Presbyterians driving down Ann Street through Brisbane would have noticed over the last few years a new building being developed next to the Ann Street Presbyterian Church. The building of thirty floors is now complete. On the first floor, it houses the church hall, various meeting rooms for use by the congregation, as well as the offices of the Ann Street Presbyterian Church Trust and the Peirson Memorial Trust. The latter provides assistance to young people and their families in the Bundaberg area.

The church is directly linked to the tower building on two levels and the congregation enjoys secure car parking in the basement. An important feature is the building forecourt between the church and the tower. It serves as the street access to the church and tower building and is used most Sundays for after-service morning teas. Wedding cars and hearses are able to park in the forecourt.

The hall on the first floor features a semi-commercial kitchen and a substantial terrace along the back boundary. An important feature is the building forecourt between the church and the tower. It serves as the street access to the church and tower building and is used most Sundays for after-service morning teas. Wedding cars and hearses are able to park in the forecourt.

The church is to be air conditioned and the grounds are to be landscaped. Static and electronic signs will play an important part in identifying the church and providing information about events.

Since Rev. Archie MacNicol’s demission early in 2011, Ann Street has been vacant with Rev. Ron Clark acting as Interim Moderator. We are grateful to our Lord that during this time church attendance has remained strong. In 2013 Very Rev. David Jones, past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and Minister in Hobart, accepted a call from Ann Street. Members are now looking forward in happy anticipation to his arrival in early March.
Ann Street farewells three prominent Presbyterians

Hon Bruce McPherson CBE: 23.09.1936–07.10.2013

The Hon. Bruce McPherson, longtime member of Ann Street, died on 7 October.

Bruce McPherson was born at Melmoth in South Africa and was educated at the Universities of Natal and Cambridge.

Returning to Australia in 1960, he became a Lecturer in Law at the University of Queensland, earned the first PhD awarded by that university and, later, in 2004 for services to the law, was awarded an LLD by that university. He authored three books on various aspects of law and wrote numerous articles covering a range of legal subjects.

Admitted to the Bar in 1953, he practised as a barrister and was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1982 and an inaugural member of the Court of Appeal in 1991.

He retired in 2006 and continued to serve as a Judge of Appeal in both Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

Bruce was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1988. He also served in many capacities, for example as Senior Judge, Chairman of the Compliance Commission and Chairman of the Judicial Conference of Australia at various times. Notably he also was a President of the Christian Lawyers Society.

Bruce’s life centered around the Presbyterian Church as a gifted musician and organiser. She devoted her life to the church she loved and served.

Graduating as a teacher in both Domestic Science and Academic work, she served in state schools at Woodloes, Pomona, Charleville and Gatton.

She had a profound influence on students at the College where she was appointed in 1982. His organisation of working bees is legendary. He was elected a Trustee of the Ann Street Church. He had three sons from that marriage.

Bruce also had a fine sense of humour. Once, when asked whether a photo of him could be published, he responded “only if I am not smiling”, because the press loved to publish photos of smiling judges after they had passed a heavy sentence on someone. Our photo shows Bruce (left) with Rev. Norm Barker – Bruce is smiling.

ON 3 July, Ann Street commemorated the life of Bruce Sharp, a member at Ann Street since November 1982.

Bruce came from Casino and moved to Brisbane with his family in 1952, at the age of fifteen.

After attending Valley Presbyterian, St Andrew’s Presbyterian and Albert Street Methodist, he decided to join the Ann Street congregation.

He quickly settled in and commenced serving. In 1954 he joined the Youth Fellowship and in 1955 the Church Choir.

In these early years Bruce became interested in missionary work in back Australia and overseas.

He corresponded with Nance Smith in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) who made him aware of the dire need of support for a bright child who could not afford school books.

Bruce read the letter he received to the choir and a fund was established to support the child through schooling. That interest in missionaries continued and in later years he organised fundraising events for the Helen Margaret Young Memorial Missionary Fund.

In 1946 Bruce married his beloved Evelyn (nee McGinn) and they had four children, Graham, Allan, Merrill and Wendy.

Bruce was elected to the Committee of Management in 1991 and was inducted as an Elder in 1962.

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In 1981 he became a Trustee and served as Chairman in 1987 and 1988. He also served as Church Officer, being appointed in 1982. His organisation of working bees is legendary.

Bruce will be remembered as a faithful Elder who served his Lord and the congregation selflessly.

On the Trust, he took a great interest in the Heytesbury Home, offering love and support to the children housed there. He and Evelyn were very popular with the children, being affectionately known as Ma and Pa.

Bruce had a varied career. He worked in clothing manufacturing as a cloth cutter, he owned a grocery shop, and eventually retired as supervisor of insurance agents at T & U. He diligently provided for his family. Evelyn died in October 2011 and Bruce missed her very much in his last years.

