

# networking

ISSUE 1 {2019}

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO COMMUNITIES

## Building community

Little Mountain  
Campus welcomes  
community

Hope for  
children, youth  
and families



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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](mailto:communications@cofcqld.com.au). The submission deadline for the next edition of *networking* is 1 June 2019.

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# Welcome

## to the latest edition of

# Networking

I am regularly amazed by the breadth of work that falls under the umbrella of Churches of Christ in Queensland. I shouldn't be surprised that after 130 years of people diligently serving God and their communities, we would end up in this place, but in a strange way I am.

### This week alone we will work together to ensure that:

- churches gather to worship, learn, pray and serve those in need
- thousands of children, youth and families are cared for in safe homes that create a platform for them to flourish
- our elders and their families are supported and cared for in their own homes as well as through a range of residential care options
- people in Vanuatu gain access to local medical help through Medical Santo
- Thousands of staff will help us to forward our mission of 'bringing the light of Christ into communities'.

This complexity and diversity is something we think about a lot at Churches of Christ as we try to make sure that all of the different aspects of our work and ministry fit together and contribute to our one mission.

We have settled on five key themes that we think summarise and hold together all of the work that we do in our various

communities. Those themes are: **Well-being, Home, Community, Welcome and Faith.**

All of our work is in some way about the WELLBEING of people. We are passionate about helping people live as well as they can, for as long as they can, regardless of the current situation they find themselves in.

We also help people find HOME. To find safe places of belonging, warmth and connection from which they can build lives and families.

We work with communities to build a sense of COMMUNITY. None of our work happens in isolation or in a vacuum but rather we are active members of existing communities partner with others and play our unique part in helping whole communities flourish.

Our posture is one of wanting to WELCOME all sorts of people to benefit from and become part of our work. We seek to practice warm hospitality that sees each person as a unique and values their contribution.

And lastly what holds us together and motivates us is our FAITH. Faith that God is the source of all good things and that he calls us to join him in loving and serving people.

In this issue, you will read stories about how we have been actively working in communities. I encourage you to look for the signs that we are bringing wellbeing, home, community, welcome and faith in that typical Churches of Christ way. ■

**Steve Drinkall**  
*General Manager – Leadership and Culture, Public Relation and Communications*



“We have settled on five key themes that we think summarise and hold together all of the work that we do in our various communities. Those themes are Well-being, Home, Community, Welcome and Faith.”

# CEO

## update



Gary Edwards

The beginning of 2019 has involved visits to as many of our churches and services as possible. I am continuously inspired by the great work we do and have been humbled time and time again by the perseverance and quality of care shown by our staff and volunteers.

### Some highlights for the year include:

#### 'I love aged care' tour

In response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care, we took the time to hit the road to encourage and appreciate the great work of our staff and volunteers in Seniors and Supported living. Executive Director of Services, Bryan Mason with various general managers and myself visited over 25 sites in March, with remainder of the services hosting events in April. It has been a joy to simply interact with staff and residents, hear their stories and celebrate the blessing that good aged care is to our families and communities.

#### Regional information sessions for church leaders

In a similar vein, we have conducted a number of regional events to connect directly with our church leaders, elders, and other interested regional volunteers. We have listened to the stories of local churches in action and discovered how Kenmore Campus can assist in supporting their local mission. We have also taken the opportunity to discuss the implications of the National Redress Scheme, safe people, places and programs, healthy governance and eldership, as well as share aspects

of our new strategic plan relating to 'building the Kingdom of God'. These sessions have attracted a large number of our leaders with a majority of local churches being represented. Of particular encouragement to me has been the number of new pastors that we have flowing into Churches of Christ in Queensland, bringing fresh perspective, enthusiasm and hope.

#### North Queensland Flood Appeal

As you know our great state has been hammered in the last few months by both bushfires and floods. Many of our services located in North Queensland were affected by these disasters. Our emergency response staff worked tirelessly to support our locals and to make sure our clients, friends, neighbours and families were all supported as much as possible.

The wider Churches of Christ in Queensland network generously donated to our 'North Queensland Flood Appeal' with funds raised by churches, individuals and staff to assist directly with needs on the ground. I was extremely proud of our efforts and the resilience shown by our staff and volunteers who are still cleaning up their own homes after this difficult season.

As CEO, I get the privilege to serve our movement by ensuring that we understand our mission and that we stay aligned in our efforts. None of these things though are as inspiring as seeing the lived contributions of over 10 000 of us who are passionately working to bring the light of Christ into communities.

I am looking forward to a great 2019.



From March to May we are visiting aged care services across Queensland and Victoria to meet staff and volunteers to say thank you.



■ Mitchelton Campus, March 2019

## North Qld Flood Appeal

### \$22,160 raised

Thank you for donating to help the recovery effort in North Queensland.

Many of our people have been busy juggling the damage to their own properties and neighbourhoods, with the ongoing commitment to support all of those we care for on a daily basis. Thank you for your support, generosity and prayers.



# faith

## Easter reflection

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (NIV)

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (NSAB)

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of" (The Message)

WORDS BY KEVIN HAMER, CHAPLAINCY MANAGER

These are three translations of the same Bible verse found in John 10:10. The key point being that Jesus came to give us life. Throughout our aged care work, Churches of Christ follow the Positive Wellbeing model of care. This was developed directly from this Bible Verse and finds expression as our staff offer residents comfort, identity, occupation, inclusion and attachment.

