

# networking

ISSUE 2 {2018}

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO COMMUNITIES

## Access for all

### Access Place

Individuals are finding their place and support they need.

### Access to a home

How access to appropriate housing has helped two young women establish their lives.



**Churches  
of Christ**  
in Queensland



# { Contents }

Find us on 



7



10



12



18



14



22



27

CEO update	4	The Access Place Atherton—more than great coffee	13	International learning experiences	26
Editors update	5	Accessing a brighter future	14	60 diamond years for Camp Hill	27
Bringing technology to the streets	7	Access to a home	16	Theme nights Ole!	27
Warwick completion imminent	8	Growing, learning and giving back	18	The future of our history for five years	28
Construction moving to final stages at Little Mountain	8	Delivering on our commitment to Reconciliation	20	Addressing domestic and family violence	29
New developments on the horizon	9	Friendships and commUNITY at L10	22	Talents on show	30
Vanuatu volcano disaster	10	Out in the community	22	Retreat to 'hear from God'	31
'Missional Heart' of Vanuatu	11	Never nice!	23	People and Events	32
Finding their place with Access Place	12	Walking in the shoes of people with dementia	25		

## 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](mailto:communications@cofcqld.com.au). The submission deadline for the next edition of *networking* is 1 August 2018.

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# CEO update



**A** kingdom access place is a place of service and hospitality where people can gain access to the kingdom of God.

The Christian faith calls us to love God and put Him first in their lives. To love one another and care for the poor, frail and vulnerable and to live the richest and most fulfilling life they can. Religion in the wider society is often seen as irrelevant and even harmful. But the religion God calls us to is one of loving God with all our being and to love others. It is interesting to read James 1:27, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

As mentioned in the previous edition, I will be focusing on our values in each issue. Modelling unconditional love is one way to demonstrate God's love toward others.

#### In our strategic plan, modelling unconditional love is outlined as:

- We respond out of love, first considering the needs of others before pursuing our own wants, and treat all people as we would like to be treated.
- We seek to advance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of everyone we work with, striving to bring uplift to every person and situation we encounter.
- We seek fairness and justice for marginalised people and we especially have a heart for the poor, frail and vulnerable in our communities.
- We encourage all to contribute and listen openly.
- We take the initiative and reconcile known grievances.

- We go the extra mile with compassion and grace, and work with others to achieve the best outcomes for people in need.

With this in mind, I encourage each of you to open your hearts with acceptance and understanding, no matter your role, relationship, position or engagement with Churches of Christ. It is something each of us, every day, can benefit from embodying. Consider Jesus who was criticised because he engaged with people considered the social outcasts of his day. The people didn't have to come to a standard so they were socially acceptable before Jesus engaged with them.

#### Strategic Plan 2018-23

The Board and Strategic Management Group have worked with the stakeholder feedback, looked at emerging trends in the sectors Churches of Christ in Queensland operates in as well as broader Australian trends and have developed a draft three year strategic 'plan on a page' which they are refining and will share in due course.

#### Centrifuge

Centrifuge 2018 on 17 July, I hope you will join us at our annual Centrifuge event. Churches of Christ was founded around a dream for unity. A dream to follow Jesus' example and to work together with all Christians to love, serve and give of ourselves for the sake of others. We will be celebrating our diversity and remembering that we are ONE community, with the theme 'ONE story, ONE moment and ONE mission'. As with every Centrifuge event, we hope you will find it enlightening and awakening as we celebrate being ONE together.

#### Executive Group update

I wish to welcome Bryan Mason as the Executive Director Services. This role oversees each of our frontline service areas, including Children, Youth and Families, Housing Services, and Seniors and Supported Living, as well as Medical Santo, and the Sales and Customer Services area. Bryan has served as the Director for Seniors and Supported Living for several years and brings a rich work history bringing a depth of experience necessary for this challenging role.

Based on feedback from Council and Pastors, the Board have recommended the change of name of the 'Mission Team' to 'Church and Community Engagement'.

We are also pleased to advise after some consideration and prayer the Board

has confirmed the appointment of Tim McMenamin to the Executive Group in his position as General Manager of the Church and Community Engagement team.

This will ensure the interests of the church ministry is maintained on the Executive and across our churches and services.

The rationale for changing the name of the Mission team is due to the focus and oversight of our "mission", that is, its purpose is the responsibility of the Council, Board and senior leadership of the organisation.

We have also considered feedback from Indigenous communities that 'mission' is a reminder of trauma experienced in history and in communities. This is important as we are seeking to work with communities all over Queensland.

Tim McMenamin's appointment to the Executive continues to highlight the importance of the work of the church within Churches of Christ in Queensland and is recognition of the good work that Tim has been doing.

Desley Millwood, currently in the role of Executive Officer Communications, has decided to retire and will finish up on Friday 29 June. Desley has spent the last 14 years serving Churches of Christ in Queensland with great dedication and loyalty and before that served the community sector for many years. Desley's contribution has been considerable, she has established and built the Communications, Media and Marketing function to support our organisation, which has grown substantially in that time. Desley has been a valuable part of our Executive Group. Many would not be aware of the full extent of the contribution Desley has made, she has worked tirelessly and with utmost commitment, providing advice, sharing her knowledge and experience always with the highest regard for Churches of Christ in Queensland. As editor of this publication, she has shared the stories, and in some ways brought to life, who we are as Churches of Christ in Queensland, and contributed to us delivering our mission to the broader community. Desley's support of the Board, Council and executive team over many years will be sadly missed. I wish her the very best and many blessings as she embarks on the next chapter in her life.

**Dr Paul Scully**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Editor's update



**W**elcome to the latest edition of Networking and my last as the Editor of this publication.

I say farewell to Churches of Christ in Queensland on Friday 29 June, which is when I begin my retirement. I have seen enormous growth and change since I joined the Churches of Christ community 14 years ago. At that time, we had a fledgling communications team supporting a much smaller organisation and church community than what we are now. How we have changed.

Today we have become one of Queensland's largest not for profit providers and our mission extends across all of Queensland, Victoria and Vanuatu. I feel very proud to have participated in that journey and I will enjoy learning about the many more wonderful achievements that lay ahead as the journey continues.

I would like to thank you all for your support and friendships over many years, they have touched me deeply and brought a great sense of belonging, comfort and joy. They will always be in my heart and I will treasure all the memories I have.

For the last time now, I share with you a scripture which has been quite meaningful to me and is how I have tried to conduct myself both professionally and personally. I hope you also find inspiration in it.

"Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live."

This edition of Networking is about how, as Churches of Christ in Queensland, we are providing access for all to the kingdom of God—access for individuals, families and those in need to support them to grow and thrive.

Our Access Place Gardens and Mowing and The Access Place Atherton are providing opportunities for people to access employment and support where it may not otherwise be available. Our Housing Services and Children, Youth and Families services are giving our most vulnerable citizens access to hope and something brighter through targeted services.

In July you are once again invited to take part in our Centrifuge event, which always promises to be an insightful, inspiring and exciting event that challenges our thinking and invites us all to engage with what it means to be a part of Churches of Christ. The event will be held at our Kenmore Campus in the auditorium on 17 July.

This year the theme is 'ONE story, ONE moment and ONE mission'.

*Explore how we are giving access for all to the kingdom of God through our services and mission and how we are bringing the light of Christ into communities every day.*

**Desley Millwood**  
Executive Officer Communications

#### Key events in 2018

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





# ONE

story moment mission

Churches of Christ was founded around a dream for unity. A dream to follow Jesus' example and to work together with all Christians to love, serve and give of ourselves for the sake of others.

At this Centrifuge event, we are going to celebrate the unity that we strive for, in spite of the obvious challenges of our diversity. We have thousands of people across Queensland, Victoria and Vanuatu, all making a unique contribution to forwarding our mission, and at this year's Centrifuge we are going to celebrate our ONE story, ONE moment, ONE mission.

As a valued part of the Churches of Christ in Queensland family, be it from a church, a staff member or a volunteer, we would love you to join us.

17 July 2018 **register now**

[cofc.com.au/centrifuge](http://cofc.com.au/centrifuge)



■ Through DigiAsk, volunteers engage with people and empower them to use digital technology.

## Bringing technology to the streets

Packing up the van on a Monday night, the DigiAsk team of volunteers is getting ready to head out on the streets of Brisbane to engage with local vulnerable people alongside the very well-respected outreach service, Rosies - Our Friends on the Street.

Using the available mobile office (nicknamed the 'DigiVan'), the project aims to help those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by providing access to digital technology and services, including a WiFi connection, access to online services, phone charging facilities, assistance with setting up online accounts and email addresses, and how to save important documents to the 'cloud' for later access.

The service received some grant funding from the Brisbane City Council, and commenced an outreach service in February 2018. The team of volunteers have ventured out in the evenings and assisted over 140 people with queries, handing out reconditioned smart phones, memory sticks and phone charge banks to help people stay connected. The service has also provided assistance at social housing complexes across the CBD.

General Manager Housing Services Frances Paterson-Fleider said the access to digital technology, including mobile phones and the internet was important for the wellbeing of people experiencing hardship and homelessness.

"Through DigiAsk, we are able to engage with people and empower them to use digital technology so that they can not only communicate with others and access the online services they need, but they also have access forums to share their voice and build their skills and abilities," Frances said.