Bruce jokingly always said that he had two main wishes in life, to see Queensland win the Sheffield Shield and to see the development of the Ann Street property. He saw both, albeit the completed development of the new building, Westminster Hall.

We salute this man, diminutive in size but huge in stature. He served his Ann Street in photos.

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As part of centenary celebrations to mark the formation of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains’ Department, Chaplains marched on Anzac Day 2013 as a formed body in many capital cities. Following a successful march in Brisbane, the Anzac Day March Committee has generously granted permission for Chaplains to march each year as a formed body in the parade.

All serving and retired Chaplains are invited and encouraged to participate in this year’s march. For further information please contact CHAP David Niven via email at padre.dave@live.com or on mob 0422 968 828.

NEW DIRECTIONS, FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014 - PAGE 2

Calling all ADF Chaplains (past and present)

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Bruce McCabe Sharpe: 02.01.1917–24.06.2013

He served in that capacity until his death. Naturally, he brought his extensive legal knowledge to the work of those Trusts and guided both Trusts through many complex situations. He will be especially remembered for his guidance and leadership in completing the lease agreement over the new building, Westminster Hall. His contribution was invaluable and the building is a visible legacy to his efforts in the development of the Trust property.

Bruce also had a fine sense of humour. Once, when asked whether a photo of him could be published, he responded “only if I am not smiling”, because the press loved to publish photos of smiling judges after they had passed a heavy sentence on someone. Our photo shows Bruce (left) with Rev. Norm Barker – Bruce is smiling.


For a few years, declining health curtailed her involvement but did not affect her continued interest.

Following a few months of intense suffering she has now entered her rest.
Central Church Ipswich reaches out to the ‘Homeless’

by Anneke Bull, Chair, Ipswich Assist

A city church, Central Church Ipswich comes face to face with homelessness every week. That’s why we undertook hosting a community event aimed at empowering homeless and at-risk people to get the help and support they need.

Central Church, along with Ipswich Assist (its benevolent ministry arm), has identified a need to connect with the homeless and the needy. It has been noted over time that the homeless and needy are hungry for God’s love through serving and to provide information and to share the love of God and assistance to the homeless and in need also attended and were loved by the greeting team who looked after all the guests.

We received wonderful support from PresCare, who catered for everyone with a mouth-watering morning tea and lunch. The Ipswich City Council provided a grant to assist with the cost of the day. DrugArm provided tea and coffee for all. We were also thankful for donations made by our wider church community.

About 10% of the church members volunteered for this event. They did this through prayer, making contacts with service agencies, liaising with Councillors, Members of Parliament, the Council and PresCare plus dropping of leaflets, sorting out donations (2 can appeal), preparing the stalls, registration, reception, assembling greeter’s bags, being greeters, serving meals to the stall holders and guests, and the manning of the church and Ipswich Assist stall.

We were very aware of the work of the Spirit of God on the day as volunteers in the Prayer Chapel were approached with many prayer requests and were able to pray for as the day progressed. We also had a number of people making comments about the church. And let’s not forget that the free Bibles went quickly.

After reviewing the feedback from the stall holders and volunteers it was evident they felt welcomed and supported and would like to do it again next year.

Right: Advertising for Streetlinks

IT’S THAT time of year again. We’re going to lose weight, exercise more, get out of debt, stick to a budget, stop smoking, save for the future and spend more time with family.

We make resolutions because we want to bring change to bear on our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life. And the top resolutions, for most people, tend to revolve around the same three poles: money, health and family.

But what would a set of New Year’s resolutions look like for you, your church, your role as a leader, or simply as someone who wants to live a life of strategic kingdom investment?

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over (Matthew 18:15, NIV).

Keep in touch with contemporary culture. From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take (I Chronicles 12:32, NLT).

Quit comparing myself with others. Be more open to change. I can go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over (Matthew 18:15, NIV).

Do the hard work needed to build community. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a offering, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. I give every part of myself, even my own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a marble, but I don’t love (Acts 2:42–44, NIV).

Confront debilitating patterns of sin. Love people, not just crowds. We make resolutions because we want to bring change to bear on our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life. And the top resolutions, for most people, tend to revolve around the same three poles: money, health and family.

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Letters to the Editor

We would encourage all who contribute to Letters to the Editor to do so in the spirit of Christian love and grace and to deal with issues involved, not personalities. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters to publish. Please limit letters to 500 words and send to newdirections@p cq.org.au.

What has happened to the church? “The Church and its message is irrelevant to today’s society” is a statement frequently heard in many places. This and similar statements have challenged me to prayerfully examine the situation. Certainly the environment in which we live is not only non-Christian but is frequently in open rebellion against God. In discussions in the media of social and environmental issues He is rarely mentioned. That “salvation light” which our Lord Jesus called His church to be, is making little impact. Has the salt lost its savour? Is the light overshadowed by the world’s darkness?