So what has this got to do with Easter? What does this have to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus? The answer is found in that word 'life'. Jesus came to do whatever was necessary to give us life.

All people, regardless of their story, are offered life. And it comes through the power of forgiveness. Have you ever been forgiven for something? Have you ever felt the burden of unforgiveness lifted from

your shoulders? I have and it felt like my lungs filled with oxygen again, whereas before they were wheezing. That is the power of forgiveness. And Jesus, through his death and resurrection, offers that to all people. How? To be honest, I am not really sure. It is like a divine mystery. But what I do know is the fruit of that forgiveness is tangible. It is real and it is for all.

Easter is an ideal opportunity to not only embrace this forgiveness, but to also offer it to others. Jesus taught us to pass onto others the things we have been given. Imagine a world where forgiveness was our first response to offence. It started with Jesus. He died on a cross and forgave before we even sought forgiveness. That's love. Unconditional love. This Easter, let us also love in such ways. ■



## Making strides in leadership, faith & ministry

Our strong history of women in leadership and ministry was further strengthened when Churches of Christ in Queensland ordained Donna Savill at Southport Church of Christ on Sunday February 10.

Donna encourages women's leadership through mentoring and coaching emerging leaders and explains how a shift within leadership and church eldership has paved the way for women in ministry becoming more normalised.

"Part of encouraging people to serve in areas of their calling is to lead by example, and having women in visible leadership roles empowers women of all ages to identify their calling and live it out in authentic ways.

"I am hoping my ordination will open the way for young men and women who will be our future leaders, to explore and step into their calling, whatever that looks like in their local context," Donna said.

Undertaking leadership roles in church and community organisations, Donna followed her calling and pursued studies in Theology, completing a Bachelor of Ministries at the Bible College of Queensland in 2001.

"I've always had a passion for developing leaders and encouraging ministry and mission in our churches and communities.

"My ordination was an affirmation of my personal calling and helps to enhance my connection with state and national organisations and denominations," Donna said.

Donna has served on the Council of Churches of Christ in Queensland through 2011 and 2012 and commenced as Women's Pastor in 2013 to help equip, empower and lead people to find their true calling. Donna has also served on the board of a community branch of Bendigo Bank, and is currently employed by Churches of Christ in Qld as the Senior Pastor for Church Engagement.

Reflecting on her own experiences, Donna's tips to emerging leaders are to identify what you are passionate about, look out for opportunities to learn new skills or hone existing ones, and if you see qualities in other people that you admire, tell them.

"And take a leader out to lunch; this could be someone who you admire or respect, or someone who is a prominent leader in your field. Ask them about their life and ministry and any tips they may have for you." ■

## Welcome new Church Leaders

We are delighted to welcome the following people to form part of the Churches of Christ in Queensland church

leadership community:

- Andrew & Jackie Crighton, Hervey Bay
- Andy Dunkin, Kingaroy
- Ben Zambra, Withcott
- Clinton Montgomery, Arana Hills
- Edmund Wanganeen, Zillmere
- Kevin Dunn, Gympie
- Michael Thurlow, Caboolture
- Mike Smith, Redlands
- Murray and Caz Holmes, Hume Ridge
- Pat Hegarty, Kenmore
- Peter Meiers, Silverdale
- Peter Willis, Caloundra
- Ross Pelling, Annerley
- Steve Nixon (Interim Pastor), Gladstone

### Farewell faithful Board members

We pay tribute to our longstanding Board members who completed their terms during 2018:

- Steven Muller: July 2012 to June 2018
- Rilla Roberts: January 2010 to December 2018.

Our Board members dedicate their time, energy, skills and expertise while serving. Thank you Rilla and Steven for the enormous commitment and contribution you have made and to serve Churches of Christ in Queensland over these years. We wish you the very best for the future. ■



■ CEO Gary Edwards, Rilla Roberts, Ken Ewald

# Changing lives in Northern Vanuatu

## Australian Aid: Friendship Grant

Churches of Christ in Queensland has received an Australian Aid: Friendship Grant from the Australian Government to further the Churches of Christ Medical Santo Community Based Rehabilitation program in Vanuatu. The program commenced as a six month project in 2018 and will now continue through 2019.



**T**he \$60,000 grant will support four local Community Based Rehabilitation workers to identify and provide support for people living with a disability, and their carers, in the community.

Community Based Rehabilitation is based on empowerment and dignity and aims to increase a person's participation in their own community through a range of initiatives including employment, education, cultural activities or attending training. It increases awareness of the rights of people living with disabilities through the facilitation of information sessions at local schools, churches and community groups.

Two volunteer physiotherapists from Queensland will provide professional support, training the local workers, facilitating relationships with local service providers and government departments and advising on referrals and goals.

Medical Santo Executive Manager, Lyn Cox is delighted the grant will support a continuation of the Community Based Rehabilitation program in the region.

"Medical Santo is unique - the Community Based Rehabilitation team is fully integrated with the Medical Santo medical, nursing and allied health clinic services which provides a multidisciplinary team to address the full continuum of care for people living with a disability and/or their carers."

"We're really looking forward to continuing our partnership work with the Vanuatu Government, local provinces and strengthening our community networks in the region to continue to deliver this wonderful initiative," Lyn said.

During 2018, Community Based Rehabilitation workers identified 280 people living with a disability across communities on the islands, ranging from young children to the elderly requiring care and assistance.



