

ISSUE 4 {2018}

networking

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO COMMUNITIES

Our sacred journey

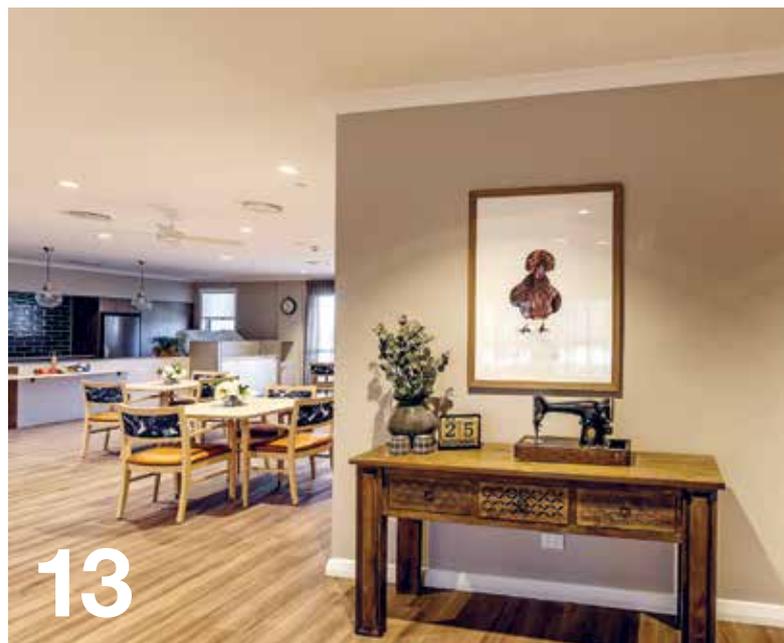
What happened at our AGM and Ministers Forum

A foundation of hope in Fiji

One woman's story of faith and spirituality giving new hope

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Welcome

to the latest edition of

Networking

What a year 2018 has been. Thank you for reading our magazine this year as we have told the stories of what has been happening in and around Churches of Christ in Queensland.

We have certainly been on a journey, with all the bumps and turns in the road bringing us to where we are today as we enter into a new year.

Our lovely cover this edition features Rukmani from her home in Fiji, where she was visited by Global Mission Partners. It is worth remembering sometimes that we are in fact part of something bigger. That Churches of Christ extends beyond our own faith congregation or service, and that we are part of a movement that is global and we are all travelling a sacred journey together. Rukmani has a truly inspiring story about finding Jesus Christ and healing, which you can read on page 8.

We have held some great events to close out the year, including the Ministers Forum and the 135th Annual General Meeting. There was also the official launch of our innovative Virtual Dementia Tour™ on 1 November, attended by a number of colleagues from the industry and community members.

We have some wonderful stories in this, our final edition of Networking for 2018. There are some great things happening, particularly in our aged care space. You will be able to read about how the cottage model of care is informing the design of our new residential aged care services, find out about how we helped one man tell his life's story and we thank a volunteer who gave over 60 years to volunteering and working at our service in Toowoomba.

We would like to wish each of you a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year. May the season be full of family, friends and love. Read a Christmas reflection on page 19 and reflect on what Christmas means to you this year.

Don't forget, you can read this edition of Networking and previous editions alongside other publications online at cofc.com.au/publications. ■

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 1 February 2019

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CEO update



Christmas wishes

I would like to wish each of you and your families a joyful, peaceful and blessed Christmas and a safe New Year. I look forward to connecting with more of you in 2019. Thank you for travelling this sacred journey with us this year.



On 8 November I was delighted to present at our Annual General Meeting some of the key highlights from the 2017-18 financial year. There is little doubt that we are making a difference in many lives, as we continue to deliver our mission to bring the light of Christ into our communities.

Part of our journey in this past year included:

- four major development projects at Stanthorpe, Warwick, Little Mountain and the Gold Coast
- launching our Youth CONNECT Program
- opening our Kurrajong Townhouses in Kallangur
- acquiring new residential aged care services at Acacia Ridge and Ingham
- commencing the roll out of the Virtual Dementia Tour™
- bringing light, love and the word of Christ to our communities throughout our 63 affiliated churches
- finished 2017-18 with \$818 million in assets and \$276 million in revenue.

I encourage you to read our 2017-18 Annual Review on our website at cofc.com.au/2017-18annualreview. Here, you will be able to gain a better understanding and fuller picture of our key undertakings and achievements over the 2017-18 period as you read our At a Glance document, Consolidated Financial Report and Annual Review articles.

Strategic Plan 2019-24

We are finalising our Strategic Plan 2019-24. I very much look forward to sharing this with you early in the New Year. Thank you to everyone who has provided valuable input to this exciting future plan that will shape and guide our organisation, churches and movement over our next season.



Remote visits

In October, I was joined by other members of our Executive Group on a trip out to the western Queensland town of Blackall in order to visit our Barcoo Living Multi-Purpose Service. You will be able to read more about this trip and some of the people we met on page 25.

Over this past year, members of the Board, along with the Council, have travelled to either end of Queensland with trips to the Far North West including Cloncurry and Mount Isa, and around South East Queensland, Stanthorpe and Warwick. You can read an update about their trips and their other activities on page 5.

I, alongside our Council, Board and senior executive members, very much enjoy being able to visit our services, churches and communities, particularly in our more remote rural areas where their presence is making such a visible positive impact on the community in which they serve. I look forward to travelling a lot more in order to engage with more people, services, churches and communities in 2019 and seeing first-hand the multitude of ways community needs are being met.

Board and Council

I would like to thank the Board and Council for their support throughout 2018. They have had a challenging year, making a number of key decisions in order to shape our future and keep us moving towards achieving both our strategic goals and our mission. ■

Gary Edwards
Chief Executive Officer

Board & Council update

The Churches of Christ in Queensland Board and Conference Council have both had another busy year in 2018.

Members have enjoyed getting out and meeting with our people, particularly at our new developments, which are furthering our mission and creating new opportunities to connect and serve.

Board Members, Doug Sparkes and Ken Ewald joined Gary Edwards and Paul Scully on a visit to the Little Mountain development site on the Sunshine Coast in May. Chris England, Ryan Salzke and Nick Burns gave an update on the progress of the site. The Board is excited by the progress of the Campus including the aged care service and aquatic centre due for completion in 2019.

In June, some Board members visited Gidgee Inn in Cloncurry to assess and have a greater appreciation of operational challenges faced by staff on the ground, including seeing first-hand the missional reach the motel has in the community and meeting with the local Mayor, Greg Campbell.

Members also attended the official opening of our affordable living development, Kurrajong Townhouses at Kallangur on 16 June.

The Board and Council came together in February and August to go on a field trip to churches and our various care services to allow members to see and hear first-hand from staff, clients, church leaders and pastors.

Over 24-25 August the groups visited churches across south east Queensland, Stanthorpe and Warwick.

A key project for the Board in 2018 has been the development of our next strategic plan to guide the organisation. Council has also contributed to this planning process with a particular focus on the health of local churches and ensuring the appropriate allocation of staff and resources to support this. They received feedback about the needs of local churches to inform this through the



■ Top, Churches of Christ in Queensland Council, back row L-R: Andi Owen, Steve Nixon, Chris Gribble, Steve Peach, Geoff Runge, Vicki Marney, Ken Ewald, Geoff Charles, Kevan Denny. Front row L-R: Gary Edwards, Rue Masunungure. Above, Churches of Christ in Queensland Board, back row L-R: John Adermann, Nigel King, Doug Sparkes, Gary Edwards. Front row L-R: Ken Ewald, Rilla Roberts, Geoff Charles, Jill Gray.

annual church survey.