Of course God is always at work and is calling men and women to Himself, but is the church proving to be any more effective as a building that was in Israel in Old Testament times? As I prayerfully consider the situation, I feel very much like Jeremiah as he wept over Jerusalem. Its walls, which were a testimony to God’s salvation, were broken down and its gates, a testimony of praise to the Almighty, were burned with fire. (cf. Isaiah 62:1).

Several things can be said about the church today:

1. We no longer believe the Bible nor consider it to be the inerrant Word of God. This is a much abused line of argument and is a claim that says believe “it contains the Word of God” but we are the judges of what is and what isn’t His Word. We treat our Bible as what being man says about God rather than as God revealing Himself and speaking to us.

2. We’re willing to build it. The policy. Do we ask ministers to find a full-time job and the church to see how much we can raise a call? Years ago Hudson Taylor said, “We are not fighting a battle for Christ, but for a living!”. We are told to raise a call but I know my Lord and trust Him to accomplish HIS plan. Or doubt His royal promises!”

3. We’re willing to trust in the Lord. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.” (Proverbs 3:5-6). I can testify that Taylor’s words are true.

4. We’re willing to pray. To find out whether or not a direction is from God. “Who among you doubts the sincerity of a prayer for the church? This is a pure origin of prayer. It is more precious than a sacristan or a charism. We labor in vain who don’t labor in prayer!” (Psalm 127:1).

5. We’re willing to be a follower! We are not only non-Christian but is frequently in open rebellion against God. In discussions in the media of social and environmental issues He is rarely mentioned.

6. We’re willing to make ourselves unreservedly irreverent to today’s society. “The Church and its message is irrelevant to today’s society” is a statement frequently heard in many places.

In preparation for our Christmas Carol night, a number of the talented ladies in our church devoted an inordinate amount of time and energy making hand-crafted Christmas gifts, a means of fundraising for a particular ministry. I must say that I was greatly impressed by the quality of their labors, and many of the customers at the Carol nights were more than delighted with their acquisitions. But, while the material and time input costs were taken into account, the profits only marginally outstripped the cost of production. Any self-respecting accountant would consider such an exercise unprofitable, if not actually losing money. In fact, I was beginning to believe it may have been more ‘efficient’ to sell pre-made Chinese products or even donate the money directly. Maybe the ‘x-factor’ was superfluous when taking into account the greater objective of God’s kingdom. After all, if an efficient outcome for God’s kingdom is the goal, then surely we must take the most the efficacious route available!

Most Christian churches genuinely want to present the gospel in the best possible light, and as such they desire to convey it in a manner unimpeded by cultural ‘cringe factors’. However this ‘desire’ to engage the culture on its own terms, makes a subtle provision for the message’s authenticity to be disempowered by the method. This was recently drawn to my attention when a friend related to me her experience at a Christmas Carol event, organized by a large neighbouring church.

The well-intended leadership, believing they had to compete with the many other well-run carols events in the area, decided to employ professionals to run major elements of the event: professional musicians, fireworks experts and commercial catering contractors. Although the event appeared to run seamlessly and the crowds were doubtless entertained, it left me as a friend wondering if it was the message or gospel that ‘came to the people’? It seemed that the church leaders in this instance were merely using the church to cover the flaws in their event. “If the church and Christ's message of salvation through repentance and faith, the Gospel He preached, are to again become relevant to a world in need of salvation, then surely we must take the most efficacious route available!”

Or doubt His royal promises!”

I have been, a sinner far from perfect. I have no early photographs. Do you have any early photographs?
Freely ye have received, freely give

Pray, Live, Serve .... but what about the things I will miss?

by Naomi Reed

TWO YEARS ago, Darren and I and the baby arrived in Kathmandu. It wasn’t a long time but it was long enough to re-connect deeply with our friends, our church, our community and the place we called home. We loved it. It was also long enough to begin to see certain things about Australia... like lettuce and hot washing machine and electricity. It didn’t seem so amazing. It was brighter and shinier and far more comfortable... just as many of the things we got used to and took for granted in Kathmandu. Two years ago, Darren and I and the baby arrived in Kathmandu. We unpacked five bags; we had a hot shower, we could buy bread and lettuce and avocado, and electricity. It didn’t seem so amazing. It was brighter and shinier and far more comfortable... just as many of the things we got used to and took for granted in Kathmandu.

For about a week, everything tasted better... sharper, richer, sweeter and far more amazing than it had ever been before, and they saw Him … they fell down on their faces before Him and everything about Australia ... like lettuce and hot washing machine and electricity. It didn’t seem so amazing. It was brighter and shinier and far more comfortable... just as many of the things we got used to and took for granted in Kathmandu.