"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 can result in families slipping into a cycle of poverty and abuse, which can impact the family for generations to come," Lyn said.

"The Community Based Rehabilitation program aims to empower those living with a disability and their families to participate in education, livelihood and social opportunities, as well as educating the local community and reducing the stigma around disability."

Since 2013, Medical Santo has provided primary health, emergency and allied health care from the clinic based in Luganville along with mentoring and training of medical staff in the local hospital. Teams have also been sent out to many rural communities in the northern islands of Vanuatu. ■

*Medical Santo has delivered care to over 24,000 people since opening and will continue to assist the people and change the lives of those in Northern Vanuatu into the future.*



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](http://www.cofc.com.au/give) or email [give@medicalsanto.com](mailto:give@medicalsanto.com)

# 2019

## National Affordable Housing Award finalist



Churches of Christ in Queensland was one of 43 national finalists attending the awards on 28 March.

**C**hurches of Christ in Queensland was thrilled to be a finalist for the 2019 UDIA National Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing by the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) for our Housing Services development in Kallangur.

The \$10.6 million development opened in late-2017 providing a diverse range of 50 single and double storey townhouses with one, two and three-bedrooms for individuals, couples and families.

Churches of Christ Housing Services General Manager Frances Paterson-Fleider said to be recognised on a national scale is an honour.

"As I look at the calibre of other entries in this category, I am very proud that the Kallangur development has been selected to sit alongside them.

"It demonstrates that together philanthropists and the not-for-profit sector can create affordable living solutions that meet the highest of industry standards, are of the highest quality and achieve both financial and social returns.

"When we developed the townhouse complex we were committed to creating vibrant, engaging communities, which

emphasised social inclusion, safety, diversity and affordability.

"As a finalist in this prestigious award, it is very encouraging for the future of affordable housing developments," Ms Paterson-Fleider said.

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

"To support reduction in household running costs, sustainable and efficient design was also high priority.

"Sustainable materials and features

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

have been included to reduce running costs for residents and we required the use of local, low-waste materials in construction to reduce our environmental footprint and to support local suppliers."

Ten of the townhouses are built to Gold Standard adaptable to meet the needs of residents living with a disability and enabling others to age in place.

"Multiple internal configurations suitable for seniors and people with a disability or families managing a relative with a disability ensure flexibility into the future as needs change."

Residents also benefit from an 'embedded network' electricity arrangement which supports a reduction in household electricity costs.

"On a like-for-like basis they are saving one third on their electricity bills."

The townhouses aim to meet the needs of lower income earners and others who have difficulties accessing housing in the private market with residents having flexible leases and affordable rents that meet their ability to cover the costs of living.

Residents have access to a community centre that supports community development, cohesion and connection, which is central to Churches of Christ.

"A dedicated housing officer provides tenancy and property management and a community chaplain offers pastoral care which has had tremendous benefits to our resident's wellbeing."

The townhouses are now home to 91 residents, with many tenants moving from unaffordable and inappropriate homes.

"For many, they have moved from inappropriate living situations to a new home where they can experience independence, security, safety and comfort."

The project was made possible by a 9000m<sup>2</sup> gift of land by Ian and Neva Handy for the specific purpose of creating affordable housing in Kallangur.

"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" Ms Paterson-Fleider said.

The townhouses at Kallangur have been named Kurrajong the Aboriginal word for 'beautiful tree,' Brachychiton populneus. ■



# Cunnamulla

## welcomes new service leaders



Cunnamulla is the epitome of 'outback' Australia, an isolated town surrounded by red dirt, bushland and native Australian animals. There is more to this town than meets the eye and this close-knit community has won over the hearts of Joshua and Jane Marks, the new childcare centre manager and kindergarten teacher at Cunnamulla Early Childhood Service.

Jane was a Residential Youth Worker with Churches of Christ when she first received an email seeking interested and qualified people to join the early childhood team. Recently completing a Bachelor of Primary Education, Jane was looking to take the next step in her career and prayed 2019 would open doors for her and her family. Joshua worked as a relief teacher in primary schools recently completing a Bachelor of Primary Education.

It was an email from Chief Executive Officer Gary Edwards just before Christmas which tugged at Josh and Jane's heart strings.

"We recognised it as a sign, and if it was meant to be, the journey would be easy," Jane said.

"As a family we discussed how we could make it work, and decided to apply and left it in the hands of God," Josh said.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Josh and Jane said farewell to family and friends and with their children loaded the cars and drove 800km to their new home.

Since commencing their roles, Josh and Jane's partnership has enlivened the local community.

"Cunnamulla has an unwavering community spirit, and investing ourselves in it has helped us become a part of it in the two months we have been here," Jane said.

Staying connected to family and building connections in their new community has been important to Josh and Jane.

"We video call our two children back in Brisbane regularly and look forward to seeing them soon on holidays," Jane said. "It will be a new experience for them when they visit, which I think they will enjoy."

"There have not been many days where we have just our own children in our house, it takes us back to an era where kids come knocking at our door, go for bike rides or walk to school



### Cunnamulla Early Childhood Service profile

- Kindergarten, outside-school-care, early childhood and vacation care
- Two-room long-day-care centre offers care for children aged six weeks to five years
- Kindergarten operates four days a week and provides a bus service to collect and drop off children to their homes.

together. Everything is within a stone's throw," Josh said.

"When you have a big family, it attracts more children and our house has always had that, and it's continued here," Jane said.