Key achievements and outcomes for Council in 2018 included the restructure of the Professional Standards Unit into the Ministry Ethics Unit and the Healing and Redress Group to oversee ministry ethics and ensure compassionate support and healing for survivors of past or future abuse. Also, in response to the same sex marriage plebiscite, they released an official statement and provided theological direction on a

number of organisational policies.

They were also proud to, with approval from the national council of Churches of Christ in Australia, hold the ordination of our first female Senior Pastor, Donna Savill.

The next year is proving to be a wonderful journey for the organisation, particularly with the release of our next strategic plan to guide us.

God bless everyone as we journey through 2019 together. ■



■ Newly voted in Council member, Carol Joseph (centre) with fellow Council members Vicki Marney (left) and Andi Owen (right).

Our sacred journey for the sake of the world

Over 8-9 November, ministering persons from across our Affiliated Churches once again came together for the annual Ministers Forum and the 135th Annual General Meeting.

The annual Ministers Forum event brings senior members from our churches together to celebrate and reflect on our mission of bringing the light of Christ into communities.

This year, the group reflected on the theme of 'Our Sacred Journey'. As ministering persons within Churches of Christ, they have been called by God to undertake a sacred journey so that the world might be blessed. This year's forum drew heavily on the story of Abraham, to remind attendees of their calling, and of the promises and presence of God who walks with them into this next section of this journey, and that they walk this road together.

The two-day event was punctuated by quality input, worship, reflection, discussion, professional development, stories from local churches and a chance for you to laugh and connect with the other ministering persons who serve with the Churches of Christ in Queensland.

Dr David Benson was the keynote speaker.

A former high school teacher, youth worker and Pastor of Evangelism and Community Outreach, David is passionate about commending Christ and His Kingdom in Australia's post-Christendom culture.

At the Annual General Meeting, the 2017-18 Consolidated Financial Report was tabled and adopted by the voting members. This year production of the annual report has taken a different shape. We have replaced the traditional printed document with a new digital format and produced a 2017-18 Annual Review, At a Glance which provides a high-level overview of our key achievements and activities for the period. The Consolidated Financial Report remains in printed format as in previous years' and is also available online.

You can read and download the print versions of the annual report at cofc.com.au/2017-18annualreview.

The delegates from our churches voted for the Council members, with Geoff Charles and Steve Peach's re-nominations accepted and new member Carol Joseph from Bundaberg Church of Christ nomination accepted. We also officially welcomed our latest affiliated church, The Knockers Ministry Church, who are based on Ann St in Brisbane City. ■

Kingdom Communities book launch



At the Ministers Forum, former Chief Executive Officer Dean Phelan took the opportunity to launch his new book co-authored with Dr Andrew Menzies, Principal at Stirling College.

‘Kingdom Communities: Shining the light of Christ through Faith, Hope and Love’ is an inspirational and compelling exploration of a spreading phenomenon that is breaking out in the most unlikely of places.

As attendance in churches is in plateau or freefall, small and growing numbers of people are turning to creative and relationally connected communities that shine the light of Christ with great effect and generosity. Kingdom Communities: Shining the light of Christ through faith, hope and love examines the rise of this diverse and organic movement that is popping up in neighbourhoods, regional towns, urban slums, brothels, aged care villages, schools, churches ... indeed anywhere!

Using multiple case studies from across the region, Kingdom Communities explores this growing movement historically, biblically and theologically and uncovers the power of distributed networks for holistic Christian mission. In our age of disruption and rapid discontinuous change that has shaken religious institutions to their core, this book is both a challenge and major injection of hope for those who are passionate about the kingdom of God, Christian leadership, the future of ministry and the relational communities that the world desperately needs. ■

Royal Commission into the Aged Care sector

Churches of Christ in Queensland supports the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. We welcome any reforms that will make the aged care sector better and more person-centred.

We believe greater emphasis should be placed on productive, successful and meaningful ageing; that growing older need not be a period of continuous decline and removal from society.

Currently there are 1000 Australians turning 85 years-of-age every week. By 2027, it is estimated almost one-quarter of Australia’s population will be aged 65 years and over.

There is much investment required in the aged care sector both now and in the future — physically, socially, spiritually and financially. It is vital the sector continues to improve the support it offers to the community, delivering high-quality care with excellence, compassion and dignity.

At Churches of Christ, our mission is to bring the light of Christ into communities. Our first priority is and will always be the welfare of those who rely on us. We strive to help every person in our care experience quality of life — this is at the heart of all we do.

To our valued residents, clients and their families, please be assured that throughout the Royal Commission and afterwards, our commitment to continuous improvement remains genuine and steadfast.

We value and recognise the role that our aged care workers have in delivering person-centred care. While the Royal Commission and media reporting will focus on failures within the system, we want to acknowledge the valuable contribution aged care workers make in bringing uplift to people in their care. They make a wonderful contribution to Australia’s aged care system, now and in the future.

More information about the Royal Commission, its terms of reference, and updates as it progresses can be found on www.agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au. ■



A Foundation of Hope in Fiji

When Pastor Raj Deo met Rukmani in Lomawai on Fiji in 1999, she was 56 years old and had suffered chronic back pain since childhood. She was unable to do manual labour—a significant challenge for a widow whose only source of livelihood was the sugar cane farm she took over after her husband’s death 16 years earlier.

Pastor Raj, who also came from a local cane-farming family, was pastoring an Assemblies of God church nearby. He asked if he could pray for Rukmani and, despite her Hindu background, she agreed.

Afterwards, for the first time in decades, she found herself free from pain. Doctors were astounded at the change in the state of her spine.

Following this miraculous healing, Rukmani dedicated her life to Christ.

For several years she was part of a small group of Christians in a predominantly Hindu community of Indo-Fijian farmers. Pastor Raj had moved on to pastor the Church of Christ at Vitogo. There was no formal church in Rukmani’s area, but a small group met regularly in her home to pray and encourage one

WORDS
by Bruce Edwards,
Global Mission Partners, Fiji

another. Pastor Raj would visit and encourage them when he returned for family matters.

In 2012, Pastor Raj introduced Rukmani and the small group of Christians to Pastor Muneshwar Goundar, who had moved to nearby Sigatoka to begin church planting work with the Fiji Community Churches of Christ. In addition to his work in Sigatoka, Muneshwar began to visit and encourage the group with midweek meetings.

In 2014, in a makeshift shelter, a Sunday service commenced in Lomawai for the first time.

The Sunday meetings were an answer to the community’s prayers, but Rukmani dreamed for the Lomawai community to have its own permanent church. In 2015, she donated half an acre of her farmland so that the church could be established.

Because her farmland is leasehold, the bureaucratic process of transferring

the land to the church and rezoning was a protracted and frustrating one for Rukmani and the church. In March 2018, after years of waiting, Rukmani stood up in the church, under the same makeshift shelter, but on land that she had donated.

With joy in her heart, she offered praise to God because, just one day earlier, she had helped to pour the concrete slab for a water tank for the church. Others have assisted with other construction, building a toilet block and a storage shed, and Rukmani continues to encourage members of the church to work together to see a permanent church building established.

Now 75, the woman who was once unable to do manual work because of her crippling back pain can now be seen cutting grass in the church compound with a machete, or raking up after others. She leads by example to raise money for the building, raising and selling chickens and donating her proceeds to the building fund.

Rukmini says she does it with joy, thanksgiving, and deep love for her Lord and Saviour Jesus, who restored her both physically and spiritually, and gave her new hope. ■



Ten years ago in October, a small team of local church members in Nambour started an adventure called Coffee Chaplaincy.

The group had learnt that one in five adults in Australia, and one in four young adults, experience mental illness at some point in their lives. At that time, Nambour Hospital also housed the only in-patient mental health unit in the region.