Ironically, every day I was starving and waiting for lunch or dinner. I was again the only person with a black granite gravestone erected by the Church Union of New Zealand in 1900 which recorded his gifts to many and varied areas of need. His giving was done not to impress anyone or in any miserly spirit but out of love for the Lord and His New Zealand house and church. The righteous sheweth mercy and compassion for two months.

During our final week in Nepal, as the electricity stayed on and we kept commenting on how bright the day. So back in Australia, it seemed to impress anyone or in any miserly spirit but out of love for the Lord and His New Zealand house and church. The righteous sheweth mercy and compassion for two months.

IT IS over eighty years since the death of W. R. Black. Many people in our church today may not have heard of him, or know much about him, or where he lived. However, W. R. Black may have heard his name in connection with various Church Union stories. The entire Queensland Church has been and is being touched by his life-long generosity and since Church Union the Uniting Church has also been greatly benefited by his generous gifts and his example of giving. As a result, the true story of the verse in the heading above will be acknowledged as the motivation for his generosity which was intended to be an example to encourage others to give too.

The Editorial in the September issue of ‘The Presbyterian Outlook’ ten years ago following the death of W. R. Black said that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland has lost from her midst a man whose generous and loving spirit will be greatly missed. His name will remain to us a happy memory, and will live long to remind people of the things we are called upon to do, of the men and women of God who have lived by these examples. The legacy which W. R. Black left to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland is an example of a man who lived what he believed. He is the only person with a black granite gravestone erected by the Church Union of New Zealand in 1900 which recorded his gifts to many and varied areas of need. His giving was done not to impress anyone or in any miserly spirit but out of love for the Lord and His New Zealand house and church. The righteous sheweth mercy and compassion for two months.

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QTC’s 3rd annual Preaching Conference promises to be the best yet!

A great line-up of speakers headed by Ray Galea (Multicultural Bible Ministry, Sydney) and Doug Green (Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) will explore the challenges including: 

- Preaching to ‘Broken’ People: Carmelina Road
- Preaching to Women: Luke Tattersall
- Preaching to ‘Churchy’ People: Mike O’Connor
- Preaching to the ‘Converted’: Ray Galea
- Preaching to Gen Y: Phil Campbell
- Preaching to ‘Grumpy’ People: Derek Hanna
- Preaching to ‘Blue Collar’ Australia: Mike MacDonald

In addition, there will be eight seminar streams which will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get set up for a fresh teaching series in church in 2014.

For more details and to register go to www.qtc.edu.au/event-registration

Preaching to ‘Broken’ People: Carmelina Road

SADLY, AS one year follows another, there seems to be less and less awareness of Christmas and its meaning in the wider community – no star on top of the tree outside the civic centre, no lights in the trees on the main street, and banners up and down the Sunshine Coast which encouraged us to enjoy something vaguely called “the festive season”. Who knows – perhaps Christmas is becoming more and more “politically incorrect”.

If so, nobody has told us in the Caloundra Church. Every year it is wonderful to watch the cooperation of so many members as they prepare for our Christmas celebrations, 2013 was no exception. And everyone’s efforts came to fruition with our annual Carols Service in mid-December, and our Christmas Day service on the 25th.

Several ministers helped to decorate the outside of the church and the hall with lights. Last year we added a nativity scene; this year we added a star immediately over the manger. Both hear silent testimony to all who pass by that they are invited to join us for our Christmas celebrations.

The inside of the hall is decorated and each year some new feature is added to the life size nativity scene on the stage. Once again, the intention is to hear silent testimony to the many visitors who join us for our annual Carols Service, and who come to the hall for supper after the service.

At the beginning of December nine new, green Christmas banners on the walls of the church, celebrated the words of Isaiah 9:6 in red and gold letters that proclaimed – “To us a child is born, to us a Son is given”.

Each of His names was celebrated on a banner and then explained by a verse from the New Testament. He is our “Wonderful Counsellor” because in Jesus “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). He is our “Prince of Peace”, because, as Paul’s words in Romans 5:1 remind us, “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

In preparation for the supper after the Carols Service, many of the ladies of the congregation provided sandwiches, savouries and a whole range of other goodies. A large cold drinks urn, big enough to hold at least 60 litres, was borrowed from the local MacDonalds, ensuring that there was plenty of cold drink to satisfy the hundred plus people who came to enjoy supper.

This year the Amen Choir were our special guests, a group of about ten men from various parts of Brisbane. They brought all their own sound and musical equipment and crowned our annual service with harmonies and melodies that brought delight to a full church in which there were almost certainly more visitors than members. And the congregation had plenty of opportunities to join in by singing the carols that we all know and love so well.