The social nature of the town sees Jane and Josh attend social bowls on Saturday evenings, host movies on the grass for the community in their backyard, and weekly board games night with their family.

Josh and Jane have also supported the centre with the recent introduction of online sign-in and a digital communication platform for parents and teachers called Kinderloop.

Children, Youth and Families Regional Manager Rachel Robinson said Josh and Jane's passion has been endearing.

"Being the only childcare provider in the region, people rely on the service so they can continue in their roles at the local health services, schools and services that help to keep the town alive.

"I love Cunnamulla, it is a hidden gem and has a great sense of pride when it comes to community," Rachel said. "Jane and Josh are courageous and compassionate people and we will continue to support them in their new roles."

Jane and Josh have been awed with the amount of gratitude from parents at the service.

"You're filled with an overwhelming amount of compassion when the community is so welcoming and value your roles," Jane said.

"Settling into the role has not been easy, but it's been so rewarding," Josh said.

"It's a matter of perspective, and people can look at things as either a challenge or an opportunity. We take life by the horns and hope to instil that attitude in our children," Jane said.

There are so many people that want to go out into the world and go on mission trips to make a difference, but we have communities in our own backyard who need the Aussie helping hand.

"We are here because there was a need. When you are fulfilling a need, you are often more fulfilled than what you give." ■

*If you would like to know more about employment opportunities at our Cunnamulla Early Childhood Service please contact Joshua Marks on 07 4655 2888.*

# Grant recipients give back to community



**C**hurches of Christ in Queensland's Centenary Development Foundation (CDF) has proudly assisted many churches with loans to undertake worthwhile projects, such as the acquisition of new equipment, or to help fund the development of new or existing buildings. Since 1986, CDF has provided \$1million worth of grants to churches to support mission activities in their communities. In 2018, up to \$5,000 was made available for churches in Queensland to support their missional activities.



## Gladstone Church of Christ HopeLINK

Gladstone Church of Christ is responding to the needs of the local community through HopeLINK ministry. Through HopeLINK a space was created for mentoring and social groups, counselling services and now the hOPeSHOP to sell affordable second-hand items to provide physical relief for the community. With the assistance of the CDF grant, hOPeSHOP was able to create a space for volunteers to feel valued with the addition of a shaded workshop area, including in-store fans, pricing guns and a moveable collection bin (pictured above).

## Gladstone Church of Christ Combined Churches Youth Group (CCYG) camp

CCYG Camp is an initiative by Kingaroy Church of Christ for teenagers and young adults to connect and form friendships by engaging in church and faith. The CDF grant helped lower costs of the youth camp making it affordable for teens from financially challenged backgrounds to attend. The youth ministry also used part of the funds to purchase sporting equipment to increase engagement with young adults and help build their confidence (pictured above).

## Zillmere Church of Christ Bean Redeemed and Pins & Needles

Bean Redeemed is a coffee and chat initiative by Zillmere Church of Christ to improve church engagement with the local community. Facilitating a drop-in coffee hub and a learn to sew and conversational English group called 'Pins & Needles', the grant, supported by the church's commitment to match the grant dollar for dollar, has allowed the church to upgrade its hall facilities to provide greater flexibility and functionality to improve church engagement with the community through these outreach programs. (pictured below).



“ Since 1986, CDF has provided \$1million worth of grants to churches to support mission activities in their communities. ”



## Silverdale Church of Christ Fassifern Youth Initiative

The Fassifern Youth Initiative is a collaboration of seven churches in the Fassifern district dedicated to bringing the light of Christ to the youth of the region. The Fassifern Youth Initiative hosts 65 youths every Friday evening and facilitates holiday programs. The funds received from CDF have contributed to hall hire fees, parent workshops, leadership programs and the employment of a Youth Minister. (pictured above). ■

*If your church has an idea for a mission activity or ministry that needs a kick start or has an existing mission activity that needs a funding boost, contact Centenary Development Foundation by visiting [cdf.org.au](http://cdf.org.au) to find out when the next round of applications are open!*



# What Are You Walking For?

**A**walk with God is full of hope. Church communities like yours can share this powerful hope with people like Agnes.

Agnes (pictured left) lives in rural Zimbabwe, but like you, she is an active member of a church that meets each Sunday. She attends faithfully, but getting to church hasn't always been easy. Every Sunday, Agnes would walk an exhausting 15 kilometres to attend the nearest service to her home.

For many people like Agnes, living in rural areas around the world, walking long distances to church is their only option. While some set out on a five to ten kilometre walk each Sunday, others face a challenging walk of up to 25 kilometres. Being so far from church makes service attendance difficult, isolates people from their church community, and limits involvement in church life – and the challenges are not limited to distance.

Your own spiritual journey has no doubt been influenced by the hope of the gospel and the ministries of your local church, but many people around the world still don't have access to the hope brought by Christian ministries. Many people have no Christian presence in their communities and as a result, have never heard the gospel. Others have no pastor to lead a local church, or are confined to their homes due to illness or injury. Without evangelists or trained pastors to visit them, they have little to no opportunity

to hear the gospel and be a part of Christian community.

This Good Friday, as you reflect on your spiritual walk for hope, you can give that hope to others by walking to church. Walk for Hope is a challenge run by Global Mission Partners (GMP) to walk to church, raise money and give people hope through access to Christian ministries. By planning a one, five or ten kilometre walk, and with the support of family and friends, the money you raise will plant new churches, train pastors and send evangelists to share Jesus' message of hope to more people.