“God chose to provoke a number of local church members to respond in some way, and as a result, Coffee Chaplaincy was born,” Coffee Chaplaincy Team Leader Kevin Hamer said.

Since its inception, approximately 40,000 free cups of coffee have been served to people within mental health services on the Sunshine Coast.

“While this number sounds impressive, the real story is that approximately 40,000 moments of warmth, welcome and love have been given to people within these services,” Kevin said.

The Coffee Chaplains believe that through warm hospitality, and

A
decade
and
40,000
free
cups of
coffee



sincere presence, God can bring a sense of peace, love and light to those who at that time, are experiencing a sense of darkness.

“Coffee Chaplaincy has expanded across the Sunshine Coast and now serves in the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and the Mountain Creek Continuing Care Unit. Both of these additions were at the invitation of Queensland Health staff.”

There are now 56 Coffee Chaplains serving in nine teams across three locations. While the teams of volunteers come from various churches and denominations on the coast, Churches of Christ in Queensland provide the volunteer framework and cover for this ministry to happen.

“The DNA of Churches of Christ has always been to work with people in peace for the sake of sharing the good news of Jesus, and Coffee Chaplains is a very real expression of how this DNA continues to enable opportunity for the light of Christ to be radiated into dark places,” he said. ■

Unique project delivers on sustainability



The countdown is on as we prepare for the opening of our newest integrated community on the Sunshine Coast in early-2019.

From energy conservation to waste management, waterway management to native fauna and flora preservation—every step of design and construction at our Little Mountain Campus has worked to deliver sustainability.

Executive Director Services Bryan Mason said that the project has demonstrated a number of measurable sustainability outcomes including some in excess of current statutory requirements.

“More than five years of planning and delivery will come to fruition when the first stage of this integrated campus opens in February next year with a 96-bed residential aged care service, home and community care service, and a community and aquatic centre. Once in operation, sustainability will continue to be important,” Bryan said.

“We have taken an environmentally friendly approach to the whole construction but more than this, we have emphasised community collaboration,

local employment and public and active transport options. It’s a far-reaching vision to develop a cohesive, flourishing community.”

Green initiatives at the campus include solar power (saving between \$15-25,000 a year in energy costs), solar hot water, and bedroom windows that turn off the room’s air conditioning when opened.

Protecting the local environment during construction was also a key consideration. During the tree clearing and early site preparation, an Elder from the local Kabi Kabi people was present to ensure nothing of Indigenous importance was disturbed or destroyed, while a fauna catcher/spotter was employed so that no animals would be harmed.

As part of the plan to achieve a net increase in habitat, a native ecosystem is now well established on site, attracting many birds, kangaroos and other animals through the completion of the water detention basins. The basins act as a vegetation corridor that slow and filter the water as it flows downstream.

Added sustainability measure at the campus encourage public and active transport such as a public bus stop

“

Green initiatives at the campus include solar power (saving between \$15-25,000 a year in energy costs), solar hot water, and bedroom windows that turn off the room’s air conditioning when opened.

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■ The solar panels cover the roof of the community centre at our Little Mountain Campus.



■ Campus Mission Coordinator Ryan Salzke with Meridan State College Executive Principal Julie Kornmann.

built on the road near the campus entry, for local and council residents, good pedestrian pathways and capacity for parking 20 bicycles on site.

Community leaders and aged care industry professionals attended a free networking breakfast at Kawana Hotel on 14 November to learn about what our seniors support and care services, and community hub will offer.

There is a growing need for aged care facilities in the region as the Sunshine Coast continues to be an attractive location for retirees, with 35 per cent of the population estimated to be over 65

years of age by 2031.

Bryan said the campus' design philosophy focussed on creating connections.

"The community facilities aim to bring together families and provide generational connections that achieve social benefits and cohesion for both the residents and the broader community," Bryan said.

"The aged care service seeks to meet the needs of residents by promoting a healthier lifestyle with 24-hour tailored care and lifestyle program with access to state-of-the-art seniors rehabilitation gym onsite." ■



■ An artist impression of the The Lady Small Haven Retirement Village, Stage 1 development.

Lady Small Haven

redevelopment progressing well



In September 2018 we commenced construction of our redevelopment of Lady Small Haven at Benowa on the Gold Coast.

The new retirement living building is expected to be completed by early-2020.

This is the first step in an important longer-term vision for the site. The building includes 65 modern, high-quality, independent living units ranging from one to three bedrooms. They are designed to the highest levels of accessibility standards, meaning they are easy to navigate for people with physical impairment and will allow people to age-in-place. There will also be a new clubhouse for residents to enjoy.

We are developing a Master Plan to guide the future development of our Lady Small Haven and the nearby Golden Age site at Southport. A sales office and display unit are expected to open in March 2019. ■



■ The cottage model has been used successfully in our new Warwick Aged Care Service.

Cottages prove a better way in aged care

Things have certainly changed from what most people know about aged care services, particularly thanks to the adoption of our unique Cottage Model of Care accompanied by our award-winning, holistic and person-centred Positive Wellbeing Model of Care in our services.

Churches of Christ Care has employed the Cottage Model of Care in each of the new residential aged care developments, with years' of international research and clinical expertise in aged, dementia and palliative care leading to the innovative approach.

One fundamental feature of the cottage model is locating a care team in each cottage, rather than having them work across three or four. This allows carers to build relationships with residents and better understand their needs and health care.

It also means carers can spend more quality time with the residents, which enables more consistent health monitoring in a non-intrusive way, as well as allowing carers to thrive in their support and relationship with residents.

Increasingly, people living in aged care accommodation are frail and seek a high level of care, with greater levels of dementia in our communities as people live longer.

The Cottage Model also works on the latest evidence-based research for residents with dementia. The colours and patterns used have been selected in line with dementia design principles and discreet security measures support resident safety.

There is an openness in this organisation to the latest research that may offer new ways to encourage wellbeing such as assistance dogs and companion animals. A joint project with Griffith University is investigating the benefits for both children and the aged in spending time together, filling gaps for many who hanker for faraway grandchildren, or grandparents. It is early days but so far indications are encouraging about the benefits for both.

At Churches of Christ Care, we use our Positive Wellbeing Model of Care to promote health and wellbeing and focus on bringing quality of life to residents,

and it is a key feature of our care across our services.

The Positive Wellbeing Model is personalised in terms of how each resident experiences it. For example, some residents continue doing meaningful tasks they would have done at home, such as setting and clearing the tables at meals. Others relish the opportunity to easily join in new activities.

The model focuses on improving each resident's life by addressing their needs. We all need to feel comfortable and safe, have a sense of identity, meaningful occupation, feel included and be sociable with family and friends. In essence, the approach is not about managing decline but living life to the full. It's through these needs that we can truly begin to understand and focus on what's important to each person.

The benefits of older people being able to continue to lead secure and rewarding lives is increasingly proven and we are facilitating this through our Cottage Model and Positive Wellbeing Model of Care, bringing uplift to older residents and the community. ■

John's life story told

John, left, has lived, and survived, a life that started tragically and he endured adversity before coming out the other side.

The Buckingham Gardens Aged Care Service resident penned his life story in a couple of exercise books, telling his story despite possessing limited literacy skills. He was desperate to see his story told before he passes on.

Lynda Wiles, Seniors Chaplain at Buckingham Gardens met with John and he entrusted his precious books to her to read.

Amongst their pages, Lynda learnt that John had been abandoned by his birth mother, and ended up in a Christian Brothers orphanage in Western Australia. While there, he was never afforded a proper education, and to this day he has a low literacy level. John and the other boys at the orphanage instead slaved away constructing buildings and enduring all forms of abuse.

When he was finally old enough, he left the orphanage and enlisted with the army where he had a long history of military service. He also married and had a family.