"Many people can lack the confidence to use and engage with technology,

“Many people can lack the confidence to use and engage with technology, particularly when they are do not have need or exposure to it on a daily basis”

particularly when they do not have need or exposure to it on a daily basis. Our team of volunteers guide people through how to access pages and services on the internet; useful functions on the smartphone to help make things easier; or simply free, working access to WiFi so they can access their social media and stay in contact with their networks.”

The program has partnered with other homelessness outreach programs, including Rosie's—Our Friends on the Street, BRIC Housing, 3rd Space, Red Cross, Orange Sky Laundry, and the Kombi Clinic, who provide free hepatitis C screening.

“While we are providing a digitally focused services—which is something new in the outreach to people experiencing homelessness and hardship - we are also developing trust and friendships with the regular clients we see. For many of our volunteers, this opens up a whole new understanding of how people in our city live every day.”

“If we have more volunteers signing up to help with the DigiAsk, we will be able to get out even more nights, visit more sites and help more vulnerable people in our communities.” ■



# Warwick completion imminent

**W**arwick's new residential aged care service is now only a few months away from opening.

Executive Director Services Bryan Mason said we hope to welcome our first residents in September this year, "providing the final stages and certifications take place as expected."

Megan Minasi was appointed as Residential Aged Care Service Manager at the end of May.

"Megan lives in the region and has a wealth of nursing and aged care leadership experience, primarily in regional communities of south-east Queensland. She will work closely with Donna Hart, Regional Manager Central West to establish the team and service at Warwick in coming months," Bryan said.

The finishing touches are being made to the buildings and landscaping, which feature materials and design that complement the local environment.

"Moving into the service in the cooler Southern Downs months, the residents will be able to take advantage of and enjoy the welcome lounge with large fireplace."

Throughout the new building there has been strong focus on dementia-friendly design, which can be described as 'communities within the community'.

"There is a real home-like an environment for the residents, and they will have access to safe and stimulating outdoor environments and plenty of natural light, which is important for their wellbeing."

Another exciting feature is the use of modern technologies.

"Our new communication system will

allow staff to contact each other on site via personal voice-activated devices, which will aid in the quick response to resident needs."

Residents will have access to recreation spaces to take part in activities or do their own exercises to retain their mobility and strength, allowing them live life to the fullest. Appealing recreational areas also feature in the landscaped gardens, including a barbeque and opportunities for residents to continue their passion for gardening.

Alongside the aged care service, a key part of the Warwick Campus is encouraging the broader community to be involved, with a community centre, hair salon and café all open to residents of the aged care service and retirement village, as well as the local community.

"This reflects our integrated community focus, which goes beyond co-location in being highly responsive to each community's needs. This collaborative approach puts people first: overcoming any practical or cultural challenges so that all facilities and activities (such as gyms, pools, places of worship, carparks and events) are genuinely shared and result in uplift for both residents and local community."

Mission Action Partner Craig Sadler is facilitating and providing leadership in helping bring the community together.

The Warwick development is co-located with Regency Park Retirement Village on Dragon St, three kilometres from the town centre. The village was purchased in June 2015 as part of a Masterplan approach to an integrated community, and has already been enhanced with the addition of a clubhouse in 2017. ■



**M**eanwhile on Parklands Boulevard at Little Mountain, near Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast, we are looking at welcoming our first residents into the residential aged care service in early-2019.

"If you are driving along the Boulevard, you can now easily see the two residential aged care buildings that will provide the cottage model of care for residents, along with the large community centre building, which will also function as a place of worship for the local community," Bryan said.

Digging has begun for an eight-lane, 25 metre swimming pool and a 7.5 metre learn-to-swim pool on the site.

The heated pools will host a range of aquatic activities for the community, including swimming lessons, membership-based swimming, as well as aqua aerobics and therapeutic hydrotherapy for residents.

"There has been strong interest from a number of community groups to use

the pools for lessons and other activities, including the nearby Meridan State College."

The external building works are almost complete, and attention has now also turned to the all-important internal fit out of the state-of-art service and campus.

Landscaping and the installation of carparks and walkways around the site is ahead of schedule and have already begun, with further work to be completed over the next few months.

"Late this year we will recruit a Residential Aged Care Service Manager. We will be creating approximately 100 new jobs for Caloundra region, with qualified health professionals, registered nurses, personal care workers and hospitality staff required at the aged care service."

This 'greenfield' project has already stimulated the local economy, with close to 700 contractors engaged in the construction phase by May 2018, with more required to finalise the first stage of development. ■

“  
The design considerations include space allowances in units, the type and placement of fixtures and fittings, doorways, and modes of entry and exit to buildings  
”

## New developments on the horizon

### Boonah receives Stage 1 approval

**I**n Boonah, on the Scenic Rim, we received significant news in April that Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the existing site had been approved by the Council.

This first stage of the redevelopment will comprise a single storey, 64-bed residential aged care service. Once complete, it will replace the existing 40-bed nursing home building at Fassifern Aged Care Service which has a number of limitations restricting its ability to accommodate growing needs.

As with our other major developments, a broad Masterplan for the site was submitted to Council to provide clarity and certainty for the site. However there is still a need at each stage of development to undertake detailed assessment of demand and supply before commencing any construction.

There has been no date set for the start of the construction with design work continuing.

### Builder and architect appointed for Gold Coast

Planning and design activities continue for Stage 1 of the Golden Age and Lady Small Haven Redevelopment, with the Gold Coast City Council having provided preliminary Master Plan and first stage development approval earlier this year. The first stage includes the construction of 20 new retirement living units. Further stages will be revealed following detailed planning.

A rigorous tender process took place to appoint preferred building contractors and an architect for the planning stage. The successful tenderers are McNab building contractors and Diecke Richards Architects. Both companies are very experienced in working in the seniors care sector.

The design considerations include space allowances in units, the type and placement of fixtures and fittings, doorways, and modes of entry and exit to buildings, among other matters, to make future units purpose-built for seniors. The design phase also includes attention to details of plumbing, electrics, telecommunications, air conditioning, landscaping and similar, and how operations staff will best be able to manage everything from waste removal to catering needs.

Service managers are involved in design planning as they have a good understanding of resident needs and a Transition Manager will assist residents to move into the new units. ■





Recently, around 10 pm, I stood on a dirt road a few kilometres from our clinic scanning the horizon. We had been told Ambae was erupting. And then there it was. My heart sank. No one died that night but now, in the aftermath of continuous huge eruptions of ash and scoria, and acid rain falling, people are getting sick and need help.

Lyn Cox, Executive Manager at Medical Santo in Vanuatu on 10 April 2018.



## Your help needed following Vanuatu volcano disaster



### Volcano eruption

Ambae Island's Monaro Voui volcano eruption is a disaster that international media has largely ignored. Ambae is a close neighbour of Espiritu Santo, home of Churches of Christ Medical Santo (about 60 kilometres east) and at night residents can see the red glow as the lava shoots hundreds of metres into the air. Since early September last year, there has been an unfolding emergency situation due to increasing activity of the active volcano.

### Impact on local community

People are running short of food and water as crops have been affected and they are getting skin sores from the acid rain. Massive ash fallout has meant that many houses and buildings have collapsed and the weight of the ash has also caused trees to fall. The ash and lava have also caused landslides across the island. All of this is limiting mobility of local people.

Recently, Navitora Church of Christ, near Nduindui on Ambae, had big stones falling on its roof. Locals had taken refuge there as they were afraid the stones would fall through their bush houses, so everyone rushed to the church building with pillows on their heads.

Medical Santo and Vanuatu Churches of Christ are joining in the relief effort and have sent funds and medical supplies—but much more is needed. Can you help? ■

### How you can help?

We are calling for donations or other support for the people of Vanuatu. This is our family in emergency and we urge your prayers, compassion and generosity in the spirit of Christ.

You can make a donation online at [www.cofc.com.au/give](http://www.cofc.com.au/give) or call 1800 600 900.

## 'Missional Heart' of Vanuatu

Churches of Christ in Queensland has enjoyed a long relationship with Churches of Christ in Vanuatu, with a number of churches involved in mission for the island nation, and Global Mission Partners assisting, not to mention our Medical Santo clinic.

In April Global Mission Partners' Partnership Coordinator for Queensland and Vanuatu and Churches of Christ in Queensland Conference Council member Vicki Marney, and Mission Action Partner Donna Savill travelled to Vanuatu. The pair visited Churches of Christ in Port Vila, and held a leadership workshop worked with women from many islands and from different denominations, focusing on identifying local needs in their own communities and ensuring that all people have access to projects and reforms that improve their quality of life.

Vicki said that they were warmly welcomed into the local Church of Christ family.

"We were hosted by Sarabetu Church of Christ and invited to share meals, meetings and stories with the people. We listened to their voice on such matters as gender equity, domestic and family violence, social concerns for young people, and education and health issues," Vicki said.

The Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu has a "missional heart", planting churches in remote villages and responding to the needs of people affected by natural disasters.

The conference is an active member of the Vanuatu Christian Council and is well respected for their projects. They have strong networks of churches and schools and provide training in a

number of areas for individuals and communities, including financial management, human rights, child protection, governance, reproductive health and a variety of livelihood projects.