Because of the support of people like you, a new church has been planted near Agnes's home, cutting the distance from her home to church in half! Agnes is actively involved in the church, and even helped to make and lay the bricks for the church building. Today, she is a leader in women's fellowship and visits many people around her community to encourage them and share the hope that she has found.

By getting yourself and your church community involved in Walk for Hope, you will be making it possible for more people like Agnes to attend and contribute to their churches.

*It's as easy as walking to church. Sign up at [WalkforHope.com.au](http://WalkforHope.com.au) or contact Vicki Marney your local GMP representative [vicki@gmp.org.au](mailto:vicki@gmp.org.au)*





## Living retirement to the full

**R**etirement for most is a life redefining milestone awaiting those ready to step away from their work identity and discover life in retirement.

Fassifern Retirement Village residents John and Jan Gellatly embarked on a journey of rediscovery when they moved from living in their highset, 2.5 acreage house in Ipswich to a three-bedroom home in the retirement village.

"Downsizing was not difficult for us. While we have fond memories of our beloved home, it was definitely time to consider a smaller house, and moving into a retirement community was an inevitable future step.

Our family was in favour of this move because we are able get all the services we need straight to our doorstep – you can't get that anywhere else," John said.

John and Jan, now in their 70s shared thirty years in Karalee, Ipswich, raising their six children and tending to a

hobby farm. While Jan looked after the household, John was employed by the Ipswich City Council.

"For the first twelve months I struggled, I felt like a bird who had fallen out of the nest and wondered whether we had made the right decision.

"It was a radical change, but I love it now. On an acreage you're on your own, you hardly see your neighbours and there's continuous maintenance required.

"I guess for me it was discovering my hobbies again and what made it easier was the sense of community and the freedom to live independently," John said.

"While it's not gated, there's that extra security and companionship you don't get in estates.

"We are so lucky to have a home that has more space than a lot of new developments, there's plenty of grass on both sides and a picturesque view of the Scenic Rim," Jan said.

John and Jan have since discovered

their green thumb, tending to their vegetable and flower garden, lay-preaching at various churches around the Scenic Rim and Ipswich regions, and travelling regularly.

"We don't need a forethought about going on a holiday. We can decide that morning, inform our neighbours and go knowing our home is safe and well looked after," Jan said.

"We did not lose ourselves or our independence when we moved here, in fact we have ventured out to do more than we imagined.

"There's a certain sense of isolation when living on an acreage, but here you can spend the whole day walking around the village and talking to everyone," John said.

"There's no shortage of activities. What I like about it is that you can get as involved as much or as little as you like.

"You don't have to do anything, but there is an opportunity to get involved," John said. ■

# Making a difference

We regularly receive feedback from families about the wonderful impact our aged care services have on the lives of loved ones and their families. Their stories touch our heart and show us that we truly do make a difference.

We wanted to share one family's story with you.

**T**o the Staff and Management of Buckingham Gardens Nursing Home,

Our Mother, Margaret Gower, passed away at 8.40am on the 15th of February 2019 after being diagnosed with a serious brain bleed at the beginning of the week. Could you please pass on our gratitude to all the staff and Management of Buckingham Gardens for their assistance to Mum and her family during this difficult time.

During the last week of her life, all the staff showed considerable compassion to Mum and her family, going above and beyond our expectations of how her last days would be. When it became clear that she was in the last phase of her life, we were advised every step of the way how the end of life would be. These were very emotional days for us all, but we were never made to feel that we were in the way. Whenever we had moments we would cry, there was always a carer nearby to offer us comfort and hugs, and

they were all very gentle with our Mother

Two days before she passed, Pastor Lynda introduced us to a lady by the name of Judith, who spent the last two evenings of Mums life with her, singing to her and reading to her from the Bible. And each morning when we arrived we would find a letter for us from Judith, advising what she had done with Mum the night before. With the first note she

“

Could you please pass on our gratitude to all the staff and Management of Buckingham Gardens for their assistance to Mum and her family during this difficult time

”

also left a Gardenia from her garden and the fragrance of this flower stayed in Mum's room for her final days, and the following night a hand crafted cross which we will leave with Mum on her final journey.

On our last evening with Mum, one of the nurses asked how many of us would be there at dinner time so the staff could make us sandwiches, we were just blown away by the thoughtfulness of this gesture.

We were so impressed with everyone at Buckingham Gardens that we wanted to let Management know how the staff treated us like their family, and while there were many different personalities there, it just worked.

Thank you all so much, our memories of Mums last days will always be remembered with happiness. ■

*Carol Little, Kevin Tucker,  
Michael Tucker and Sue Tucker  
17 February 2019*





## Foster carers with big hearts

**F**oster carers come from all walks of life. It's a special job that needs people with extraordinary hearts.

Becoming foster carers over 23 years ago, John\* and Kerrie\* learnt caring for vulnerable young people takes a community.

"A lot of children in the foster care system come to you during their most vulnerable and difficult time and it's your responsibility to protect them, care for them and value them," Kerrie\* said.

Deciding they wanted to start a family, newly married John\* and Kerrie\* turned to foster care when they found out they were unable to have children of their own.

"It's partly a role that makes me feel valued, opening our home and our hearts to children who need help and understanding how a place of safety and security can transform their lives.

"Just like there's no one type of carer, there's no typical child who needs care.