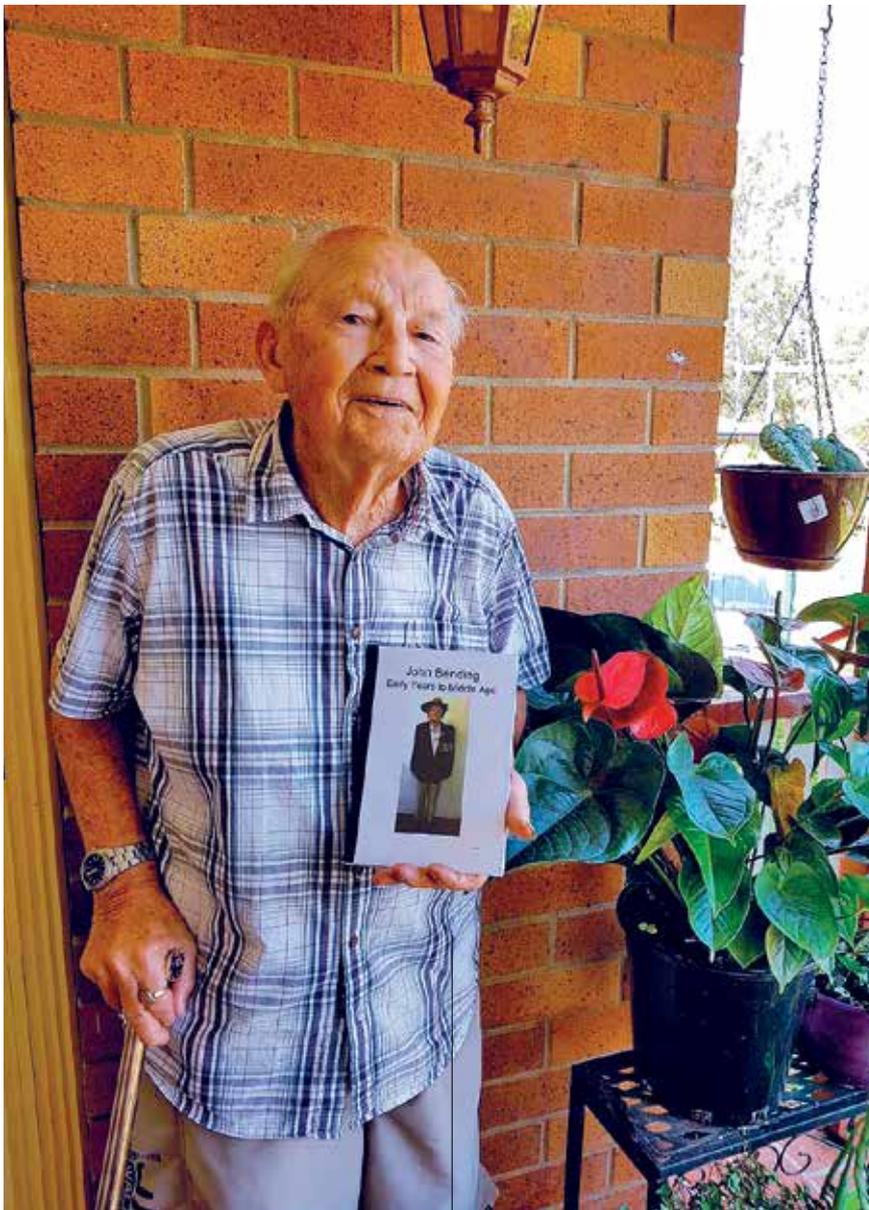
Lynda was moved by his journey. She discussed with John her idea to find a suitably qualified volunteer with the skills to have his story written properly for him. In this way, John's story could be passed on for others to read into the future when he is no longer here.

She put the call out for a volunteer who could help write his story out properly.

"I organised a position description for a person with the right skill set. Amazingly, a staff member from another aged care service put their hand up. Bec Watson holds a Bachelor of Historical Inquiry and Practice; a Master of Arts and is currently undertaking a Masters of Information Management. Bec has a passion for history. She has spent almost 12 months working on this project including sourcing additional information and photographs with outstanding results," Lynda said.

"I was able to gift the bound and printed version of John's life story to him. He was excited and thrilled beyond measure and kept on thanking me for making it happen."

Lynda has organised to have more copies printed, so that John can send his story on to some of the other men he is still in contact with from the orphanage in Western Australia. ■





■ Celebrating the official launch of the Virtual Dementia Tour™. Operations Manager Rebecca Hogan, State Manager Queensland Kerrie Lanchester (LASA), CEO Gary Edwards and Executive Director Services Bryan Mason.

Virtual Dementia Tour™

officially launched

Churches of Christ in Queensland was thrilled to officially launch the Virtual Dementia Tour™ (VDT™) in Queensland at our Kenmore Campus on 1 November.

Approximately 200 guests, including a variety of leaders from Queensland health care providers, universities and peak bodies attended the Official Launch event.

For many of us, we know someone who is living with dementia. But many of us may not be aware that it is the second leading cause of death in Australia. Watching someone you care for navigate their world with dementia can be heart-wrenching as you try to understand what they are experiencing and how you can help.

The VDT™ is scientifically proven to give a person with a healthy brain an experience of what dementia might be like. By understanding dementia from the person's point of view, we can improve infrastructure and services,

reduce challenges and enrich lives.

One of the special guests at the event, John Quin, dementia advocate and a person living with younger onset dementia said that to promote more awareness, change peoples' mind sets, and thereby reduce the stigma of dementia, we need to broaden the lens through which people with dementia are viewed

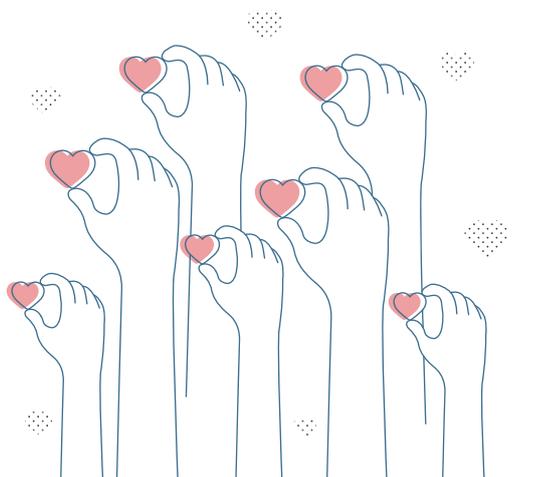
"Participating in the Tour not only increases awareness, it also has the capacity to promote greater empathy and sensitivity towards people living with dementia. Ultimately, the VDT™ has the potential to upskill those who attend and change the policies and practices of those who work in the area of dementia. These changes will translate into enhanced well-being and better quality of life for those with dementia," John said. ■

Information about the Virtual Dementia Tour™ provided by Churches of Christ Care can be found at cofc.com.au/vdt.

Valda steps aside after a lifetime of service



■ Valda was sincerely thanked for her lifetime of contribution to bringing uplift to the lives of older people in Toowoomba. Pictured with Anne McGill at her morning tea.



Valda Balke spent a lifetime volunteering at a local Toowoomba aged care service. After 60 years she has retired, with a celebration held in her honour.

Toowoomba Aged Care Service celebrated Valda and her impressive dedication and heart at a morning tea on 2 November.

In 1958, Valda started her volunteering journey at the then new Churches of Christ Care Mylo Aged Care Service in Toowoomba, now known as Toowoomba Aged Care Service.

She was initially encouraged to volunteer at a working bee at the new service as they sought new residents. She then returned in 1963 when the service was seeking a housekeeper, and volunteered her time to help before marrying and moving to a dairy farm out of town.