The archipelago country experiences its fair share of natural disasters.

"Cyclones, active volcanoes and earth quakes are common place. During our visit, a cyclone was whipping up the seas offshore, and a state of emergency was declared for the island of Ambae following unprecedented volcanic activity."

The island of Ambae, with a population of 11,000 people, is home to almost half of all the Churches of Christ churches in Vanuatu.

"The resettling of people will be a significant challenge for the Vanuatu people in the coming weeks, months and potentially years.

"Despite the challenges, the Church is vibrant and looking for ways to reach out to others and support those in need. They are thankful for prayers and the generous support of Churches of Christ in Queensland and Churches of Christ Australia."

Many churches in Queensland have a strong relationship with Vanuatu, through Global Mission Partners' 'Church to Church Partnership Program'.

"Visiting our partners is a life changing experience for those who venture to Vanuatu.

"As we travel around churches from Gympie to Chinchilla, Sarabetu to Freshwota, it is so encouraging to hear people's heart for their communities, and for others across the oceans, and seeing faith in action bringing the light of Christ to people across the South Pacific." ■



# Finding their place with Access Place

**A**n Access Place is a safe, neutral space in the centre of a community where people can access and experience something of Jesus and his kingdom in our day and in our place. Many people in our communities do not necessarily feel comfortable coming to a church in order to find help, support and answers to their questions. In an Access



■ Stephen and Adrian tend to the Kenmore Campus grounds for Access Place Gardens and Mowing.

Place we want to make an attempt to provide a genuine and creative alternative.

Manager – Mission Enterprises Ross Dinnar, said that many churches, community groups and care services operate in a local area and an Access Place isn't competing with any of these other groups, rather it complements the great work that is already happening and to work with all of these groups to address both 'common causes' and 'common perils'.

"Access Place is where the community can access the full range of help and services that Churches of Christ in Queensland can offer. However, this will not be done in an exclusive fashion and we will intentionally develop partnerships with a range of community groups, services and programs," Ross said.

Access Place Gardens and Mowing and Access Place Atherton are two social enterprises founded by Churches of Christ in Queensland.

"A social enterprise is a business that has been deliberately established to tackle a social issue, improve communities, and provide people access to employment and training that may otherwise not be possible."

## Access Place Gardens and Mowing

Established in 2014, Access Place Gardens and Mowing is a social enterprise project delivering quality landscaping and grounds maintenance services while providing valuable outcomes to disadvantaged people, including people with disability, and long-term benefits to the community.

"On-the-job training gives our trainees a supportive environment in which to learn practical skills and appropriate workplace behaviours in a real work environment. We have built strong relationships with a wide range of customers and partners including Churches of Christ in Queensland properties, other not-for-profit organisations, government and commercial businesses, currently providing regular services to properties throughout Queensland," Ross said.

There are currently 18 people engaged in the program across south east Queensland and Townsville, with the program currently servicing some of our retirement villages, residential aged care, community care, housing and children, youth and families sites across south

east Queensland and Townsville.

Access Place successfully employs team members who have experienced constraints to employment, with 33 per cent of staff living with disabilities, 53 per cent were long-term unemployed and 20 per cent identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Adrian and Stephen are part of the gardens and mowing program tending to the gardens at the Churches of Christ Campus Kenmore. Under the guidance of Mark Steinhardt, they keep the grounds in excellent condition.

"Through this program, Adrian and Stephen have opportunities that may not otherwise be available to them and accessible for their individual needs," Ross said.

Adrian tends to the grounds at Churches of Christ Campus Kenmore, making sure they are in ship-shape condition.

"Adrian is legally deaf, and had found entry into the workforce difficult. In June 2017 he joined Access Place Gardens and Mowing. He was referred to the social enterprise by Mylestones Employment, a link agency that refers potential team members to our service.

"By being part of Access Place, Adrian not only has access to employment and an income, he is also benefiting from being a part of a team.

"He is greatly valued team member who is trusted to take care of the grounds around Head Office. Being outdoors and active in beautiful surrounds are having a positive impact on Adrian as well," he said.

Operating a social enterprise, better understood as a 'business with social outcomes' is hugely rewarding both for team members and Churches of Christ.

"It requires a flexible and dynamic operational approach that is founded on grace and support to try new things, fall over at times but stand up again and work together – at an individual level with the help of support services.

"Daily we bring release to team members. Release from poverty, poor self-esteem and mental health challenges; from despondency of previous employment challenges; from homelessness, and poor experiences due to a disability. It's often a long partnered walk but it's worth it!" ■

## The Access Place Atherton - more than great coffee

**A**t Access Place Atherton, they believe that Jesus calls us to love and serve individuals and our community, bringing fullness of life and wholeness to all—and they do this through coffee, community and care.

Community Chaplain Kerry Parry is the guiding force behind the social enterprise.

"I'm so excited by God's goodness and the spread of His message of love and grace to others. Yesterday we had a wonderful little group from the local preschool walk to The Access Place and each four-year-old brought with them a couple of items for the free food pantry. Such a blessing to see even the youngest in our community being instructed to care for others and give freely," Kerry said.

Access Place Atherton is there to help the local community in their time of need, such as when a recent request came through from another not-for-profit organisation helping vulnerable people in the community.

"I had a call from one of the local service providers – as they were unsure how to support a tenant with complex issues who had just been released from hospital (single mum with 3 older children each with specific needs)."

The paid services were all in place but the real need at the moment is help with meals and cleaning.

"The call came just a few minutes before our regular 'coffee & chat', which is a mix of Christian women and connections in the local community. I was able to bring the need to them and one lady from the local Baptist church (who is also one of our volunteers) offered to coordinate a roster within their church family to provide meals for the next two weeks—we coined the phrase 'Love in Action' as the project name. Another lady from the Presbyterian church has



■ The Access Place in Atherton is a home-away-from-home for many in the community.

offered to assist with cleaning."

"The support worker from the local service provider was stunned when I was able to call back and say we could assist. She asked who was going to pay for the meals and I was able to say each person providing the meal would cover the cost themselves as that's what Church family is all about."

More than just a café, The Access Place seeks to be a home away from home. Somewhere you can grab a takeaway or sit for a few hours. Somewhere you are known by name. They have a 'pay it forward' board where customers can buy a coffee for someone in need, and a food pantry for people to access.

Kerry and the staff and volunteers at the café intentionally reach out to people, forming relationships and building community.

Between January and March 2018, 18 food parcels were provided to people in need, nine toiletry packs, six school starter packs and two household starter packs to help members of the local community. ■



# Accessing a brighter future



**W**hat did you learn from your parents and growing up in your home? Did they teach you how to succeed in life, to get up when you fall and hop back on your bike? Did they make sure you went to school and had dinner on the table every night?

Sadly, many people did not have the idyllic childhood that is often taken for granted within the general community. Their parents were absent or incapable of care, they suffered abuse or neglect, or had nowhere safe to call home. Our Children, Youth and Families Services exist to provide hope for children and young people who have not had the benefit of enjoying a safe, stable and nurturing childhood. Through a range of programs they assist children, young people and their families to build resilience and work at overcoming their traumas and grow.

#### Young people to benefit from access to vital support service

When young people are leaving out-of-home care or after being in the youth justice system, they can face a grim future, unless they receive the right care and support to be able to establish a brighter future for themselves.

The Youth CONNECT program, delivered by Churches of Christ Care through the Queensland Government's Social Benefit Bond Pilot Program, has been developed to provide this support. The service has now officially been launched at events in Brisbane and Townsville.

General Manager Children, Youth and Families Leanne Rutherford said that local young people leaving care can often face a tough road ahead of them.

"Can you imagine entering into adulthood, as a young person, and knowing that others with your background have over a 50 per cent chance of experiencing homelessness within five years, about one in three will be unemployed, over half won't have completed year 10, and only a third year 12, and substance abuse, emotional and behavioural difficulties, and youth pregnancy are prevalent. This is the terrifying reality for many of our young people transitioning from statutory care to independence," she said.

"Through research though, we know that with the right support, resources and care this doesn't need to be their reality."

The Youth CONNECT Program



provides early intervention and support for individual participants, and involves the finding of appropriate, stable and supported housing options, followed by assistance with finding employment, education, personal development and life skills.

"When you have a place you can call home, that is affordable and appropriate for your needs, it is easier to concentrate on other aspects of your life, that is why we have taken a housing-first approach. Through our team of professionals, we can then help young people to get on their feet, become more resilient to homelessness and reach their full potential."

The program, which started taking referrals in December 2017, will help more than 300 people over six years in areas surrounding Logan, the Gold Coast and Townsville.

Youth CONNECT is the first Social Benefit Bond in the world to focus specifically on supporting young people exiting, or who have exited, statutory care or the youth justice system, and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The program provides a wrap-around service helping them to build resilience

and achieve and maintain stable accommodation. The program improves the opportunities for these young people who are experiencing vulnerabilities but need a helping hand and support to realise their goals and potential.

#### Breaking the cycle

For young people living in out-of-home care, they face enormous disadvantage compared to the rest of the population, not least when it comes to the education outcomes.

The Child, Youth Centre for Learning and Employment (CYCLE program) is an innovative program that we established in 2015 to re-engage young people in their education.

