-ighting fit

hree years ago, our Buckingham Gardens Aged Care Service received a gift that has since changed the lives of many residents.

The installation of the innovated Helsinki University Research (HUR) specialised gym equipment and creation of 'Bucks Gym' has seen incredible results for the residents who use it.

The gym was placed in the main dementia lodge at Buckingham Gardens in an effort to engage residents living with dementia with other residents, decreasing the isolation of the residents in the dementia area. The other reason for choosing this location, was due to the fact it was at the bottom of a steep hill, meaning it gave extra exercise opportunity for residents to use the gym.

On 27 June the service hosted its annual Gym Awards to congratulate everyone who participates in the gym, highlighting the number of visits they have each made.

Resident Judith has made an impressive 422 visits to the gym since it first opened, with her infectious giggle filling the gym each time she is there. She took to the gym quickly, despite experiencing cognitive decline.

John has visited 404 times since September 2015. He had a history of chronic pain and relied heavily on his back brace, but thanks to regular gym sessions is now free from the brace.

Over Robert's 296 visits to the gym in the past three years, the independent and proud Scott has not let Parkinson's or fractures get in his way.

Beryl said she is "fighting fit" and the 90 year old is proving to be just that. In the past two years, she has visited the gm 280 times, and can now venture around without her walker and go on vacation with her family.

Fred has lived his life with Cerebral Palsy and relied on a wheelchair to get around the facility. Through constant attendance at the gym, Fred is now able to walk up and down that "bloody hill", happily. He was also able to go out fishing and get himself up onto a motorbike and he no longer has pain in his legs. Fred has been to the gym 137 times in the past two years.

These are just a few of the stories we have gathered in the past three years at Buckingham. With the dedicated work of Craig Wilson and his physiotherapy team, five more aged care services have installed their own specialised gyms, with more on the way.

Exercise is not just a phase it's a culture. And over here at Buckingham, we reward this culture with a sense of independence fuelled with determination.



Residents celebrated their achievements at the Gym Awards.

Ken's Place like a second home

n an unassuming unit in our Regency Park Retirement Village in Warwick, locals living with dementia and other conditions have found a second home, and their carers a have found a chance to breathe.

Ken's Place opened in 2017 thanks to the fundraising efforts of Warwick's Dementia Support Group, established by Pam Eather and her family in memory of her late husband Ken

Up to four guests can stay at Ken's Place at one time, with Churches of Christ Care Community Care in Warwick, providing professional support.

While it provides a chance for clients to interact with others and a break from the daily routine, it also gives their carers a chance to take care of themselves for a day.

For people with dementia and other brain conditions, keeping mentally active is vital, as is social interaction to avoid the impacts of isolation. At Ken's Place, they are kept occupied.

Rav has been attending Ken's place since late-2017 as he recovers from fluid on the brain, and said the respite care has helped with his recoverv.

"I'm here every Thursday, which gives Sharon [my wife] a break," Ray said.

"It is good to be able to meet other people. We go out for lunch or dinner at the pub and play pool, or we go to hydrotherapy."

Heather also enjoys the social interaction from her visits to Ken's Place.

"I like the company. It's the feeling of not being all alone out there," Heather said.

With the completion of the Warwick integrated campus, Ken's Place respite receivers will be able to access the specialty gym, which contains exercise equipment scientifically designed for older people.

Knitting with a purpose

n 23 June around 120 people from all over Brisbane came to the Westside Church of Christ at Jamboree Heights for the Second Annual Community Knitting Day.

Inga, from Westside Church of Christ, is a passionate knitter and had the idea to gather a community of knitters to 'knit with a purpose'. The group started meeting at a local coffee shop to knit and chat and it soon developed into a regular fortnightly gathering. They outgrew the coffee shop within a year and now meet at the Westside Church of Christ.

The group knits squares for blankets for a variety of organisations, including our foster care services as well as local aged care services, 'Giving Grannies', and to the homeless through 'Street Feed'.

All the blankets are knitted with love and are prayed over before they are distributed. Over 1,500 squares were knitted and over 4,000 extra squares were given on the day.

Inga's passion for community engagement and her love of knitting has been a blessing to many. 🔳

If you are interested in knitting or joining in please call the Westside Church of Christ at Jamboree Heights 07 3279 1570 or on Facebook 'Centenary Knitting and Crochet Circle'.









Program changing lives of people living with a disability

Churches of Christ And Americal Santo

How you can help?

Donate today to support the work of Churches of Christ Medical Santo. Call 1800 600 900, visit www.cofc.com.au/give or email give@medicalsanto.com.

or the past two and half years, physiotherapists Ros and Ben have been travelling to Churches of Christ Medical Santo, on the island of Santo in Northern Vanuatu volunteering their time and skills to provide support to the local communities.