As people moved from the church to the hall after the service, each received a small piece of cake beautifully boxed in Christmas colours of red and green. And more than a few said that the evening was “as good as we have ever had”, and that it was “too short – we should have gone for longer”.

Our Carols Service and its message of hope is our small annual gift to the people of Caloundra, and we were so glad that many joined us from the community. Our prayer is that we were able to introduce them to the Saviour who brought His gift of love, of light and of life into our sin-darkened world so that we might have eternal life. It is not a fairy tale. The message of Christmas is so enduring precisely because, unlike any fairy tale, it has a personal message for every one of us.

Charles Wesley said it well: “This cold Christmas morning, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Our prayer is that many in the congregation that evening received that “second birth”. If so it was all worth it.

Even if there were not, it was still worth it, because once again, in 2013, we were able to celebrate the wonder of the Christmas story and of the birth of the Saviour.

For some of us it was a reminder of the time when “how silently, how solemnly, the wondrous gift was given” to each of us as believers, as “the Holy Child of Bethlehem” descended to us and “cast out our sin, and entered in; and was born in us that day” (Philippians 2:5-8). How wonderful to be reminded of our “second birth” as we celebrated the wonder of the Saviour’s birth, and all that it means for us.

The wonder of Christmas
FAIRHOLME COLLEGE celebrated the end of its school year in style on Wednesday, 27 November through two separate presentation events.

In the morning, the junior school reflected on its academic, sporting, pastoral care, boarding and cultural activities for the year. Particularly, they farewelled and thanked their Year 6 cohort as they move from junior to middle school in 2014.

In the evening, ‘Presenting Fairholme 2013’ showcased the diverse achievements of the Fairholme middle and senior schools amidst outstanding performances from talented music students and staff.

The successes of the Year 12s were honoured and a hand-over ceremony between the 2013 and 2014 prefects concluded the evening.

Guest speaker, Jennifer Mohandass, Co-director of Mizpah Home, Ootacumund, India, inspired the audience with reflections on the life-changing work with orphans that she and her husband Mohan Thota have been doing in India for the past twenty-two years and the importance of hope in our lives.

The relationship between Mizpah and Fairholme was first established over six years ago through a chance meeting between the College Chaplain Richard Jessup and his wife Kerri with the Mohandass family at the Hebrew International School in Octacumund.

The Principal, Mrs Linda Evans, in her address, also addressed the notion of service for the benefit of others. She left the seniors of 2013 with a challenge, “What will be the one defining thing you do in your life; the moment of courage and conviction where you challenge that which has traditionally been offered and seek to make a change for the better?”

A large number of the Seniors were recognised during the evening and the final announcements related to closely contested academic awards. Senior Jessie Wilson was named Dux; Gabrielle Painter and Head Girl Hannah Donaldson shared the Proxime Accessit Award; Katherine Richards gained the award for Ordine Tertia (third in cohort).

The OP (Overall Position) score is used solely for tertiary education admission. It reflects each student’s position in a Queensland-wide ranking order of overall achievement in Queensland Studies Authority-approved subjects. Overall positions range from an OP1 (the highest) through to an OP25.

Hon. Greg Rodgers, Moderator

Katherine Richards (Ordine Tertia), Hannah Donaldson (Proxime Accessit - shared), Mr Stewart Peacock (Head of Teaching and Learning), Mrs Linda Evans (Principal | Fairholme College), Jessie Wilson (Dux), Gabrielle Painter (Proxime Accessit - shared)
Elmari volunteers at Canon Andrea Mwaka School, runs Sunday School at Uniting Church.

At the local Branch level Agnes was a leader. In 1978 when the Federal President was unable to attend the Conference Agnes, as Vice President, stepped into the role with less than 24 hours notice - such was Agnes’ capabilities and her willingness to give of her great knowledge to ensure the Conference ran smoothly.

Today it is not possible to list each of Agnes’ achievements, there are just too many. She held most Executive positions on the Queensland State Council, and was at one point the State President in Queensland in 1984.

Agnes played many active roles on the PWA Federal Executive and was a State delegate to the Federal conferences for well over 30 years. She was elected senior vice President in 1984.

In 1998 the Federal President was unable to attend the Conference, and Agnes, as Vice President, stepped into the role with less than 24 hours notice - such was Agnes’ capabilities and her willingness to give of her great knowledge to ensure the Conference ran smoothly.

At the local Branch level Agnes was the President of Ann Street PWA and their representative to State Council. She rarely missed a Council meeting.

When the Presbyterian Inland Mission was domiciled in Queensland, Agnes took a very active role on the Executive. She was a much-respected member of this Committee.

In 1998, when the PWA was established in Queensland, Agnes attended the inaugural Meeting and was appointed a Country Vice President. As Country Vice President Agnes travelled from Goulburn to Brisbane to attend meetings, a long drive.