"The overall goal of the program is to help young people improve literacy and numeracy skills, complete their senior schooling and any other certificate, vocational or tertiary qualifications they need to achieve their goals and establish themselves with a strong footing for the future," Leanne said.

Our Children, Youth and Families team realised that young people in out-of-home care for any length of time are vulnerable to becoming disengaged with their education or achieving diminishing results, and had a distinct lack of support around them to turn things around.

"For young people living in out-of-home care, only 53 per cent will complete Year 10 or below, and only 35 per cent will complete Year 12. Each young person in CYCLE receives an individual plan and the tailored support they need to achieve their educational goals," she said.

There are hopes to expand the service to other areas of the state beyond the current Logan location, and assist more young people achieve their goals. It is also hoped that CYCLE can implement its own curriculum, in-line with the national curriculum. ■

#### How can you get involved?

CYCLE is solely funded by Churches of Christ in Queensland and we need donors to help us expand the program and continue to develop and improve the model.

Go to [cofc.com.au/give](https://cofc.com.au/give) or phone 1800 600 900 to give hope for the future for some of the most vulnerable young people.



■ Ayesha has found independence through finding a home with Housing Services.



# Access to a home

*Imagine your life, right now, if you didn't have a place to call home?*

*How much would that impact on your life?*

*Where would you sleep tonight?*

*Where would you shower or prepare food or store your belongings?*

**F**or any number of reasons, including illness, job loss, family breakdown, domestic violence or other life changing event, people, every day, find themselves without a home. And, tragically, it could easily happen to any of us with the right combination of events.

Churches of Christ Housing Services help people find a safe, affordable and appropriate place to call home.

Through a range of programs—from emergency accommodation, to

providing long-term accommodation for people aged over 55, and access to affordable housing outside of government programs—people of all ages are able to access the support they need to find a home so that they can then work on repairing, maintaining and establishing other parts of their lives.

General Manager Frances Paterson-Fleider said that their service goes beyond providing a roof and four walls. “Our vision is to transform lives

through quality housing solutions in empowered communities,” Frances said. “It is not just about providing safe, secure and affordable housing, but nurturing cohesive communities and providing access to opportunities.”

## Ayesha's story

At 24 years old Ayesha is already a long-term resident in Churches of Christ Housing. A smart, bubbly young woman who is full of ‘sass’, she has dealt with a lot in life and certainly more than your average 24 year old.

Although she wouldn't class herself as ever having been homeless, strictly speaking the definition of homelessness certainly covers her couch surfing experiences. From around the age of 13, Ayesha was sleeping on friend's couches and was no longer attending school, after difficulties in her family meant she could no longer stay with them.

At the age of 18, after a number of years in out-of-home care in residential homes, she moved into her own place with Housing Services, a one-bedroom apartment in Brisbane city. She has been there ever since.

By her own admission this was a shock to the system - from all elements of her life being taken care of in residential care homes, she was now in charge of taking care of herself, in her own home, by herself, for the first time. Ayesha had a lot to learn very quickly.

Having access to safe accommodation from the time she exited care, has meant that Ayesha has been able to work on the other parts of her life. She enjoys her job at a local supermarket, and passionately gives her time to assist with the Create Foundation, which advocates for young people in care. She was supported by the organisation when she was in care, including training and access to other learning opportunities.

With a new found love of succulents, Ayesha is showing more interest and pride in her home. She has a good tenancy history and a home with one of the best locations in the city.

These days, Ayesha, like most 24 year olds, navigates her way through life with the usual ups and downs (and temptations) that we all face. When she needs help, she knows where to go. She has a solid group of friends that get her through but all in all she is in a good place.

## Stacey's story

Stacey\* is 23 years old and mother to three young children. Thanks to support from Housing Services Stacey has been able to find social housing and access the support she and her young family need.

For the past two-and-a-half years, Stacey had been living with her parents who had custody of her two eldest children while she dealt with mental health problems. Finally, when her health stabilised, her children were returned to her care.

Stacey's parent's house was not large enough for the six of them to live together permanently, and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women suggested the family needed to find their own place.

Stacey had no rental history, and was confronted with denied applications in the private rental market. With her three children in tow, they moved between friends and families' homes until she was put in contact with Housing Services and was able to access the Crisis Accommodation Program.

The family settled in quickly and started to develop routines. Weekly home visits by the Housing Support Worker helped Stacey with working on her housing barriers and needs, including her application for social housing, which she was approved for.

With access to a home, she is able to concentrate and build on important aspects of her and her family's life, including maintaining medical appointments for her son who has Downs syndrome, and receiving extra parenting support including budgeting and working on her mental health. While she has experienced some significant setbacks, Stacey has maintained her goal of accessing a private-rental home for her and her children.

She has successfully exited the Crisis Accommodation Program and continues to care for her three children. We wish her, and her family, all the best.

Ayesha and Stacey are two young women with very different backgrounds, but each has been able to access the specific support they need to be able to move on with their lives, knowing that they have a stable, affordable and appropriate place to go home to each night. ■

# Housing supporting people with a disability

**W**e are currently developing a purpose-built, dual-key unit at Crows Nest on the Darling Downs, which is due to be completed in October 2018. The project is being delivered in partnership with Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services as part of the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Initiative. The property is designed to provide homes for people with accessibility difficulties and their elderly parent carers and will be built to Platinum level certification under the Liveable Housing Design Guideline.

The development includes a two-bedroom house with an adjoining studio apartment, in a duplex with another one-bedroom house.

We have also seen our first tenants move into our Disability Share House, also in Crows Nest. The four-bedroom, fully accessible property will be home to three adults living with a disability. It will provide an independent living environment for people who would otherwise be living in residential aged care or who are long-stay residents in public health facilities. ■







# Growing learning & giving back

## Volunteers at St James



■ Volunteer thank you tree at St James Retirement Village. Residents left messages of love and gratitude to the volunteers.

**C**hurches of Christ Care St James Retirement Village in Townsville is a hive of activity with volunteers. While the volunteers are drawn to helping others, they are also benefiting from learning new skills and finding job opportunities.

This National Volunteers Week (21 – 27 May) with the theme ‘Give a little. Change a lot’, we celebrated the commitment of our volunteers and the changes they are making.

Retirement Living Manager Wendy Williams said they have a thriving volunteer program, with many people making a difference and taking the opportunity to learn valuable new skills, but the one thing they all have in common is the desire to support others in their community.

“Our volunteers willingly donate their time and skills, adding value to the great work being achieved by our paid workforce, and most importantly they are donating their time to connect with and build a sense of community around the people we are all here to serve,” Wendy said.

St James Retirement Village will be celebrated their 24 volunteers with a morning tea on Wednesday 23 May. On the day, three of the volunteers acknowledged for the contribution were Natasha, Tanya and Barb.

Natasha has been volunteering at the village since graduating from high school, helping in the Lantern Café as she completes her Certificate III in Hospitality with TAFE Queensland.

Through her experience helping in the café, the young Townsville local has learnt how to make “a great coffee”, general café duties and valuable customer service experience.

Meanwhile, Tanya started volunteering at the Heatley village in an effort to build up her skills and experience so that she could confidently re-enter the workforce after taking a number of years out to raise her family.

“During the six months she was at the village, Tanya kept busy providing garden and grounds support to our residents. She was also able to complete online inductions and was introduced to customer service techniques and administration tasks, which gave her great experience and work readiness,” Wendy said.

“She thoroughly enjoyed working in the outdoors and impressed those around her so much that she was employed through our Access Place Gardens and Mowing service. She now works during school hours doing garden maintenance. We are delighted to see her on site each week, working hard and always with a smile on her face.”

For Barb, her time volunteering with the service led to a paid position. “When Barb moved to Townsville in 2017 she was looking for a job and saw an advertisement on our website looking for volunteer’s in our coffee shop. As she enjoyed making coffee she decided to start volunteering with us.

“With her variety of past experience and wonderful disposition, when a position became available she was able to move from being volunteer to a paid employee. We are delighted to have her with us in her primary role of Environmental Service Worker and in a supporting role as a cook.”

Churches of Christ in Queensland thanks the 1,400 registered volunteers who assist and bring uplift to thousands of people each year in our communities in Queensland, Victoria and Vanuatu. ■

*For more volunteer opportunities and to express your interest, go to [imaginevolunteering.com.au](http://imaginevolunteering.com.au) or email [volunteers@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:volunteers@cofcqld.com.au).*

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

**Listen. Comfort. Empower.**  
Give the gift of a Community Chaplain.

**Bring sustainable health solutions to Northern Vanuatu.**  
Support Medical Santo deliver vital health care.

**Help a young person in care re-engage in education.**  
Support CYCLE - Believe and Achieve program. (Child, Youth Centre for Learning and Employment).

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

To find our more, visit [cofc.com.au/mission-enterprises](http://cofc.com.au/mission-enterprises).  
**Give today: 1800 600 900**  
[cofc.com.au/give](http://cofc.com.au/give)



**I would like to support:**  Community Chaplains  Medical Santo  CYCLE

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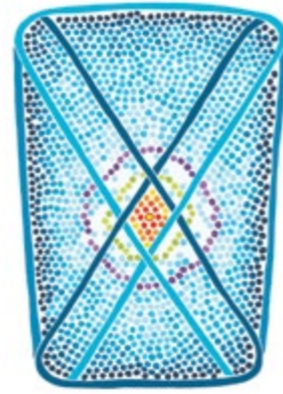
- Cheque/Money Order is enclosed payable to Churches of Christ Care
- I have included Churches of Christ in Queensland in my Will
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For further information please phone **1800 600 900**



# Delivering on our commitment to Reconciliation



In October 2017, we released our second Reconciliation Action Plan. This Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) October 2017 – October 2019 continues the work we commenced in the first plan released in 2015.