"Children requiring homes come for

different reasons, sometimes it is respite care to give parents a break, or when their parents are unwell or in hospital and unable to look after their children," Kerrie\* said.

Many foster carers welcome over one hundred children into their homes.

"We were so naïve when we started our fostering journey but we faced each challenge head on and opened our home to thirty children, raising four beautiful girls into adulthood.

"Our journey has not been without its challenges. These children came to us at their most vulnerable time, and over a number of years I have found myself advocating for the wellbeing of the children in my care," Kerrie\* said.

Their second foster child Lorna came into their care when she was a baby.

At 23, Lorna is in the one percent of foster children who have completed a university degree.

Now owning her own home and in a nursing profession, Lorna recently won Young Australian of the Year.

"It's more than providing them with quality education, being a foster parent is about teaching life values, and giving children a nurturing environment and a sense of security to help them secure their future," Kerrie\* said.

"I believe that everyone deserves a childhood and seeing them happy living their lives is my reward.

"Being a foster carer is a big decision, but it's likely to be one of the best things you ever do," Kerrie\* said. ■

*Find out if you could become a foster carer with Churches of Christ Care – attend an info session or visit [www.fosterwithus.com.au](http://www.fosterwithus.com.au) for more information.*

*\*Not their real names. Identities are protected.*



Our foster carers offer hope and support for children and young people who need a safe, secure and stable home. The impact they make has the potential to change a young person's life. James\* reflection will touch your heart.

## Foster care gave me

# Hope

A reflection from James\*



**D**o you remember having a childhood at the age of six? I didn't have a good childhood. I was six years old and in a bad situation. It was very difficult with some of the struggles that I had. I was not taught to speak very well and I didn't know how to read people's emotions. All I knew was to stay alive and think straight.

One of the memories I remember was that I felt so down. I was stuck in the dark for a very long time as a six year old with no guidance or support. I kept thinking what else is there better in life than this situation that I am currently at.

A couple months later I got moved to a foster home. I showed up with nothing except for my Buzz Lightyear toy and a big baggy school uniform that was too big on me. When I was at the door waiting for the foster parents to greet me, I was nervous and scared because I had never met them before.

When the doors opened, I felt blank. I didn't know how to feel or react. But what I did see was two nice parents staring back at me. It turned out they couldn't have children of their own and they were wanting a family of their own. They took me in as their very own son.

The man I met was Shaun\*. Shaun taught me how to swim on the holidays and he taught me how to write my name. This helped me with learning how to do my hand and eye coordination skills

“

My foster parents loved me, supported me in every way that they could. Now as a sixteen year old teenager I think that there is not a lot of love and support to other foster kids

”

properly. I was so grateful for this. No one had really done anything like that for me before.

The woman was Janine\*. She was the kindest person that I knew as well. My fondest memory is when she taught me all the sight words in grade one in the primary school. I won the award for Highest Academic Achievement for year one. This helped me to feel like I had actually achieved something. A feeling I hadn't experienced before.

Over the few years I had gained many achievements like reading, writing, learning to talk, and drawing and teach me how to cook food. One of the best memories that I remembered was learning how to play sport because I really loved to play sport and going to the USA.

My foster parents loved me, supported me in every way that they could. Now as a sixteen year old teenager I think that there is not a lot of love and support to other foster kids. My delighted sport memory was when I was playing soccer for the under-sevens Football united. My foster parents watched every game that I attended to. I felt like I was truly loved by Shaun and Janine because of their facial emotions that they showed me. I will have great memories of my USA trip forever.

Here's a question for you guys.

How many foster kids can you love and support? Keep it in your mind that there are over 9,000 kids in Queensland in foster homes because of family issues, drugs, alcohol and many other bad situations in their little life. Some of the foster kids can move from one to numerous different homes because foster parents cannot always have them for a lifetime like happened to me. I have been a foster kid for ten years now and look at me, I have achieved so many things in life.

To foster kids out there - it is possible to have a normal childhood. ■

*\*Not their real names. Identities are protected.*

# Royal Commission into Aged Care and Quality and Safety

**T**he Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is underway. Churches of Christ in Queensland has lodged a submission following the Commission's invitation to all leading aged care providers to provide a submission. Churches of Christ in Queensland supports the Commission and welcomes any reforms that will make the aged care sector better and more person-centred.

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.

The Commission's interim report is required by 31 October 2019, with the final report due by 30 April 2020. ■

For more information about the Royal Commission visit [www.agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au](http://www.agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au)



■ Aurielle Green, 78, with Service Manager Pauline Jones

## Brave shave for a cure

**B**ald is the new bold for Buckingham Gardens Aged Care Service resident Aurielle Green, who shaved her head on 28 February to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Aurielle had an audience of over 30 people including residents, staff and volunteers.

Ms Green who is passionate about raising awareness and funding research to find a cure for Leukaemia said nobody is too old to shave for a cause.

"Those diagnosed and suffering from Leukaemia need support and help, and this is the role that I can play.

"My family has been lucky to not suffer from any serious illnesses, but there are many people who are not as lucky. That's the reason I did it, to help others," Ms Green said.

Buckingham Gardens Service Manager Pauline Jones, who wielded the clippers, said she had been impressed by Ms Green's determination to raise the money.

"It has all been her idea and we've supported her. We decided to have the big party for her to celebrate all her efforts," Pauline said.

Aurielle will donate \$525 to the Leukaemia Foundation in honour of World's Greatest Shave. ■

## National Redress Scheme

**C**hurches of Christ in Queensland is supportive of the work and purpose of the National Redress Scheme. Our application to opt-in to the Scheme has been submitted.