Since April 2018, they have been involved with the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program for People Living with a Disability. The program, funded by donations made to Global Mission Partners for Medical Santo, aimed to identify 280 people who are living with a disability across communities on the islands, ranging from young children to the elderly, and provide rehabilitative care. Ros and Ben developed the program following multiple visits to Medical Santo, and by travelling out to rural communities to understand the needs of the local people in caring for people living with a disability.

Four Santo locals (Atrine, Alfred, Netty and Charlie) have been employed as field workers in the program. They have been trained to identify, monitor, provide advice, care for and support individuals living with a disability and their families,

while also working in consultation with other stakeholders and service providers. This is a fantastic opportunity for these locals to increase their skills, one of whom lives with a disability themselves.

On the islands of Santo and Malekula in Northern Vanuatu, there were very few existing service to cater for individuals living with a disability or their families. According to the World Health Organisation, people living with a disability and their families in developing nations suffer extra economic and social disadvantage because of lack of services and stigmas around disability. This results in families slipping into cycles of poverty and abuse, which impacts the family for generations to come.

Through the program, community members are also educated about disability, reducing stigma and showing how they can help someone living with a disability, and how simply accepting the person living with a disability and their family as contributing members of the community can have a significant impact. Community acceptance of people living with a disability provides a powerful emotion that contributes to

For many people with a disability living There have been wonderful

their ongoing health and wellbeing. in rural areas, they are rarely visited by healthcare professional, and for some who were born with a disability they have never accessed the health system and may be unaware of the support they can receive. Through this program, they are linked with other local organisations to receive the support they require. outcomes from the program, with follow-up consultations revealing how simple changes and contact with the appropriate supports can change the lives of people with a disability and their

families.

Ros and Ben have just completed a three month visit to Santo, training the local field workers and networking with local partner organisations. Funding is currently being sought to deliver this valuable program past December. The program is also supported by medical, allied health and nursing professionals in the Medical Santo Clinic, giving the service amazing opportunities to change people's lives and making them somewhat unique in Santo to have this all happening under the one roof.

Never too old for a new best mate!

weed Heads resident Harold has welcomed his new mate Bobby into his home. Harold is 100 years young and his new best mate Bobby is a seven year old Fox Terrier.

Harold has been supported by Churches of Christ Care's Community Care Services on the Gold Coast for over 15 years, receiving weekly support to help him live independently at home.

Several months ago Harold's dog passed away and he has since missed his twice daily walks and the purpose and companionship that a four-legged friend can provide.

The community care team immediately set about to find Harold another companion but were told that Harold was 'too old' by dog re-homers.

They didn't give up of course and Harold's family and the team of community support workers were on the lookout for a suitable dog.

One day, one of Churches of Christ Care's regional service team members rang the team out of the blue asking if they knew anyone who would like to adopt an older dog.

They immediately thought of Harold so contacted him and his family straight away. Harold was very excited and eager to meet the terrier then named 'Baby' - they met, clicked and instantly bonded.

Baby Bobby's owner and her family were very happy and relieved to have met Harold, knowing that their beloved friend would be going to a loving home.

Harold was even given an A4 photo of 'Baby Bobby' to take home.



Harold with his new friend Bobby

{ **People**& **Events** } in our communities



Eat well to age well

Our Community Care service on the Gold Coast hosted a healthy cooking demonstration for older people with dietetics students from QUT. Attendees enjoyed free food tastings and learning more about healthy cooking and environmental sustainability. The event was a part of Queensland Seniors Week 18 - 26 August



NAIDOC Week

During NAIDOC Week, the Kenmore Head Office was visited by inspirational Indigenous woman, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins. An established artist, Delvene designed the medals for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. She spoke of this experience and how she is inspired by her home on North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah, in her artwork.

Market Dav

With stalls full of nic-nacs, food, crafts and other delights, the Kenmore Head Office held its annual Market Day on 29 August to raise money for our Community Chaplains.





Multicultural group

Arcadia Aged Care Service in Essendon has a Multicultural Group, which allows residents to share, celebrate and maintain different facets of their culture, including music, food and communication. They have residents from Italy, Germany, Spain, Australia and Mauritius who attend the group and most times there will be a family member or two present.

Meaningful ageing

We were delighted to host the launch of their Spirituality in Aged Care Professional Development Program by Meaningful Ageing Australia, the national peak body for spiritual care and ageing, at our Kenmore Campus in 8 August.





Amaroo celebrates its volunteers

Our services celebrated their valuable volunteers during National Volunteers Week 2018, including Amaroo Aged Care Service at Gatton, who hosted Thank You Luncheon. The room decoration were "fit for a royal wedding", and one resident gave a speech, thanking the volunteers for their time and said how much the residents appreciate when they come in to do activities.