Manager Inclusion and Diversity, Lindy Drew-Tsang, said that a number of inroads had been made in the first six months since the plan was released and we are on track to meeting its deliverables for areas across the organisation.

Tammy Wallace, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Leader, with Churches of Christ Care, Children, Youth and Families, has championed the establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Committee, Gili Burra. Gili Burra plays a critical role in influencing the work we do within Children, Youth and Families to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities.

Specifically, the members of Gili Burra provide expert cultural advice to inform policy, program, engagement and practice.

“Moving forward, and as part of our commitment to the Family Matters Campaign, one of the key focus areas for the committee is reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. We will also be strengthening cultural support planning for Indigenous children and young people in care to ensure they are safe, supported and connected to culture, kin and community, Tammy said.

Also as part of the RAP, the Indigenous Cultural Guidelines Development Group has begun to develop building and landscape



As a proud Aboriginal woman, and a new staff member to the organisation, I was really thrilled to watch such a well-orchestrated short video on the RAP movement occurring across Churches of Christ in Queensland. Viewing the video made me feel comfortable and at home knowing there is a genuineness to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family and community to build relationships, work for social justice and support groups for action”

guidelines to be integrated with the organisation’s standard design principles.

“The guidelines will provide opportunities for Indigenous business partnerships that support engagement, employment, training and work experience through the development of our new builds, furnishings and landscaping. We will also be committed to ensuring the participation of Traditional Custodians in the development of design concepts and position of our new developments and at each of our sites will continue to develop relationships with Traditional Custodians, Elders and local Indigenous communities,” Lindy said.

A key force behind developing relationships with the local Traditional Owners, Elders and Indigenous communities will be our local-level Strategic Action Leadership Teams, who are prioritising engagement with these groups and individuals in their areas. To support this, Max Conlon, our Indigenous Mission Action Partner, has been providing cultural support and training to our chaplaincy and mission teams.

A video detailing our RAP has been released, and is shown to all staff members at their orientation. You can watch the video on our website at <http://www.cofc.com.au/about-us/who-we-are/reconciliation>.

Our new Reconciliation Action Plan Officer, Rowena Singleton, saw the video as part of her orientation, and provided the following review:

*“As a proud Aboriginal woman, and a new staff member to the organisation, I was really thrilled to watch such a well-orchestrated short video on the RAP movement occurring across Churches of Christ in Queensland. Viewing the video made me feel comfortable and at home knowing there is a genuineness to walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family and community to build relationships, work for social justice and support groups for action.”*

“It has been a busy six months in implementing our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, and we look forward to achieving so much more in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues, families and communities,” Lindy said. ■

## Reconciliation & NAIDOC Week events cement commitment



■ Rowena Singleton, Corrie Taylor, Lindy Drew-Tsang, Dub Leffler, Paul Scully, Dorothy Smith and Tammy Wallace at the National Reconciliation Week event at Kenmore.

Churches of Christ in Queensland is proud to mark National Sorry Day (26 May), National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June) and NAIDOC Week (8 – 15 July), and to celebrate our Indigenous culture and furthering our commitment to Reconciliation with Australia’s first peoples.

During National Reconciliation Week Dub Leffler, a Bigambul man, spent three days with Churches of Christ in Queensland working with young people and taking part at a Head Office event. On 4 June, a Sea of Hands was planted on the lawns at the Churches of Christ Campus at Kenmore.

Twenty years ago the Sea of Hands first appeared as a powerful statement of solidarity with Australia’s First Peoples and since then continues to be sponsored by ANTaR, a national advocacy organisation dedicated to the rights and overcoming the disadvantages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people.

Attendees at the event each wrote their name and a message on the back of the hand, before planting it on the hillside at Kenmore, creating a striking abstract design visible to the passing community



■ Dub Leffler and Paul Scully in front of the Sea of Hands planted in recognition - of identities, cultures and histories.

along Brookfield Road.

Dub Leffler is an Indigenous children’s literature illustrator who has also worked across film, animation, muralism, art installations and performing arts. He talked about his latest illustration work on the children’s book ‘Sorry Day’, the story of two young girls from the same family, but different times. The book shows that from dark times there can be a glimmer of hope.

In July we will mark NAIDOC Week. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2018 is “Because of her, we can”, which seeks

to acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to Australian society.

As part of a number of events held across the organisation, we will host Delvene Cockatoo-Collins as part of celebrations at Kenmore. Delvene is an artist, basing herself on Minjerrabah, North Stradbroke Island, on the traditional lands of her mother’s people.

Delvene designed the medals for the 2018 Commonwealth Games held on the Gold Coast in April. ■



# Friendships and commUNITY at L10



■ Young adults gathered at the L10 conference and found CommUNITY.

Over 13 – 15 April, 145 young adults aged 18-30 from nine Church of Christ churches and five other denomination churches gathered for the annual L10 Conference.

HumeRidge Church of Christ's Jamie Patikura was one of the organisers of the event.

"Amidst the busyness of life, it was so exciting and refreshing to arrive at the Sunshine Coast for L10 Conference. We arrived to see familiar faces, and those of new people to meet."

To kick off the conference, they were entertained by "our hilarious host Shelby from HumeRidge Church of Christ" as they headed into Rally One we were introduced to our theme for the weekend - "Anchor" being from the verse in Hebrews 6: "We have this hope of Jesus as an Anchor for our Souls, firm and secure."

Pastor Lauren England set the scene for how Jesus is our anchor and what it looks like to have this solid grounding in their lives.



"This was topped off with some amazing worship. The weekend was off to a great start."

Saturday started with early morning praise and worship, then with everyone on board, Pastor Rian Roux preach a message on 'The Why of Faith'.

"This message raised some thought provoking questions that came out in the question and answer session following."

Time on Saturday afternoon was spent in masterclass sessions and chilling out at the beach, drinking smoothies, or diving down a slip and slide.

"As the night grew old we entered into our Third Rally where Pastor Rian Roux expanded on his morning message, before we ended the day with some wise words again and then ramped up the energy with a classic bush dance later on that evening."

Sunday saw all of the wonderful young adults come together for a time of Communion and reflection lead by Bible College student Keith. Churches of Christ in Queensland's Mission Action Partner-Youth and Young Adults Brad Case finished the weekend with a challenging and inspiring message about Jesus being the hope and glory.

"As the weekend came to a close we left the campsite feeling empowered in the constant and gracious Anchor of Jesus we have in our lives and feeling renewed and refreshed. New friendships we're made and the CommUNITY aspect of L10 was even greater than when we started." ■

## Out in the community

Where would you turn if you were woken one night with the roaring sound of a fire taking hold of your home? What if you were facing homelessness and had spiraled into despair, who would be there for you?

Just before Christmas last year, on 21 December, an iconic Boonah home burnt down, leaving a local family with nothing. Community Chaplain Honni Hayton was there with them as they watched helplessly as their house was raised to the ground.

"The community support after was overwhelming," Honni said. "It was decided that I would take on a coordinators role to facilitate support for the family."

For Honni, who is a seasoned community chaplain who has worked with a whole range of people throughout her community in their time of need, it was a challenging role to take on.

"The community has been great at helping the family, but there is still a long road ahead for them. Several fundraising events were held in the community and have provided some much needed support. My role as chaplain has allowed me the privilege of supporting this family and being allowed at the scene in the midst of the tragedy." ■



■ The fire ravaged home and top, Community Chaplain Honni Hayton supported a local family when their historic Boonah home (pictured) was destroyed by fire.

### Help in darkest hour

Community Chaplain Haydn Parsons has recently assisted a woman as she journeyed through her darkest hours.

Haydn met 'Jane' (not her real name) at a time when she was fighting a number of battles.

"She was facing homelessness, battling depression, was financially depleted and was threatening to end her life," Haydn said.

"I was able arrange assistance from a mix of church, community groups and a psychologist. As a result, Jane has slowly rebuilt her life week by week.

"Despite her many challenges, Jane is giving back to others out of her lived story of mental health and suicide ideation.

"She is truly an amazing woman, and it is such a great story of restoration."

Our Community Chaplain program is completely un-funded and relies purely on donors whose generosity helps transform lives and create brighter futures for vulnerable people who are facing some of life's toughest challenges. To make donation, go to [cofc.com.au/give](http://cofc.com.au/give) or call 1800 600 900. ■

# Never Nice!

## A reflection on what it means to be a Christian

**WORDS** Ben Bolland, Seniors Chaplain, Stanthorpe Aged Care Service

Many of us remember 'What Would Jesus Do' (WWJD). It was so cool at one stage that my local Christian bookshop had significant issues with WWJD bands being shoplifted! Clearly some people were more interested in fashion than the question of what would Jesus do?