Over the next five decades, in between raising her family and working as a cook at Toowoomba Base Hospital, Valda continued to bring uplift to the lives of the many people who came through the doors of the service in volunteering and paid positions. She enjoyed working across an array of areas, including in the kitchen, provided nursing support and diversional therapy.

“I loved the type of work. I was very interested in it, and loved working with the people,” Valda said.

Valda has some cherished memories. One that stands out was the sing-alongs with the residents.

“We used to love the sing-alongs, where we would sing old bush ballads,” she said.

Valda decided it is now the time to step aside from the volunteering, and leaves with fond memories of her time with the service.

“The service has been very good to me. I always wanted to be a nurse, but it was not possible for me. Through my time with the service, I have been able to learn and do so much.”

Churches of Christ Care’s Residential Aged Care General Manager Anne McGill said she was in awe of Valda and the impact she has made to so many lives over the past six decades.

“Our volunteers and staff bring so much to the lives of our aged care residents, and for Valda to have shown the love, compassion and commitment to the lives of the residents for so many years is testament to who she is. We thank Valda for her service and wish her all the best,” Anne said.

The morning tea was attended by Valda’s family, staff, residents and volunteers from the service. ■



Celebrating, connecting carers

Carers provide an invaluable service in our community. As family members or close friends, they care for their loved one in a time of need.

Carers on the Fraser Coast were celebrated and had the chance to come together at the Connecting Carers Dinner in Hervey Bay on 18 October, with over 50 people attending.

Seniors Chaplain Sharon Berry and Lifestyle Therapist Amanda Clarkson at Churches of Christ Care Fair Haven Aged Care Service Hervey Bay recognised the need to support not only the people in their care but the people in their care community and in our wider Hervey Bay community.

“We developed a family support group within the service to provide a safe place for carers to share stories both good and bad, receive support and to uplift each other even if just for the time of their attendance. There are so many changes to life as we know it when someone requires care and from our family support group we have identified areas of concern including carers’ fatigue, often putting the care of a loved one before the care of yourself and social isolation, to name just a few,” Amanda said.

“It was from this support group and both my professional and private

encounters with carers that I strongly felt that we could continue to bring the light of Christ into our community and endeavour to provide assistance and support services to carers; thus the Connecting Carers’ Dinner was born.”

With carers enjoying a complementary dinner, there was also information stalls from Churches of Christ Care and the Virtual Dementia Tour™ as well as other local service providers, including Meals on Wheels, We Care 2, Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre, Carers Qld,



■ Carers were able to network with others who are on the same journey they are on in caring for a loved one.

RSL Sub Branch, and the 60 and Better Social Club.

The stalls provided carers with an opportunity to connect with local services that may be of use, including for meals, transportation, support groups and social engagement.

“It was a very emotive evening with a few tears, a few laughs and a connection made between carers as well as services available to them locally. You could almost see a weight lifted as people realised that they don’t have to do this alone, there are lots of people in a similar boat and a variety of services available to support them. I’m really proud of the evening and the response that I’ve received, I feel that we achieved what I had hoped to achieve and we’ve made a difference,” Amanda said.

“For carers, I like to let them know that some days are better, some days are worse. Look for the blessing instead of the curse, be positive, stay strong and get enough rest. You can’t do it all but you can do your best.” ■

We thank all the carers who provide unwavering support for their loved one, friend or family member.

In a time of need, the best thing you can do for someone is show them love.

Pastor Luke Skipper of Rivers Church of Christ has seen the need for Jesus's love to be shown in his community, and has established a new outreach initiative to help people in their greatest time of need.

The Christian Crisis Caravan Initiative provides emergency accommodation to people in desperate need for a roof over their head, who have been displaced by domestic and family violence or poverty.

"In the Moreton Bay area, there was a need for crisis accommodation, particularly for families needing to stay together. The Christian Crisis Caravan Initiative will provide short-term accommodation to help people make a successful move into more permanent accommodation," Luke said.

The idea for the Christian Crisis Caravan Initiative came after seeing the need in the community they saw and were made aware of through the establishment of the Moreton Bay Community Matters foodbank.

"We got a name for helping people, not just through the foodbank, but through our community garden and social events as well as intentionally reaching out to the marginalised in the area. We came across many people who through unexpected circumstances have found themselves homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless or

experiencing crisis."

Luke said there were tales of people who were in desperate need following a series of life events that left them with nowhere to stay. One young man had relocated from Victoria to the region for work. When he arrived he was informed that the work had fallen through and the company had nothing for him. He

had spent all his money relocating and was left with nowhere to turn, and no network to support him. This, Luke said, is where the Crisis Caravan would help the community.

"We believe that the caravan will bring the light of Christ into the community by showing the love of Christ to people in desperate need of care, kindness and compassion by providing the most basic needs in their time of need. We feel this allows us to be authentic in showing the love of Christ to them in a tangible and real way. We also believe that this is a way that will show the community that the church is committed to devoted service of others as ambassadors of Christ's love for them."

Word spread of the initiative, and Luke engaged with other local Christian organisations who were interested in partnering in the initiative.

Earlier this year, Luke was nominated for the Westfield North Lakes Local Hero Award, and was announced as one of three winners of the award.

He was awarded \$10,000, which he used to put towards the purchase of a caravan. This was accompanied by funding from a Centenary Development Foundation grant of \$5,000 and contributions from other local organisations. ■



Christ's love in time of crisis



■ Pastor Luke Skipper spearheaded the Christian Crisis Caravan Initiative to help people in dire need in his area, and to show them Christ's love in their time of need.



Christmas reflection

There was once a family who lived in an English village and religiously went to church at least every Easter and Christmas. On this particular Christmas though, as the mother got the family dressed and ready to attend the Christmas Eve service, the father announced that he really didn't want to attend this year. When asked why, he said that he was happy for the rest of the family to go but for him he felt like a hypocrite. While he believed that Jesus was a good man and had lots to say about life and relationships, he just couldn't believe anymore that God somehow came to earth in the person of Jesus. This year he had decided that his integrity would no longer allow him to celebrate this 'incarnation' that the church had preached for so long. So off the family went without him.

After an hour or so had passed and he had settled in beside the fire with a warm chocolate, a large storm appeared and wind and rain began battering the windows. This was all ok until suddenly he heard a loud crack, which lifted him from his chair. To his amazement a flock of ducks had become frightened and disoriented in the storm and were now flying headlong into his windows in search of a safe and dry place out of the rain and wind.

General Manager
- Leadership and
Culture, Steve Drinkall,
provides a reflection
for Christmas as
we celebrate God's
coming to live amongst
us through Jesus.

After several minutes of this mayhem he feared that the windows would be shattered and the ducks injured and so he decided to throw on his overcoat and go outside to see if he could chase the ducks into the shed. He made his way to the shed, switched on the light and called for the ducks to come. Much to his disgust, the ducks kept flying into the windows to his house and paid him no attention. After a while he ran at the ducks and tried to chase them and yell at them and coerce them in any way he could to move towards the shed and find a safe place there but all of his efforts only served to scare and agitate them more. In desperation, he retreated to the shed himself and gathered his thoughts. He began with cursing the stupid ducks for not responding to his obvious

attempts to help them but after a while became more reflective. He thought, "You know, I probably do appear as pretty scary to these little ducks".

"With me being 10 times their size and yelling and screaming and waving my arms about, I probably am only adding to their terror and confusion even though I have their best interests at heart. If only I was a duck, I could fly over there and relate to them and calmly show them that there is a safe place ahead and show them the way to get there".

At that exact moment, the bells of the church rang out for midnight on Christmas Eve and the penny dropped.