We believe the model established for redress takes into account a range of mechanisms to provide justice and support to survivors of

abuse. In particular, the provisions for survivors to access therapeutic counselling and psychological care as needed throughout their lives are vital, reflecting the often life-long impacts of sexual abuse.

For more information about the National Redress Scheme visit [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au) or call 1800 737 377.

# BECOME A REGULAR DONOR TODAY

## YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE - THANK YOU

By signing up to give monthly, your generosity helps achieve real outcomes for vulnerable children and adults in need through child protection, care services and residential aged care for the elderly, education and child care, welfare or accommodation services for families at risk of homelessness.

**Bringing the light of Christ into communities.**

We thank you, your donation will touch the lives of real children and adults who need compassionate, professional care and support for vulnerable people whose life circumstances could otherwise go unnoticed or untreated.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING TODAY.**

Please complete the form below and send to:  
Fundraising, Churches of Christ in Queensland  
PO Box 508, Kenmore Qld 4069



## Yes I want to support Churches of Christ in making a difference.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**OR**

My gift today is

\$100  \$50  \$30

Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please debit my  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX

□□□□/□□□□/□□□□/□□□□

Exp Date □□/□□ CVV □□□□

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque/Money Order is enclosed payable to Churches of Christ Care

I have included Churches of Christ in Queensland in my Will

I would consider including Churches of Christ in Queensland in my Will

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

For further information please phone

**1800 600 900**



Bringing the light of Christ into communities

# Little Mountain Campus is open

**W**e opened our newest integrated community campus at Little Mountain, Caloundra in February. Opening Week from 1 to 9 February included a Community Open Day and a range of activities designed to welcome neighbours, the local church, health professionals and more.

It is the first time Churches of Christ, or any service provider in Queensland, has created a campus comprising a residential aged care service, community care office, aquatic centre, café and community centre for local community and resident use in one location.

Families can spend time together in the café, enjoy watching grandchildren in the playground or participate in a swim program in the aquatic centre, or become involved in one of the activities that will take place in the auditorium.

Development of the campus supports what Churches of Christ set out to achieve when it began to explore development of an integrated community development several years ago.

Chief Executive Officer Gary Edwards said the idea was to create a place that could open up possibilities - for the community and campus residents.

"The campus is a place where an inclusive, healthy and connected community that fosters engagement, wellbeing and creativity can thrive in safe and accessible physical spaces.

We invite people to come and experience our warm sense of hospitality, where everyone will feel welcome," Mr Edwards said. ■



## Campus facilities include:

### Little Mountain Residential Aged Care Service

The aged care service has six cottages each with 16 private bedrooms with ensuites. Facilities, space and programs mean people from all ages can come together, connect and enjoy themselves. First residents John and Beryl Jobe (left) moved into a cottage in February.



### Aquatic Centre (above)

Members and residents have access to a 25m heated lap pool and 7.5m heated learn to swim pool. People are enjoying the formal programs such as aqua aerobics, squad training, school swimming programs, learn to swim programs and lap swimming.

### One Table Cafe (left)

Everyone is welcome to drop by, or take-away, a cuppa. The café is open Monday to Friday from 6am to 6pm and on Saturday mornings.



### Community Centre

A large auditorium can cater for up to 250 people. There are four function rooms and one training room that can cater for groups up to 25.



### Community Care

Churches of Christ Care Community Care onsite office serves as the regional base for staff who support seniors to live independently at home.

# { People & Events }

in our communities



## Building community



### Lady Small Haven redevelopment, Gold Coast (below)

In February, we were excited to complete the first concrete pour of the new Lady Small Haven retirement living development. Concrete pours are continuing and the building is beginning to take shape.

When complete in early 2020, there will be a new building with 65 retirement living units and a clubhouse. The long term vision is to enhance retirement and aged care facilities for the Gold Coast region. *Find out more about this exciting project at [www.cofc.com.au/developments/gold-coast](http://www.cofc.com.au/developments/gold-coast)*



### New affordable seniors housing, Brisbane (above)

Churches of Christ in Queensland, through its subsidiary, Churches of Christ Housing Services is excited to partner with the Department of Housing and Public Works to deliver Hillcrest Apartments, a new rental accommodation complex for seniors in Hillcrest, Logan City. Construction commenced in March. The \$9.3 million development will comprise 32x one-and-a-half and two-bedroom apartments that offer affordable, easy-to-maintain, generous modern living for people over 55 years. It is being developed on vacant land owned by Churches of Christ in Queensland and adjacent to the existing Clive Burdeu Aged Care Service on Middle Road, Hillcrest.

When complete in 2020, the new innovative integrated community model enables residents to age-in-place with freedom, independence, privacy and security. Residents will be able to access a range of local care service depending

on their circumstances and as their needs change over time.

### Fassifern Aged Care Service development, Scenic Rim (below)

We kicked off work on the Fassifern Aged Care Service development on 1 April. The new service will include a 64 bed residential aged care facility that will replace the existing nursing home which currently has a number of limitations restricting its ability to accommodate growing needs. The development will have landscaped gardens, a central courtyard and a man-made lake.