So, was Jesus nice? This may seem like an odd question, but the reason I want to explore this is that in our pluralistic world there is a temptation for Christians to present Jesus as nice in order to be winsome. After all, we want people to like Jesus, and a nice Jesus is not inoffensive. Indeed, there is significant pressure on Christians to be nice. Likewise, Jesus is not only Christian's Saviour; He is our Lord, He is our model, so if Jesus was nice, we should be nice.

To look at the question of was whether Jesus was nice, we need to define 'nice'. The thesaurus defines nice as: 'pleasing; agreeable; delightful; amiably pleasant; kind'.

So, did Jesus' ministry meet this definition? Jesus denounced the religious elite as "you brood of vipers" (Matthew 3:7), and told his disciples: "take up your cross" (Luke 9:23), "I did not come to bring peace but the sword" (Matthew 10:34), and "unless you hate

your family". Jesus, twice, violently cleared the temple. I think this is strong evidence that Jesus was not nice!

If Jesus was not nice, was he nasty? No, Jesus' life was characterised by love. He taught love—Love the Lord your God with your everything and love your neighbour as yourself. He manifested love. He stepped down from heaven, bringing His perfection, power and peace into this broken world.

Jesus the king, creator of everything, was born an outcast in a stable to an unwed mother. He lived in this broken world with its evil, disease and death. Ultimately Jesus taught, demonstrated and ultimately, He died: naked, rejected and bearing God's righteous wrath for our lack of love. That was not nice, but it is amazingly loving.

If the answer to WWJD is not nice but loving, what does that mean for us? Clearly it is not enough to be nice, and I hope none of us think that we should be nasty. So, what does being loving mean?

Being loving means looking for ways to care for other people. Often this love will be gentle—asking 'how are you?' and listening for a real answer. Loving can also be hard—visiting a loved one who is living with dementia and no longer remembers you. Finally, loving can be painful—affirming your belief in the Biblical reality of hell for all who do not trust Jesus can endanger your relationships.

Indeed, I am aware that I have probably offended people with that last sentence. So why have I written it, why has it survived the editing process? It is never nice to offend people, but as a Christian my responsibility is not to be inoffensive, but to love. I write and speak of hell, not to rejoice in eternal suffering, but to encourage people to consider Jesus. Jesus was not nice, but He was loving, so loving that He died so people like me could go to heaven. If He loved enough to die to save people from hell, surely I can love enough to share the reality of hell and risk scorn, rejection and ridicule. ■

“Jesus is not only Christian's Saviour; He is our Lord, He is our model, so if Jesus was nice, we should be nice.”



# Investing in Christ-inspired care

*The Chaplaincy Fund allows investors to support the Christ-inspired care and compassion that our chaplains provide to vulnerable people at different stages of their life journey. Chaplains service across our services and in our wider communities, providing the very best pastoral and spiritual support to people every day. In any one month, our chaplains in our residential aged care services engage in more than 800 conversations with residents and their families. Our housing and community chaplains deliver over 240 food hampers to struggling families each month. They intervene in personal crisis situations, host barbeques to build relationships and connections, and listen to people wherever they may be. Our chaplains visit rural communities to deliver pastoral care to people and families who are struggling, helping them to get back on their feet and find the support they need.*

## Chaplaincy Fund – Term Investment

Supporting Churches of Christ in Queensland chaplains. Terms available 3 or 6 months. Option to donate interest and/or principal. Tax deductible receipt issued for all donations to our chaplains. Minimum balance \$3,000. Interest paid at maturity. Auto rollover available.

## Chaplaincy Fund – Term Investment

The Chaplaincy Fund allows investors to support the Christ-inspired care and compassion that Churches of Christ in Queensland chaplains provide to vulnerable people at different stages of their life journey. Click here to find out more about our chaplaincy work. Term of Investment – 3 or 6 month terms available with auto rollover option. A great interest rate is offered. Interest paid at maturity and option to donate portion/all interest to Churches of Christ in Queensland to fund our Chaplaincy work - a tax deductible receipt will be issued. Donation of principal is also possible at maturity and again, a

tax deductible receipt will be issued. Unsecured but covered by assets of Churches of Christ in Queensland A certificate will be issued detailing your investment upon successful application and on each renewal.

## How can I be sure my donation is being used to fund chaplaincy?

Your donation will be paid into a separate bank account that is strictly controlled and monitored by people independent of CDF. The donation will be tagged only for chaplaincy purposes and will be allocated to approved chaplaincy projects or salaries for chaplains only.

**Find out more about how you can invest in the Chaplaincy Fund today by going to [cdf.org.au](http://cdf.org.au) or emailing [cdf@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:cdf@cofcqld.com.au)**



■ A participant is kitted out in patented devices for the Virtual Dementia Tour (R).

## Walking in the shoes of people with dementia

**M**any of us know someone who is living with dementia—and on 3 May, local Toowoomba health professionals took part in the Virtual Dementia Tour®, to understand the true impacts of the condition.

Alzheimer's Australia estimates that by 2025 there will be 6,000 people living with dementia-related symptoms in the Toowoomba region. Today, there are more than 413,100 people living with dementia in Australia, with approximately 244 new cases diagnosed each day. Australian Bureau of Statistics data also shows that dementia is the second leading cause of death overall in Australia, and is the top cause of death among females.

Executive Director Services Bryan Mason said that by understanding what it might be like for someone living with dementia, we can improve the quality of support we provide.

“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,” Bryan said.

“Being able to have carers and health professionals interact with their environment with a short-term dementia filter will go a long way to them better understanding what it is like to experience dementia.

“Without actually having dementia

there isn't really any other way besides the Virtual Dementia Tour to feel what a person living with dementia experiences.”

The Virtual Dementia Tour participants are fitted with patented devices that alter their senses as they are guided by a certified trainer through everyday tasks and exercises in an experiential activity.

Bryan has experienced the tour first hand and said it was an eye-opening experience.

“Having worked with people with dementia and being in the aged care



“Without actually having dementia there isn't really any other way besides the Virtual Dementia Tour to feel what a person living with dementia experiences

sector for many years, I thought I knew how those living with dementia felt, but I was shocked and amazed by the experience,” he said. “It puts you in a place where you don't know what is up, what that strange noise was, or even who that person is in front of you.

“Sadly that is how those living with dementia travel through life, but the tour allows us to place ourselves in the shoes of another, so we can meaningfully connect with those who experience dementia in order to make a positive difference in their lives.”

The tour uses patented sensory devices and instruction based on research conducted by P.K. Beville, M.S., a specialist in geriatrics and founder of Second Wind Dreams® in the United States. Millions of participants have experienced the Virtual Dementia Tour worldwide, which has been successfully deployed in 20 countries.

Since launching in June 2017, we have rolled out the Virtual Dementia Tour across our aged care services and have also delivered the tour to other organisations, services and communities. To date, we have delivered the experience to approximately 1,800 Churches of Christ Care staff. ■

**Information on the Virtual Dementia Tour provided by Churches of Christ Care can be found at [cofc.com.au/vdt](http://cofc.com.au/vdt)**



# International learning experiences

The Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) has always had a keen commitment to mission of all types. In 2017, with the ongoing investment and partnership of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia, ACOM launched the Alliance Institute for Mission (AIM).

The Institute is a centre of excellence within ACOM that will deliver both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Christian mission, being a catalyst for the development and training for cross-cultural ministry, both in Australia and overseas. Through a range of new subjects and tailored overseas experiences, students will be trained for all types of cross-cultural ministry and graduates will be equipped to effectively take the message of the Gospel wherever God might call.

## A new emphasis: international learning experiences

ACOM is committed to providing soul-stretching learning opportunities. Over recent years, our study programs to Israel and Jordan have been life-changing experiences for students. We seek to provide more culturally-diverse overseas opportunities for students

“ We seek to provide more culturally-diverse overseas opportunities for students to study abroad - so that they can be stretched, enriched and equipped for a life of ministry and mission ”

to study abroad - so that they can be stretched, enriched and equipped for a life of ministry and mission.

Drawing on the Christian and Missionary Alliance's international network of 81 mission locations, we have established safe, well-supervised, culturally immersive overseas mission experiences. While completing units towards a bachelor or master's degree, students gain insight into the world of intercultural ministry, learn to depend on God for their daily activities and grow through engagement with local ministry practices.

The student placements are generally three months (but can be anywhere from one month to one year) and are offered through on-the-ground ministry partnerships with organisations such as Remember Nhu and Envision. Together,

we provide students the opportunity to engage with diverse service opportunities, including:

- assisting refugees
- supporting children rescued from sex-slavery
- establishing sustainable enterprises
- supporting struggling Christian communities
- a range of other opportunities around the world.

## Student placements are now available

By living amid cultures of diverse beliefs and practices, students are forced to develop a deeper understanding of their own faith and learn how to meaningfully express their beliefs to those who think differently.

Currently, students have the opportunity to complete placements in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Bolivia. More placement locations are expected to be added in the years to come as we foster quality opportunities for student learning and personal transformation.

*Students wishing to discuss options to study abroad should contact the Alliance Institute for Mission through ACOM's Queensland Student Engagement Manager Stephen Parker on [sparker@acom.edu.au](mailto:sparker@acom.edu.au) or our national office on [info@acom.edu.au](mailto:info@acom.edu.au) The Australian College of Ministries is a ministry of the Churches of Christ.*



## 60 diamond years for Camp Hill

On 10 June Camp Hill Church of Christ celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Gathering before a morning tea at the local Whites Hill State College, followed by a celebration service and lunch.