At our State Conference in June last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of that meeting of PWA in Queensland.

How dearly Agnes would have liked to have been at the Anniversary and we know how much she would have enjoyed celebrating her many achievements.

Agnes had high standards and values and she did not lower them to please people - she had the courage to stand firm for what she believed to be right.

In 1998, with much grace and dignity, she and the late Mrs Marjorie Gordan addressed and then debated with the Queensland State Assembly an injustice which she believed had been done to the PWA members in Queensland. She showed great strength and courage and was not afraid to have her voice heard.

Of the loving friend Agnes was, she will be greatly missed. But greater than the sorrow from her death is the wisdom and grace she spread in her life which will remain with us. She has directed our lives deeply.

Just as she guided each of us, her wisdom and love will continue to guide us - she has left for us a special legacy.

Thank you Agnes.

Nine to Get Ready
Kenya Mission 2014

by Rev. Ian McIver

THERE’S A lot to do when a group of nine people goes on a mission visit to Africa.

Fund raising to support compassionate ministries is one thing. Learning about the country to which the team is going is another. And getting to know each other is a third.

In the last couple of months there has been plenty of all three. This year’s team left in January 2014 so at present the team will be in Kenya.

Over recent months, several team members have held a number of fundraisers. Joshua and Kerralee Shanahan, and June and Rachel Cran have had many stalls at various locations around the Sunshine Coast.

Erin Higgins, a Year 10 student at Fairholme College, has managed to raise over $1000 through her stall at the College and in early December the Fairholme congregation held a sausage sizzle outside the Caloundra BCF store.

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Used with permission
MUNGO PATROL AREA

South Australia
Mildura
Sunraysia
New South Wales
Victoria
MUNGUN PATROL

Your Support Needed

The PIM is very thankful to the Lord for our latest Padre Colin Morrow and for ministry of the Mungo Patrol. This means that once again PIM will be able to offer to in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ the comfort and encouragement of God’s presence in this remote part of our country. Colin and Alison represent the answer to many prayers for more gospel work and more gospel workers.

We invite you to be in prayer partnership with Colin and Alison (colinmorrow@pim.org.au, alisonmorrow@pim.org.au)

We also look for financial partnership with the Lord’s people, as PIM seeks $30,000 pa from the church at large to support this ministry. Can you give a one off or a regular gift?

Donations can be made by credit card (Visa or Mastercard via RESPONSE FORM), direct debit (PIM Bank is Westpac, BSB 033 397 Acc # 21 3311 – Tag Mungo Patrol), PayPal go to PIM web page, Mungo Patrol and click PayPal button “http://www.pim.org.au/nsw_mungo_patrol.htm” or by cheque made out to Presbyterian Inland Mission.

By our prayers and giving let’s move forward together in gospel partnership.

Sincerely
Stuart Bonnington
PIM Superintendent

MUNGO PATROL

INTRODUCING COLIN AND ALISON

From the suburbs to the outback

ON TRACK spoke to the Morrow’s shortly after their appointment

OT: Colin and Alison, congratulations on your appointment.

Why do you want to be part of PIM?

CAM: Thanks, We want to try to continue the work commenced by John Flynn over 100 years ago, spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ one homestead and station property at a time. We want to share God’s love with people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to know about it.

OT: Tell us a bit about your Patrol area

CAM: We have been appointed to the Mungo Patrol. It covers an area of around 44 000 square kilometres. It is the only PIM Patrol which includes part of Victoria within its boundaries. The majority of the patrol is in far south-western NSW. We will be based with and out of the Sunraysia congregation in Mildura.

We are very excited about the opportunities patrol work offers.

OT: How can people stand with you?

CAM: The work of the PIM has always been dependent on the prayers and financial support of God’s people. We are looking to build a team of supporters who can become an essential part of our mission in the Mungo Patrol without leaving home! We would ask for prayer for those we are visiting and for us as we try to do this. Every dollar counts. We are looking for individuals, groups and churches to help support the work of the Mungo Patrol.

JESUS DOETH ALL THINGS WELL

Roger and Margaret Report In

We have had much on which to ponder as the year has progressed but let me say right at the outset, (and you will appreciate this more as you read on), I just love the words of Fanny Crosby, as we sang at Stephen’s funeral ten years ago, “For I know, what’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well”!

Our time in Mt Isa in January was rewarding in many ways. It was indeed a privilege to take services on the four Sundays. What we really enjoyed was the hospitality of the people and the chance to share time getting to know many individual families. How many times have we heard of ‘too many chiefs... etc’. Not in Mt Isa! The church has lots of good Indians. What they need is a good chief to lead and encourage them!

Immediately after our return from Mt Isa we flew to Sydney to meet with the PIM board and to attend the annual PIM Rally. It was a great opportunity to meet in person with many Board members and PIM supporters and to share with them some of the realities of life on the track. The Board also confirmed our appointment with PIM for a further four year term.