"Maybe that is why God felt the need to connect with us on our level and to come in human form in his son Jesus. Wouldn't it make sense, that it would be much easier for us to relate to and listen to, and follow someone like Jesus whose only goal was to be with us in our fears, to model a better way to live and to follow him to a safer and more secure future?"

At Christmas time we often reflect on the fact that Jesus is like God, but I wonder this year if it is even more interesting to ponder the extent to which God is like what we see in the person, and work and actions and behaviours of Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate the 'Incarnation', the amazing mystery that God himself came to live among us and to show a way home. ■



Kindness to those in need

As a first-world country with great wealth and opportunity, there are still too many people struggling to get by without a secure place to call home. It is up to each of us to show mercy to them. During the 2018 National Poverty Week (held annually in October) we reflected upon the work we are doing to address this significant issue and strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and financial hardship.

In 2016, almost three million people (13.3 per cent of the population) were living below the poverty line after taking account of their housing costs (Poverty in Australia, 2016).

We typically define poverty as when household income is insufficient to meet an acceptable standard of living and the inability to afford necessities.

In 2016 there were 75,410 properties available in Australia, only 6.11 per cent of those homes were available to Australians living in hardship. General Manager, Housing Services Frances Paterson-Fleider said we are working to close that gap.

In the past year, we have helped over 3200 people to obtain safe, affordable and secure housing through our housing programs. Of these individuals, over two thirds were at risk of homelessness or in unsuitable or crisis accommodation.

“We know our housing developments fill a significant gap in accommodation within each of the regions and will assist those who are struggling to achieve a basic standard of living,” Frances said.



■ Kurrajong Townhouses are filling a gap in providing much needed affordable homes.

High private rents, long social housing waiting lists and lack of affordable homes, place significant stress on Queensland families.

Having a safe and secure home is the fundamental part of our housing-first approach to supporting people in our community who are vulnerable, experiencing homelessness or at risk of

becoming homeless. Once they have a roof over their head and are no longer worrying about that, then they can concentrate on other aspects of their life.

“We believe that appropriate and affordable housing is a basic human right, and fundamental to individual, family and community wellbeing,” Frances said. ■



Award winning homes

Our new Kurrajong Townhouses at Kallangur received Affordable Housing Urban Development Institute of Australia Award 2018.

The townhouses received the award as they deliver well considered design, construction quality, and diversity of product focussed around a community centre and adjacent open space. The development considered both lifecycle costs and practical sustainable initiatives within a tight budget.

The project received strong market acceptance from individuals and families in need of safe and quality accommodation at an affordable price.

The first residents started moving into the \$10.6 million development in late-2017, with 91 residents now residing in the 50 single and double storey townhouses with one, two and three bedrooms.

General Manager Housing Services Frances Paterson-Fleider (pictured right with the award) said it was a privilege to be recognised for an achievement that brings significant benefits to the local community.

“When we developed the townhouse complex we were committed to creating vibrant, engaging communities, which emphasised social inclusion, safety, diversity and affordability.

“The townhouses are architecturally designed, modern, attractive, high quality homes, which provide excellent places for residents to live and complement the neighbourhood.

“We’re so pleased that while we



“ We’re so pleased that while we developed an affordable living context, we did not compromise on design or finish ”

developed an affordable living context, we did not compromise on design or finish.

“We are incredibly grateful to Ian and Neva Handy for their generous donation which made this development possible. Their kindness will provide hope for generations to come.

“Thank you everyone involved in developing and delivering this project for your energy and commitment, it is a truly remarkable result,” Frances said. ■



Jayla Hill Stockwell Webber Foundation Scholarship recipient

A passion for ensuring older people receive the highest quality of care has led Jayla Hill, pictured, to wanting to study to become a qualified nurse.

By completing a Diploma of Nursing, Jayla will be able to work as a qualified nurse in her rural hometown of Ingham, in far north Queensland, where she currently works as an Assistant in Nursing at our Palms Aged Care Service.

Jayla wants to specialise in geriatric nursing.

“I will be able to assist the elderly and understand them and hopefully, at the end, show them my support as an Endorsed Enrolled Nurse,” Jayla said.

Jayla’s passion for the elderly and for providing high quality care in her rural hometown led her to being awarded the Stockwell Webber Foundation and Churches of Christ in Queensland Scholarship.

The scholarship provides people from rural Queensland who wish to study nursing, management or other field directly related to providing aged and community services in their region.

Congratulations Jayla and prayers and blessings for your studies. ■



The strive to drive

For many young people, getting their drivers licence is a rite of passage on their road to adulthood. Unfortunately for young people living in out-of-home care, logging the required 100 hours of driving time is a near impossible task. Until now.

In November Churches of Christ Care Children, Youth and Families team celebrate the first anniversary since the Supported Independent Living team in Moreton Bay launched the Strive to Drive program.

The program ensures that young people in our out-of-home care have access to a car and a licenced, adult to support them in completing their 100 hour log book.

Each week, young people from the service complete a one hour lesson with their youth worker in a Churches of Christ Care car. Service Manager Dragica Cecez said that for a young person, getting their license is a big deal.

“For a 17 year old, getting your provisional licence is a significant stepping stone to adulthood, being able to get themselves to work or study teaches important lessons about the responsibilities of independence” Dragica said.

Belinda, a young person who was in the Supported Independent Living service, said that for young people in out-of-home care it’s important that they are part of decision making that effects them.

“We [the young people at the service] were really involved with the program, we named it and established some clear safety rules, for example, during our lessons there is no music, proper footwear and mobile phones in the glovebox,” Belinda said.

In its first year on the road, the program has helped five young people from the Moreton Bay Supported Independent Living Service gain their license. ■

“ The children in our service know Aunty Mary from her work within the community and the children, parents and teachers alike have great respect for her, it's a relationship everyone values ”

Visits from Aunty Mary

In the remote outpost of Cunnamulla, community is everything. Our early childhood centre and kindergarten reached out and connected with their local community and Elders and now enjoy regular visits from Aunty Mary, pictured, she has been welcomed with open arms from children, families and staff.

At 80, Aunty Mary is a respected

member and Elder of the Cunnamulla community, actively volunteering her time and across different causes.

Service Manager Kerri-Anne Grant said they value the relationship with Aunty Mary.

“The children in our service know Aunty Mary from her work within the community and the children, parents and teachers alike have great respect

for her, it's a relationship everyone values,” Kerri-Anne said.

In 2015 Aunty Mary published her book *Mary's Story – from Bob's hut to personalised plates* where she tells her story of a life of joys and sorrows from the passing of her baby boy suffering from whooping cough, the sudden death of her father to her own struggles with cancer and the loss of her daughter to the same illness.

But among the sadness in her story she celebrates the joys in her life. Turning 80 last year she takes great pride in her ability to drive herself around town and lend a hand wherever it is needed, volunteering for the Cancer Council, teaching people how to read at the local library and most recently spending time with children at Churches of Christ Care Cunnamulla Early Childhood Centre.

Growing up Mary's mum impressed on her a value of quality education and this is something Mary works hard to share with our younger generations. Visiting our Early Childhood Centre most fortnights Mary spends her visits reading and colouring in with the kindy children, sharing morning tea and having a yarn.

In 2017 Mary was awarded citizen of the year and earlier this year received a NAIDOC elder's award. ■





■ The team of Home Maintenance and Modifications field workers help older people remain safe and secure in their own home for longer.

There is no place **like home**

There is no place like home. The sense of familiarity, safety and security that exists between its walls that makes us feel comfort and protection is something that can have significant impacts to our health and wellbeing.

As we age though, sometimes our homes need to be adapted to meet changing needs as we are no longer able to complete routine maintenance and upkeep, and our physical abilities diminish.