Russell Elms - Retirement Living Manager of the Year finalist





Fun times at Clive Burdeu

The aged care service in Logan is famous for having a bit of fun. Residents recently took part in some dress ups, donning an oversized feline head, and enjoyed some pampering with a foot spa day.



Board visit to Gidgee Inn and Mount Isa

The Churches of Christ in Queensland Board took a trip out west to visit some of our most remote locations in Mount Isa and Cloncurry. The group regularly visit regional centres to find out more about how we are bringing the light of Christ into local communities.

Congratulations to Churches of Christ Care Sanctuary Park Retirement Community Service Manager Russell Elms, who was selected as a finalist in the 2018 National Retirement Living Awards. Russell embodies what we do in our Churches of Christ Care seniors living services, where we deliver holistic care and support that improves quality of life and allows people to flourish, be active and engaged for longer.



Fair Haven Aged Care Fete success thanks to community input

hurches of Christ Care Fair Haven Aged Care Service held its annual fete on Saturday 21 July. The great day was made possible through the support of individuals, groups and services from our generous Hervey Bay community.

The day was jam-packed with live entertainment and performances from six talented local performers taking to the stage. Kids made great use of the jumping castle, bubble stations, organised games and plenty of fairy floss was consumed. The local Churches of Christ Care Family Day Care and Seniors Living Services were on hand to provide information and their staff were busy handing out information packs and talking to people.

Money raised from the fete goes directly into Fair Haven's Lifestyle Program to continue to enable them to provide a meaningful, enriching and individualised program for their residents. Fair Haven Lifestyle Therapist Amanda

It was wonderful to see residents out and about with the biggest smiles on their faces participating in a community activity that would not have been possible without our onsite location and community support

Clarkson said that they had an absolutely fantastic day.

"Residents who were able, independently brought themselves out to look around while staff and families supported those who needed assistance so that everyone had an opportunity to participate," Amanda said.

"Families provided donations for stalls and spent the day in the outdoors with their loved ones. Off duty staff volunteered their time to wander through the fete with residents. Everyone enjoyed sitting and listening to the music and

looking at the various market stalls, vintage cars, motorbikes and Dunga Derby Vehicle on display.

"It was wonderful to see residents out and about with the biggest smiles on their faces participating in a community activity that would not have been possible without our onsite location and community support.

"We often take for granted our ability to actively engage in our community and our team at Fair Haven endeavour to make this possible for every person whenever we can, I am so grateful that our community has embraced us and all that we are trying to achieve," she said. After the Fair Haven Fete, leftover balloons and colouring-in items were delivered to the Paediatric Ward of the Hervey Bay Hospital. Fair Haven resident Kathleen Hankinson helped with the

"She had the biggest smile on her face as we dropped them off," Amanda said. "When we returned she was so excited to share where we had been and what she had done with staff and other residents."

delivery.

"The joy our fete brings to our community and the meaning and impact it has on the lives of our residents is the reason we do this event every year. It's so rewarding to be part of this."

{Events}

September

SEPTEMBER 1-30 Dementia Awareness Month

> **SEPTEMBER 2** Father's Day

SEPTEMBER 2-8 National Child Protection Week

SEPTEMBER 4 – 6 'Passing the Baton' with Keith Farmer

SEPTEMBER 13 RUOK? Day **SEPTEMBER 21** International Day of Peace

October **OCTOBER 14-20** Anti-Poverty Week

November **NOVEMBER 2-4** Ladies Getaway Weekend

NOVEMBER 8 Annual General Meeting

> **NOVEMBER 8-9** Ministers Forum

NOVEMBER 11 Remembrance Day

NOVEMBER 25 White Ribbon Dav

Funeral Assistance Plan



If you are interested in setting up a Funeral Assistance Plan, please go to www.cdf.org.au to find out more information or call 1300 659 644





December **DECEMBER 25**

Christmas

DECEMBER 26 Boxing Day

January **JANUARY 14-18** FUSE Camp

More information regarding key events will be circulated closer to the event. Please mark these events in your calendar.

AVAILABLE Funds are exempt from Centrelink and Veterans Affairs income and asset tests. Conditions apply

EASY SAVE

Centernary Development Foundation

The Centenary Development Foundation Funeral Assistance Plan can minimise anxiety for your loved ones at a difficult time. It provides a convenient investment for you to set aside funds for easy payment of your funeral costs at the time they are needed. You may choose any funeral home, in any city. The plan offers a range of benefits, including choice of contributions, EASY SAVE available, and funds are exempt from Centrelink and Veterans Affairs income and asset tests, plus much more (conditions apply).



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