Our first big surprise for the year came shortly after our return from Mt Isa. A new weigh bridge had been installed in town so when the cruiser was fully kitted out for patrol, with the two of us on board I satisfied my curiosity and put it over the aforesaid bridge...overweight! After checking it was found that the same was true of the South Australian patrol vehicle. Several options were considered by PIM and it was decided eventually that a 6.5tn Isuzu 4WD truck was the best way to go. After much negotiation one was purchased in Townsville and one in Whyalla (SA). PIM owes a debt of gratitude to David McDonald for his skills as a mechanic which contributed to us getting the best “bang for our buck” in the overall deal. It was not until late May that we picked up the truck and some time again that that the camper cab was fitted to the back and all the radios etc were successfully installed. One big plus with the new vehicle has been the added space on the back for two very large storage cupboards that allow us to carry much more gear with us as we travel. Several patels gave us the opportunity to iron out any minor issues with the new rig. While the exchangeover was being organised there were various church and Distance Education activities, both in
JESUS DOETH ALL THINGS WELL

Charters Towers and Townsville to be attended and I even took time out to have my hearing tested, and yes, I now have hearing aids.

Margaret, in the meantime, was into the annual round of CWCI and KYB responsibilities. Three safaris were organised this year in the north of the state. Margaret was the leader on one of these safaris and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

From the contacts made during these safaris, one new KYB group is being established. Please pray that more such groups may be set up over time.

For Margaret, another three year term with such groups may be set up over time.

To celebrate her brother’s birthday Margaret, in the meantime, was into my hearing tested, and yes, I can be contacted by email, or mobile on 0439 515 163. Mail can still be sent to PO Box 1691 Charters Towers. We would welcome visitors and if you call us first we will give you directions. Bill is now the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland and he shared with me a profound question that I would like to leave with you. “What is God wanting me to learn in all this? May you know the wonder and the blessing of ‘Immanuel’ – God with us!”

With our love, Roger and Margaret.
North Patrol, Queensland

NT PRESBYTERIANS

The desert shall rejoice and blossom

ALICE SPRINGS:
Sunday 10 am
20 Parke Crescent, The Gap
Keith Bell 08 8953 7748

DARWIN:
Sunday 10 am
Kormilda College, Berrimah
Sunday 5 pm
Palmerston Library
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

www.pim.org.au

PIM THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND BEYOND

Please contact Robert Benn if your congregation, presbytery or church group in NSW would like an interesting and informative PIM presentation. 02 4757 4144 • 0431 062 853

VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Oyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as travelling through various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle. All profits from the sale of VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

RESPONSE FORM

Name ___________________________ Phone ( ) ___________ email ___________________________

Address ___________________________________________________ State ___________________ Postcode ___________

Views Beyond the Furthest Fence Qty @ $100 TOTAL $ ___________

Donation: Mungeo Patrol – Morrows $ ___________

Payment details:

☑ Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)
☐ Charge my Credit Card □ Visa □ Mastercard

Exchange rate ___________

Card No. ___________ Signature ___________

Expiration date ___________

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PIM PO Box 4014
Croydon Hills VIC 3136

Ph: (03) 9005 8256
Fax: (03) 9876 1941
email: admin@pim.org.au

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PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

www.pim.org.au

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E: superintendent@pim.org.au

CONVENER
Robert Duncanson 08 8945 7878 M: 0413 021 716
E: convener@pim.org.au

PIM PADRE TEAMS

Bert and Penny Pierce E: bpierce@pim.org.au
M: 0419 951 679 Mid West Patrol WA (Mt. Magnet PIM Church)

Chris and Sandra Woolings E: cwoolings@pim.org.au
M: 0428 665 123 Southern Patrol WA (Denmark PIM Church)

David and Gae McDonald E: dmgmcdonald@pim.org.au
M: 0438 218 551 John Flynn Patrol SA (‘Smith of Dunesk’ Beltana PIM Church)

Chris and Sandra Woolings E: cwoolings@pim.org.au
M: 0428 665 123 Southern Patrol WA (Denmark PIM Church)

Paul and Sonia Marston E: pmarston@pim.org.au
M: 0419 914 813 South East Patrol WA (Margaret River PIM Church)

Gordon and Margaret Watson E: gordonw@pim.org.au
M: 0408 766 653 Central Rural Patrol WA

Greg and Janet Cripps E: gcripps@pim.org.au
M: 0407 406 628 South Patrol Qld

David and Kathy Allop E: dkallop@pim.org.au
M: 0408 766 898 Central Patrol Qld

Roger and Margaret Crane E: rcrane@pim.org.au
M: 0438 515 163 North Patrol Qld

Laurie and Gwen Peake E: lpeake@pim.org.au Leichhardt Patrol Qld

Colin and Alison Morrow E: colinmorrow@pim.org.au
M: 0407 220 005 Munro Patrol NSW/Vic

PIM CHURCH WORKERS

Keith and Jenny Bell E: kjbell@pim.org.au
M: 0438 719 956 Alice Springs PIM Church

Rob and Jeanette Duncanson E: convener@pim.org.au
M: 0413 021 716 Darwin PIM Church
Forgotten Missionaries?