The new aged care facility will be co-located with the retirement village on Harold Stark Avenue. Completion of construction of the building is planned for late-July 2020. Our aim is to continue to provide an environment where people will feel safe, respected and valued. ■

*Find out more about this exciting project at [www.cofc.com.au/developments/boonah](http://www.cofc.com.au/developments/boonah)*



### New beginnings for Pastor Dale White

Senior Pastor Dale and family farewelled HumeRidge Church of Christ as they embark on a new chapter after serving for 21 years. Pictured above leading his last service, Dale thanked staff and elders whom he has worked alongside, and the community HumeRidge Church of Christ has built.



### Hand to Man

In the spirit of Christmas giving, Hand to Man, spearheaded by Churches of Christ Housing Services, distributed a number of gift bags packed with essentials to men in Youth Connect, crisis housing and housing tenants during the holiday season.

### Irene Batzloff celebrates 21 years of volunteering

On 29 November, we bid farewell and thanks to Irene Batzloff after 21 years of volunteering at Toowoomba Aged Care service. Pictured below receiving gifts from staff and residents, Irene reflected on her time with Churches of Christ in Queensland.



### Boonah farewell's Helen

Fassifern Aged Care Service thanked and farewelled Service Manager Helen Demnar after 23 years with Churches of Christ in Queensland. Pictured with Regional Manager Donna Hart and Fassifern Care Manager Shirley Kalanis, Helen was the Service Manager for the residential aged care service for 19 years.



### International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2019 celebrated women from all walks of life. Staff celebrated this year's theme 'Balance for Better' stands for empowerment and diversity to help eliminate discrimination against women.



### Giving back, Baby!

Gold Coast charity Baby Give Back has given new mothers and mothers-to-be in our Housing Service a kick start by providing essentials including nappies, toys, clothing, cots, buggies and baby bags. We are grateful for their overwhelming generosity.



### Harmony Day at Bribie

On 21 March, Bribie Island Campus celebrated Harmony Day with a myriad of festivities by marking the day with residents, staff, volunteers and community groups participating in the celebrations.



### Nick continues dream of helping others

A wonderful celebration was held on 6 December at Kenmore Campus. Nick Coriat was the proud recipient of the Beryl Wiltshire scholarship. The scholarship provides \$5000 per annum to fund study towards a career in the caring profession.



### Age is no barrier

AMAROO aged care resident Eileen Gilbert might be just a few years off turning 100, but she is not letting it slow her down. Mrs Gilbert volunteers in the kitchen, she has no plans of stopping. "I just like doing what I do - I like to help anybody," Mrs Gilbert said.



### Stockwell Webber Foundation recipient

Julie May, the first recipient of the Stockwell Webber Foundation and Churches of Christ in Queensland scholarship graduated as a Registered Nurse in November 2018. Julie's qualifications will assist in supporting residents at Blackall Residential Aged Care.



### Amaroo Residential Aged Care service turns 30!

Amaroo Aged Care Service in Gatton celebrated 30 years in 2018. Celebrating with residents and staff, the service marked the birthday milestone by encasing the original teaspoon from the opening in a glass frame to put on display.



### Christmas Gift Drive

Children, Youth and Families Christmas tree appeal 2018, was blessed with the generosity of receiving over 200 donated items from Churches of Christ in Queensland Kenmore Campus. These items were gifted to children in our services to help them thrive, not just survive.



### Connect Program

A number of Board Members and Senior Managers participated in the Connect Program administered by the Learning and Development team in November 2018. Visiting staff, volunteers and residents at a number of Churches of Christ Care services, including Brig-O-Doon Aged Care Service, Wattle Apartments, and Children Youth and Families Support Services in Jamboree Heights.



### Caring for the environment

In partnership with Greenfleet, we have planted nearly 21,000 native Australian trees to offset 5,600 tonnes of carbon emissions from our fleet vehicles over three years. Our commitment to sustainability has driven us to introduce electric vehicles to our fleet, install telematics to vehicles to provide data analysis, and use start-stop technology to reduce fuel consumption in congested urban driving conditions, among other measures.



### 30 years as a carer

After 30 years of service we farewelled our dedicated Family Day Carer Jan LeFlay from our Jamboree Heights Early Childhood Service as she embarks on a new journey into retirement. Jan has had a passion for educating and caring for children and has been a wonderful part of the team.



### Boonah development

It's official. The contract is signed and it's full steam ahead for the Fassifern Aged Care Service development.



### Boonah Christmas Parade bright with orange

Fassifern Residential Aged Care, Retirement Village and Community Care West Moreton coloured the streets of Boonah in orange during the town's annual Christmas parade in December 2018.

# { Events }

Find us on

## April

21 – 28 APRIL  
Foster & Kinship Care Week  
19 APRIL  
Good Friday  
21 APRIL  
Easter Sunday  
25 APRIL  
ANZAC Day

## May

20-26 MAY  
National Volunteers Week  
21-28 MAY  
National Palliative Care Week  
26 MAY  
National Sorry Day  
27 MAY - JUNE 3  
National Reconciliation Week

## June

10-16 JUNE  
Men's Health Week  
3 JUNE  
Mabo Day

The annual Centrifuge event will not take place in 2019. Stay tuned for an exciting program in 2020!

# 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](http://cdf.org.au/churchgrants), or by emailing [info@cdf.org.au](mailto:info@cdf.org.au) to request a copy by email. Please send your application to [info@cdf.org.au](mailto:info@cdf.org.au) by 1 February 2019.

Build on THE Foundation  
**Centenary**  
Development Foundation



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Bringing the light of Christ  
into communities