Older people wishing to remain in their own homes, in the comfort of the house they have made their own over a number of years, have the option to receive services to help make their home safe and secure so that they can continue to live their safely.

Our Community Care Services include services for home maintenance and modifications as well as safety and security to support older people remain at home and in their familiar community for longer.

Burnard Cross is the Maintenance Support Manager leading a team of workers who provide vital maintenance

services to support older people in our communities.

On a daily basis, his team is out in the community making homes safer for people to live in.

“We do everything from changing light bulbs and smoke alarms to installing rails, ramps, fixing locks, dripping taps, assessing home security, and installing widow and door locks. We also offer free information and referrals and can organise qualified trade contractors such as electricians, plumbers, appliance repairs and locksmiths. Our maintenance teams can also provide a one-off garden tidy and pressure wash driveways and pathways,” Burnard said.

The team visits about 300 clients each week across the western suburbs of Brisbane, Warwick, Redcliffe Peninsular and the Gold Coast.

Jean* had been in hospital since 31 March 2018, and was due to finally return home in early October. But before she could be released, modifications were required to her home to ensure her safety.

Jean’s husband contacted Churches of Christ Care to organise modifications to the house to allow for Jean’s safe

return home. Our occupational therapist assessed her home and provided professional guidance to ensure Jean’s physical needs and safety were met. Following this advice, Field Officer Lee Harrison was able to attend to Jean’s home and make modifications to the bathroom to ensure Jean could shower safely and independently. Lee also was able to install a ramp entrance for Jean to have easy access around her home.

After the changes were made, Jean is now happily back home with her husband confident in her safety and security. Jean is happy to be out of hospital and is looking forward to having a cuppa in her own home.

For Field Officer Lee Harrison, who used to have his own business in the building industry, he enjoys being able to use his many skills for a purpose other than to make a profit.

“I had the skills and dedication to provide quality work, with clients more interested in how cheap you could perform the tasks. Our community care clients are over the moon just to see you show up on their doorstep,” Lee said. ■

* name changed to protect privacy

Stories from the Black Stump

The Australian expression 'black stump' is the name for an imaginary point beyond which the country is considered remote or uncivilised. It is an abstract marking of the limits of established settlement. Blackall, in western Queensland, is home to the 'black stump' and our Barcoo Living Multi-Purpose Service.

Members of our Executive Group, including Chief Executive Officer Gary Edwards, Executive Director Services Bryan Mason, General Manager Church and Community Engagement Tim McMenamin and General Manager Property and Infrastructure Management David McConaghy, made the journey out to one of our most remote outposts.

The purpose of their visit was to simply connect with our staff, residents and volunteers at the service, as well as meet with local philanthropist and longstanding friend and supporter of Churches of Christ in Queensland, Owen Stockwell.

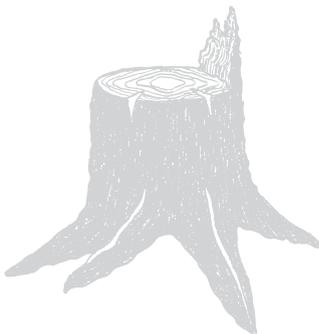
The group were privileged to hear many of the wonderful stories coming out of Barcoo Living Multi-Purpose Service. Three very different stories came from Wendy, Rosemary and Julie, who each provide loving care and support to our residents.

Wendy is a volunteer at the service. Her family has lived in the Blackall area since the late-1800s. Wendy's mother is a resident at the service, having moved from the retirement living to now be in the aged care service. Wendy visits her mother every day, but while she is there, she also spends much of her time helping the residents enjoy the 'Wanderland' Dementia Garden. She encourages them to participate in planting and watering the garden, and walking around and enjoying the garden and the colours and delights of the place.

For seven years, Rosemary has worked at Barcoo Living Multi-Purpose Service, having relocated from the Gold Coast to work at the service, helping with cooking, community work and caring for the residents.

Rosemary has been supported by the service and our Human Resources team to lodge four applications for a Permanent Visa to live in Australia. On 4 September 2017, she was finally successful, and two weeks later her children were able to join her here in Australia.

Rosemary thanks her Service Manager Lorraine Withington and Area Manager Lynda Summers for their unwavering support through the application process.



■ Top, Wendy with Gary Edwards. Middle, Julie May accepts flowers and congratulations from Owen Stockwell. And bottom, Rosemary.

And we in turn thank Rosemary for the wonderful contribution she makes daily to our residents in Blackall.

In 2009, Julie May started working as an Enrolled Nurse at the Blackall service. Seeing the need for registered nurses, Julie decided to take the step and complete the higher qualification.

To support her studies, Julie received the first Stockwell Webber Foundation and Churches of Christ in Queensland scholarship to go towards her studies. The scholarship is supported by local philanthropist Owen Stockwell.

Julie completed her studies in November 2018 and is hoping to be able to use her new qualifications to support residents and other staff at the service. Julie said that she "loves the service and would like to thank everyone for the help given to see achieve her Registered Nurse qualification."

The team enjoyed their trip to the 'black stump' and hearing the wonderful stories. Gary Edwards thanked the service for a great visit.

"Thank you to everyone who made the day and event so special," Gary said. ■

Barcoo Multi-Purpose Service is a 24-bed aged care service, providing quality, tailored care to older people in Queensland's central west.

From battling one of the worst droughts in memory, to cleaning up after devastating storms—life on the land means bearing the perils of what nature has to offer.

In Queensland's South Burnett region, they have been struggling through a declared drought, with water and food for livestock limited and the costs to keep them fed skyrocketing.

In spring, the area was also battered by consecutive storms that tore through the region, destroying millions of dollars' worth of crops and damaging infrastructure.

Sometimes, it is hard to catch a break on the land.

Jim Hodge (pictured) is a Community Chaplain working in the area, helping farmers and local families navigate their journey of living on the land.

Jim is there, in the community, to provide a helping hand when needed.

Droughts are a familiar pattern in Australia and extreme drought is an added pressure on rural people.

"Their crops fail and cattle have little to no feed, causing a sense of helplessness and hopelessness that could lead to other social, emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual factors," Jim said.

"A lot of the people I see are either through word of mouth, or by a referral from other services or individuals. As part of my role, I go to places where people meet and let people know what I do in the community. Other times it's about showing up after a disaster or crisis just to see how people are travelling and to lend a hand," he said.

Jim provides holistic support to people across the region, with a particular focus on helping farmers and in local men sheds.



HOW TO DONATE

You can help Jim to continue to deliver this vital service in the community by donating to our Community Chaplain program at cofc.com.au/give. By making either a one-off donation, or setting up regular giving, you will make a real impact to the lives of people struggling on the land.

As part of this support, he offers genuine compassion, without an agenda, as well as more practical assistance, including food, fuel and clothing, information and referrals, and his body as labour (including chopping up wood, fixing fences, pulling a car out of a bog).

He is also there to listen.

"I provide a listening ear so that people can share their experience and feelings, and know that they can speak freely and in confidence," he said.

"I work with communities so that they can come together and engage, providing opportunities for this to occur and joining in with community events such as fares, the Bacon Festival and more.

"I am there to pray with or for someone, available and ready to hear where people are at in their spiritual life."

There is no doubt that his presence and help has an impact on those in the community, even if it is subtle.

"I guess we don't always know the true impact on each person's life, however you do see the gentle change that occurs in people's lives as a result of the work that God does through us as chaplains. Other times the change is more subtle as people's lives are changed in a big way."

Farming families and those living in rural areas have been under increasing pressure in recent years, with natural disasters and drought, the price paid for produce dropping, the incidence of suicide amongst farmers, and financial and family pressures.