For a few years now, the local Camp Hill Church had been feeling God's calling to move away from the building that had been a wonderful centre for the work and activities of the church family for over 60 years.

The need for extensive repairs to the roof and water problems under the building, have, after much prayer, brought the church to seek a new base for God's work in Camp Hill.

The nearby Whites Hill State College will provide the facilities for this new base.

The college, which caters for students in Prep to Year 12, is well known to many members of the church family, with many involved with the school over the years.

The school has continually affirmed its focus of our future mission—to help grow a community of care, a community where families, students and staff feel like they are loved, belong and can contribute.

At the first meeting with the school leadership team about meeting at the school, the church declared that due to structural issues, they were going to demolish the building.

“You are going to demolish your church?!” the Principal exclaimed.



■ Above, Camp Hill Church of Christ Chapel Opening, 1972 and top, Camp Hill Church of Christ Reach Out Campaign, 1978

Which was answered by another member of the school leadership team: “No, the church is not a building—it is the people. You can't demolish the people!”

And so, with mixed feelings of sadness, fear and excitement, Camp Hill Church of Christ hosted the very special '60Plus' celebration—to celebrate the amazing and wonderful work that God has done in and through the church building at 18 Third Street, Camp Hill.

Officially, the church celebrated its 60th birthday in 2017, but a celebration was not able to be held, they are marking the milestone this year with the '60Plus', which marks the extra year they were in their building, waiting for God's leading as He makes His place for the future—and the 'Plus' for everything that God does through His church in Camp Hill into the future. ■



## Theme nights, Ole!

Residents at our Nubeena Retirement Village in Toowoomba have many things to yell Ole about.

Retirement Living Manager Jan Beutel said that they residents enjoy a lot about their village.

“They enjoy the focus of wellbeing, the ability to have their friendship nights, each other's company, and the security and comfort they have found living in the village,” Jan said.

One of the main highlights for residents living in the village is 'Friendship night'.

“Residents bring along their beverage of choice is, the main meal is catered for by a select group of residents, ranging from homemade rissoles (cooked on the barbeque) KFC, Subway or chinese, pizza nachos and spicy meat and cheese.”

A new trend that no doubt will be a winner is theme nights.

“Thanks to the suggestion and assistance of our administration assistant Karen Fowler, our first night was 'Pirate Night' followed by the Mexican theme, seeing residents wearing Mexican hats and very colourful poncho's.”

“While working in the kitchen preparing food for the other villagers, four seniorita's started doing the Mexican wave, causing quite a stir.” ■





# The future of our history for five years

**O**n a beautiful, clear Saturday in May 2013, the Historical Resource Centre (HRC) officially opened at the Churches of Christ Campus Mitchelton, with a certain amount of pomp and ceremony but mainly a sense of thanksgiving.

Why thanksgiving?

Because the HRC's 'birth' day was actually 26 April 1960, when a group of dedicated volunteers established the Historical Committee and for the next 53 years they kept alive the dream of collecting, preserving and protecting the history and memories of Churches of Christ in Queensland.

Part of the Committee's dream was a permanent, dedicated facility to house the growing collection. This however was always somewhat of a struggle.

The C R Burdeu Memorial Archives came close and served for nearly 25 years as part of the Kenmore Christian College Campus until 1999.

The establishment and opening of the

purpose built centre, with a paid, part-time Support Officer for the first time in its history, was certainly a day of celebration for all those who had faithfully served and supported the archives over many years.

When reaching milestones like memorable anniversaries we usually take a moment to reflect on what has happened or what has been achieved. Below is an overview of activities and achievements over the past five years.

After several months of 'drying out' the collection, a state of the art, environment controlled facility was established. The facility with controlled lighting, and a constant temperature of 20 degrees celcius and 50 per cent relative humidity, means our historical collection has a better chance of surviving the rigors of time than it ever had before 2013.

#### Some key statistics include:

- Since 2013 over 600 items have been received and added to our extensive collection.
- Items from over 100 live and decommissioned churches have been sorted in various categories.
- Over 15,000 photographs, books, church histories, reports and journals have been digitised.
- 90% of our precious objects and memorabilia are on permanent display.
- We have an extensive collection of books covering the history and beliefs of Church of Christ in Queensland, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and the United States.

All of this means that both internal and external research requests can usually end in a positive response.

An important function of the HRC has been education. Whether a casual visitor, tour group, staff development or visiting dignitaries, the HRC's track record has been one of positive and encouraging feedback.

In 2015 the HRC applied for and was successful in having the Stephen Cheek Memorial in Warwick cleaned and restored to its original condition, ensuring that the historical significance of Stephen Cheek is not lost to future generations.

For some time now the HRC has been looking for a suitable computer program to assist in the management of the archives. A Collection Management System called EMu has been purchased and installed. It will hold all of HRC's information, knowledge and history in one secure place. ■



■ Celebrating five years of Historical Resource Centre. Left to right: Jonathan Smith, Neil Linderberg, Paul Scully, Gerry Weatherall, Allan Male, Bryan Mason, Kath Male, Tim McMenamain, Rue Masunungure, Doreen Vance, Michael Brand, Desley Millwood and Tim Weatherall.

## Addressing domestic & family violence



**C**hurches of Christ in Queensland is committed to achieving a future where all people are safe, respected and free from violence and abuse.

As an organisation we recognise that domestic and family violence is not just a private or personal issue. The effects of violence have a significant impact on individuals, families and on the broader community.

We are committed to implementing practices that support our people to access safety and security both in and out of the workplace.

By doing this we embody our values in advancing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of everyone we encounter, demonstrating integrity through our actions.

Domestic and family violence is widespread in our community and has serious, far-reaching impacts on the lives of victims and survivors. In Australia approximately one woman is killed by her current or former partner every week, often after a history of domestic and family violence.

This figure is considerably higher within Indigenous communities, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women being five times more likely to be victims of domestic homicide than other Australians.

Churches of Christ in Queensland operates a range of services to assist families, the elderly and people in need.

We see the impacts of domestic and family violence through our services:

- Around 80 percent of families referred to our early intervention services are experiencing domestic and family violence
- A large number of young people in our care have witnessed domestic violence, are recovering from this trauma and may re-enact or experience violence in their own relationships
- Domestic and family violence is the major cause of homelessness in Australia. 14 percent of social housing tenants coming to our services in 2016 – 17 were escaping violence
- Elder abuse is often family violence, but looks different to partner violence. This abuse is more likely to involve financial abuse and people caring for family members.
- The third most common issue being discussed with our housing chaplains is relationships with family members – this may not always include domestic and family violence but is a key entry point for understanding its impact on people's lives.
- Our chaplains are also being approached by staff who are affected by domestic and family violence
- Our Mission Action Partners are coming across domestic and family violence regularly, either directly or through their work supporting churches and responding to community need

- The Not Now, Not Ever report highlighted that some faith leaders are not willing to assist victims or condemn perpetrators of domestic violence - a common theme among clients of our psychology and counselling service. Being true to our values requires us to apply the same level of care and commitment to our staff as we would to those in the community. Addressing domestic and family violence in our communities and workplaces requires a coordinated, strategic response that understands and addresses the social and cultural context of violence and gender| inequality. To create an organisation that is a safe place for people to come forward about violence, we must first tackle a range of issues, myths and biases. Churches of Christ in Queensland is committed to doing this by:
  - Providing appropriate information and training for staff and ministering persons to recognise and respond to domestic and family violence
  - Having structures and processes that support people who are affected by violence
  - Having structures and processes that ensure the safety of our employees
  - Speaking out about violence in our community and what we as an organisation can do to address it ■



# Talents on show

**W**e have many talented individuals living in our aged care services. Oak Towers Aged Care Service in Oakleigh wanted to recognise the creativity of their residents so Lifestyle Coordinator Sally Davoren decided to bring their artworks and exhibit them in an art show.

Service Manager Alla Kats said that art activities have been held throughout the service and residents were invited to submit other works of art they might have, so to that they could be gathered for an exhibition.

“The works of art included knitting projects, poetry, colouring, paintings, ceramics, photography and story making,” Sally said.

“We also invited residents to bring an old black and white photograph of themselves that they later decorated with colour and fabrics, bringing them to life. This was a great creative activity but also prompted positive reminiscing, with the importance and love of family was a popular theme to emerge. Residents shared stories and the sense of connection in the room was evident.”

The ‘Heart Art’ group, led by Aged Care Chaplain Vicky Kingston, were also invited to add works to the exhibition.

“The ‘Heart Art’ group meets weekly and is facilitated by one of our chaplains, Vicky, and is aided by a troupe of fantastic volunteers. The group focuses on producing art with residents experiencing dementia, with artworks including printing, mask making and collages,” she said.

The exhibition took place at Highway Gallery, a local community art gallery in the city of Monash.

“We discovered them [the Highway Gallery] on a bus outing and met with one of the wonderful volunteers who assists in coordinating exhibitions. In ongoing liaising, plans were underway to hold the Oak Towers Exhibition.”