"Farming can be very lonely, living in remote areas without supports so to have someone to listen to you can make a world of difference in people's lives. It is about knowing that people are not alone," Jim said. ■

In droughts and flooding rains



Girls love to getaway

WORDS by Donna Savill – Senior Pastor

Two combined women's retreats are held each year in Queensland, one in Toowoomba early in the year, and one on the Sunshine Coast each October/November.

At the Girls' Getaway Weekend in November ladies gathered from 13 churches to be refreshed, encouraged and to connect with friends and with God. This year's theme was 'Music for the soul'.

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 which touch our heart, minister to our souls, and are just

what we have always longed to hear. And His melody is captivating.

We welcomed guest speaker and singer Aliko who inspired everyone with her message and her music. Some themes women took away were around rest, surrender and worship. Gloria Parry inspired all with stories from Transform the Nations and Linda Shum touched people hearts with her stories and hopes for Eagles Wings.

During this event we thanked Carolyn Stocks and Renee Shibuya for their many years of service and leadership of the retreat, and farewelled them after 18 years. They will still host the Garden Party on May 18, 2019 so follow Girls Getaway on Facebook to stay connected. ■



■ Above, Aliko, Donna Savill and Gloria.

Centenary Development Foundation

Centenary Development Foundation offers two investment funds for churches and paid staff, which generally provide a higher rate of return than for funds placed with a bank at call or working account, which earn little or no interest.

The At Call fund has interest calculate daily, credited monthly, with funds available when you want them.

With the Growth At Call, bonus interest is earned each month when there are no withdrawals. This fund is great for staff who want to save for a specific goal, such as a holiday, or to set funds aside for an emergency.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AT CALL AND GROWTH AT CALL INVESTMENT FUNDS WITH CDF, VISIT CDF.ORG.AU OR CALL 1300 659 644

{ People & Events }

in our communities



Connecting and connected

It was great to meet Cr Vicki Howard at the Connected Community event as part of Anti-Poverty Week. We told her about how our DigiAsk initiative is helping people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness get online, access digital services and stay connected.



Gold Coast development signing

Chief Executive Officer Gary Edwards and Michael McNab from McNab Construction were proud to sign the contract for Stage 1 of our development at Lady Small Haven on the Gold Coast. McNab are experienced in seniors developments.

Winning tree

Residents from Inglewood Aged Care Service were thoroughly delighted with the news that the tree they decorated as part of the Warwick Jumpers and Jazz competition won the prize for Best Community Entry. Work began in March, with the idea to create little birds and music notes, with hours of knitting and winding wool into pom poms took place for many weeks, culminating in a bus trip to Warwick to decorate the allocated tree.



Jim Litteral marks 40 years as a Pastor

On 18 September, Senior Pastor at Westside Church of Christ Jim Litteral marked 40 years as a Pastor. Westside Church of Christ said they are blessed to have him as a Pastor and know that his ministry has touched many lives.



Rocking and rolling at Bribie

Residents at Bribie Island Aged Care Service rocked out to hits from the 60s and 70s when big band The 8-Tracks visited for a special Father's Day gig. Residents enjoyed the performance, with a 100 year old resident even hitting up the dancefloor. Drummer for the band was a familiar face for the service, with Physiotherapist Craig Wilson behind the kit.



George's adventures

George Harrop enjoys outings with our Community Care workers to various Brisbane locations, like the Brisbane Planetarium. His wife and carer Jean said she is more relaxed knowing that George is safe and enjoying his adventures. George pictured on a recent outing to the museum.



Kids mammoth efforts acknowledged

We encouraged our staff and young people to challenge themselves in a variety of activities that provide opportunities to focus on future goals, build self-esteem and be positively connected to the community. Seven staff and young people were involved in the Kokoda Challenge and 60km Cycle Challenge.



Little Mountain Campus medley

On 16 September bowlers from around Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast took to the green at Golden Beach Bowls Club for the Little Mountain Campus Mixed Medley. Teams shared in over \$1000 of prize money, with a great day had by all. Relationship Manager Lisa Cadigan (left) proudly awarded the winning teams.

Master of Leadership in 2019

Starting in 2019, the Australian College of Ministries will offer a Master of Leadership with face-to-face interaction in Queensland. Students from a variety of undergraduate backgrounds can learn the art and science of leadership from a Christian perspective.

Christian leaders in this rapidly changing world need to possess deep spiritual conviction and a passion for mission, with the savvy of great skills in organisational management.

The increasingly sophisticated religious not-for-profit sector now demands its leaders have both great spiritual leadership depth as well as professional management skills tailored to the unique needs of a mission based organisation.

The Master of Leadership focuses on building leadership capacity for people involved in the wide range of religious, not-for-profit, social enterprises. Our students are working for organisations in education, welfare, aged care, disability services, local church and other ministries that each require specific training for ministry and mission.

Built on a strong biblical and theological framework, the Master of Leadership is designed to enable students to become effective leaders, able to traverse changing environments.

Under the guidance of our team of experienced practitioners, students study aspects of leadership, governance, financial reporting, staff management and conflict, welfare and counselling.

We believe that effective leaders will be agents of change who can help ignite and manage the transformation of their organisation and our society.

This qualification equips students with the skills they need to lead others in the daring adventures of God.

This 12 unit program, including a four unit Graduate Certificate in Arts or Leadership, includes:

- Foundations of Christian leadership (core)
- Non-Profit Governance
- A Leadership Research Project based in your workplace
- Three Leadership Specialist units
- Six elective units in any area: Bible, Theology, Spirituality, Professional Supervision, Preaching, Leadership and more.

The Master of Leadership can be studied completely externally, or with optional face-to-face three-day facilitations. IN QLD in 2019, the following facilitations will be offered:

Foundations of Christian Leadership March 12-14 at Kenmore

Facilitators: Dale White, Senior Minister at Humeridge Church of Christ, and Dr Steve Smith, CEO and Principal of ACOM.

Not-for-Profit Governance June 11-13 at Springwood

Facilitators: Sarah Whitehead and Cathy Kleemann. Sarah and Cathy bring experience as Lawyers and Accountants as well as leadership positions in church and non-profit organisations.

For more information about the Master of Leadership, or any other ACOM courses, please contact Stephen Parker on 041 061 4894 or sparker@acom.edu.au or visit www.acom.edu.au

The Australian College of Ministries is owned by the Churches of Christ but is open for people from all denominations.



{ Events }

Find us on 

December

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

DECEMBER 26

Boxing Day

January

JANUARY 1

New Years Day

JANUARY 14-18

FUSE Camp

JANUARY 26

Australia Day

February

FEBRUARY 5

Safer Internet Day

March

MARCH 8

International Women's Day

MARCH 21

Harmony Day

April

APRIL 7

World Health Day

APRIL 19

Good Friday

APRIL 21

Easter Sunday

APRIL 25

ANZAC Day

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

Church Grants 2019

- Does your church have an idea for a mission activity or ministry that needs a kick start?
- Does something at your church property need an upgrade to better serve your mission and vision?
- Do you have an existing mission activity that is connecting with the community and meeting needs and could do with a funding boost?
- Church Grants are here to support you!

As part of our mission to bring the light of Christ into communities, we are passionate about supporting our local church congregations as they reach out to their communities, meet needs and practically demonstrate the good news of Jesus. Centenary Development Foundation has made \$29,000 in grants available to churches in 2019 to support their mission activities, with individual grants for amounts up to \$5,000. Please read the Church Grants 2019 information sheet for more details including the grant criteria and conditions. An application form can be found on the new Centenary Development Foundation website at cdf.org.au/churchgrants, or by emailing info@cdf.org.au to request a copy by email. Please send your application to info@cdf.org.au by 1 February 2019.



Centenary Build on THE Foundation
Development Foundation



Churches
of Christ
in Queensland

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Bringing the light of Christ
into communities