The service held competition to find a title for the exhibition, with Molly Davenport providing the winning name, ‘Hidden Treasures’.

“By exhibiting residents’ art work, they feel a real sense of community connection. Families were welcomed along and a special opening took place inviting residents who contributed significantly to the gallery. One resident, Norman Butler, read his poetry and sang alongside Age Care Chaplain Rick’s guitar playing. Lilia Bothello also sang a song she wrote specifically for the opening (as seen below),” Sally said.

Over the two week exhibition, residents were transported to see their beautiful pieces displayed in the gallery.

“They appeared to feel a real sense of pride. We are so thankful for the volunteers who helped man the gallery during this period, without their help the exhibition could not go ahead.”

Art provides a number of benefits to aged care residents. It provides a great way for them to express themselves, it allows choice, aids dexterity, cognitive planning, socialisation and enjoyment. Art can gives residents the chance to learn new skills or access past abilities. There is no right or wrong with art. Artwork becomes an extension of the self and when this is exhibited and admired the self too may feel valued. ■

*Hidden Treasures By Lilia Bothello  
‘This is the time, to open ‘Hidden Treasures’  
Let’s take a look at all the work here on display  
Let’s celebrate the talents of the artist everyone  
See the beauty of their art, here today*



■ Oak Towers Aged Care Service resident Molly Davenport at the ‘Hidden Treasures’ exhibition.

“The ‘Heart Art’ group meets weekly and is facilitated by one of our chaplains, Vicky, and is aided by a troupe of fantastic volunteers. The group focuses on producing art with residents experiencing dementia, with artworks including printing, mask making and collages



## Retreat to ‘Hear from God’

**T**hey are out in our communities every day, engaging with local services, churches and people to find out how we can bring the light of Christ into that community and address their needs.

Our Mission Action Partners (MAP) play an important role in growing our reach and mission opportunities. Each year, they gather for a team retreat.

Over 18-20 April, the team gathered for their retreat at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast. The theme was ‘Hearing from God’, and how this influences them in their everyday private and professional lives.

Mission Action Partner Team Leader Kevin Hamer said that throughout their time away, there was significant time for teaching and reflection, as well as opportunities to encourage each other and have a bit of fun along the way.

“We spent an afternoon on a ‘road trip’ to Nambour, where we visited a local Kingdom Access Place called The Shack, which serves many people experiencing homelessness daily, providing a place to shower, rest and eat. Last year alone, they served over 12,000 meals from their

centre, and gave away more than four tonne of food,” Kevin said.

“This Kingdom Access Place is not facilitated by Churches of Christ in Queensland, but is a wonderful example of inter-denominational ministry in a town. It provided great inspiration to the team.”

The team also visited Sanctuary Park Church of Christ, and spent time with four local pastors, listening to their feedback on how to improve local church and mission development partnerships.

“A highlight of the retreat was on our final morning where we walked up Mt Cooloom. On the challenging walk up, we heard a story from a MAP on how we can hear from God in the tough times. As we reached the top, another story was shared on hearing God at the summit, followed by our last story at the bottom on hearing from God when you are in a season of momentum. The location not only provided a beautiful backdrop, but deepened the stories being shared,” he said.

The MAP team comprises ministering persons (Pastors) within our movement, who have high level capacity in the

development and leadership of local mission opportunities. They work within our churches, care services and local community groups to function as “one body, on mission, together.”

“We currently have regional MAPs located in Far North Queensland, Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Fassifern and the Southern Downs, plus mission team members who specialise in the areas of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Psychology and Domestic Violence, and small church/alternate church expressions.”

“Under an emerging model, our goal is to increase our regional MAP footprint throughout Queensland to serve local communities in 12 identified regions, who will all be charged with equipping, enabling and releasing even more people into our mission of bringing the Light of Christ into communities.” ■

■ Below, Mission Action Partners Janette Phelan, Donna Savill, Nick Burns, Paul Wetzig, Brent Sweeney, Craig Sadler, Max Conlon, Shane Matterson, Justine Cadena.





# { People & Events }

in our communities



### Leaders of the future

On 16 May, participants in the Management Development Initiative finished their 12 month program. Throughout the program, over 50 per cent of the participants had a step-up in their careers and all benefited from the experience of their mentors and connecting with their peers, and from the workshops which covered a range of essential knowledge and skills needed to be a manager in residential aged care.



### Garden awarded

Nothing says a happy tenant quite like a beautiful garden and Housing Services were very proud of two North Ipswich tenants - Maria (pictured on the front cover of this edition) and Dianne (above) - who both won first place in their respective categories - Courtyard Garden Town and Water-Wise Garden Town in the 2017 My Home Awards.

### Movement for Change

This year Churches of Christ Queensland was a sponsor of the QCOSS conference. The conference titled Movement for Change - Play your Part, focused on the stories we tell as organisations and as a community, what they mean and where they lead us. Tammy Wallace, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Leader attended the conference and had the honour of chairing a session titled: How do we include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices in the work we are doing every day? Tammy, second from right, with Ms Natalie Lewis QATSICPP CEO, Mr Mick Gooda, Indigenous Affairs Advocate, and Ms Roslyn Von Senden from QCOSS.



### Dub's gift

Acclaimed Indigenous illustrator Dub Leffler spent three days with Churches of Christ in Queensland from 4-6 June and gifted us a signed copy of his latest book and a piece of his art.

### No Falls Brig

'April No Falls' promotes the importance of falls prevention activities for older Australians. At Brig-O-Doon Aged Care Service at Acacia Ridge, Physiotherapist Adele Camp showed residents how they can reduce their falls.



### Regency Park's morning tea

On 24 May, Regency Park Retirement Village in Warwick hosted a morning tea in support of cancer research.



### Bribie Island recognises their volunteers

On Wednesday 23 May, Bribie Island Aged Care Service celebrated their 100 plus volunteers who generously give their time to help bring uplift to the lives of the residents.



### Youth CONNECT launch Townsville

On 24 April we were proud to host the local branch launch of Youth CONNECT in Townsville. The innovative Social Benefit Bond will provide a vital service in meeting the needs of young people exiting statutory care and entering adulthood.



### Lest we forget at Nubeena

Nubeena Retirement Village at Toowoomba marked Anzac Day with a service featuring Bob Bradford, a retired policeman and Vietnam Veteran who volunteers as a bus driver for the village. About 55 people attended and enjoyed a cup of tea and Anzac biscuits while looking at the memorabilia.



### Arana Hills Church of Christ new senior pastor

With joyful and thankful hearts, Arana Hills Church of Christ welcomed their new senior pastor Clinton, his wife Malize, and their beautiful girls Talitha, Nicole and Mikayla. A formal induction service for Clinton was held April 22 and was a special occasion for our church family.





## Beryl Wiltshire Scholarship

For study towards a career in the caring profession

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

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

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

Candidates should outline the nature of the career they wish to pursue, their motivation for undertaking study towards the relevant qualification, the course they wish to undertake towards this career, and give details of the likely annual tuition and associated costs (fees, books, equipment etc).

Preference will be given to applicants who do not have access to study assistance programs in their employer organisations. ■

**Please prepare an application including the following (attach full details):**

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- Reason for applying for this scholarship including personal goals
- Career being contemplated
- Reasons for choosing this career
- Education / training course etc to be undertaken including the name of the course and qualification and institution for study eg: training organisation, college, university
- Duration of course
- Annual costs to be funded: including tuition fees and associated costs
- Names and contact details of two referees

Please send completed application form by 30 September 2018 to:  
Beryl Wiltshire Scholarship  
30 Gregory Street, Clayfield Qld 4011  
Further enquiries: 0418 713 593

# { Events }

Find us on 

**June**  
JUNE 5  
World Environment Day

JUNE 11-17  
Men's Health Week

**July**  
JULY 8 -15  
NAIDOC Week

JULY 17  
Centrifuge

**August**  
AUGUST 6-12  
Homelessness  
Prevention Week

**AUGUST 18-26**  
Queensland Seniors Week  
**AUGUST 18-26**  
Queensland Road Safety Week

**September**  
SEPTEMBER 1-30  
Dementia Awareness Month  
**SEPTEMBER 2**  
Father's Day  
**SEPTEMBER 2-8**  
National Child Protection Week

**SEPTEMBER 5 - 6**  
'Passing the Baton' with Keith Farmer  
**SEPTEMBER 13**  
RUOK? Day

**October**  
OCTOBER 8-14  
Anti-Poverty Week

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

**NOVEMBER 8**  
Annual General Meeting  
**NOVEMBER 8-9**  
Ministers Forum

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

## Getaway Weekend

*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.*

Maroochy Waterfront Camp and Conference Centre.  
Twin share, motel-style air conditioned accommodation with all linen provided.

For more information, call 07 3327 1661 or email [mission@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:mission@cofcqld.com.au).

The Ladies Getaway Weekend is a retreat for women aged 13 - 103. You will be encouraged in your faith, and inspired and equipped to live with identity and purpose! The theme this year is 'Music for the Soul' where you will hear from Aliko who is an author, singer and songwriter, and inspiring speaker.

LADIES  
GETAWAY  
2-4 NOVEMBER  
2018





Bringing the light of Christ  
into communities



**Churches  
of Christ**  
in Queensland

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