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Student Scholarships

One of the most effective things that we can do in cross-cultural mission is train nationals to minister to their own people. APWM does this primarily through supporting theological education. Please consider sponsoring a student from one of the following countries.

- **Bangladesh**: We support the Presbyterian Theological Centre in Chittagong which is the Bible College of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bangladesh. The cost of a scholarship for a student is $1200. Donations for Bangladesh scholarships should be sent to APWM NSW at P.O. Box 252, 2196, Croydon, NSW, 2031.
- **Vanuatu**: We support the Talua Ministry Training Centre, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, where the Connors and Williamsonos serve. The four year Bachelor Ministry program is Vanuatu’s first indigenous Bachelor-level program. A full Bachelor of Ministry scholarship costs $3000.
- **Myanmar**: We support the Reformed Bible Institute, the Bible College of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar led by the Rev Dr Thang Biwe. We are very grateful that through current sponsors, the cost of student scholarships has been met. The cost of a scholarship has been lowered to $480, however this is likely to rise. We will have a clearer picture in March. If you would like to sponsor a student or contribute toward a scholarship, then please do so by the beginning of the academic year in April-May. Please contact APWM National on 0412 366 720 366 720 (temporary) or email national@apwm.org.au

South Sudan

At the time of writing South Sudan is on the brink of civil war. Our missionaries in South Sudan, Motor Yat and Rhys and Rhondda Hall, are currently in Australia on home assignment. Please pray that the situation in South Sudan will settle down so that our missionaries will be able to return. Motor’s partnership support has reached 97% which means that he will be returning to South Sudan as soon as possible.

National Office

The theme for December at APWM is ‘Change’. First, we’re sad to see our Office Administrator Tracey Evans leave us. We’re grateful to God for what He has done for APWM through Tracey’s key administrative skills. We’re glad to welcome Tracey’s successor, Rob Falls. Rob and his wife Elena, attend Wahroonga Presbyterian Church. Secondly, our office is on the move. We’re currently in the process of moving the National Office to its new home at the Presbyterian Theological Centre, Burwood NSW. From January 1, 2014, our address will be 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood, NSW 2134. At the moment we’re waiting for Telstra to give us our new phone number. If you do want to contact us, then please call us on our old number (02) 9792 1273 or try 0421 366 720. We praise God that amidst these changes, He does not change. He is faithful to His promises and so His ministry continues! Thank you for your support.

Workpartners 2014

At the time of writing, our Workpartners team has just completed the building of a Presbytery resource centre at Liro on Paama Island, Vanuatu. We are now planning our next Workpartners team to serve at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Are you interested in serving in 2014?

| Where? | Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu |
| Dates | 5-21 July 2014 |
| Who can go? | Committed Christians, minimum age 16 years. |

If you are interested or would like to know more, then go to http://www.apwm.org.au/what-we-do/workpartners/ or contact APWM National. Please note that we intend to send a Workpartners team to Talua in December 2014 with the tentative dates 5-22 December, 2014.

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**APWM THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND BEYOND**

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THEministry at the Scots Church in

Fremantle.

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission**

81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134

0421 366 720 • national@apwm.org.au • www.apwm.org.au

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

Card No. Expiry date  ____ / ____

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**UPDATE**

**Missionary Movements**

- **David & Wendy Hall** (Penrith NSW Pioneers, Fiji) were recently approved as APWM missionaries and commissioned to serve with Pioneers in theological education in Fiji.
- **Marilyn (Finley NSW Interserve, East Asia) was recently approved as an APWM missionary.
- **Nathan & Tomoko Stewart** (Brown Plains, QLD, APWM National) are currently raising partnership support to serve in Japan. They can be contacted at on 0422 853 800 or nathan@stewartfamily.id.au
- **Yousif & Vivian Kundra** (Clayton, VIC, GRN Australia) were recently approved as APWM missionaries and commissioned to serve with GRN at its Sydney office.
- **Keith and Elisabeth Campbell** (Willow Townsville, QLD, Wycliffe Australia, ) were recently approved as APWM missionaries and commissioned to serve with Wycliffe.
- **Vijai, Suchitra & Adiel Tagore**

In late December we farewellied the Tagore family. Vijai has completed his Master of Theology at Christ College PTC Sydney. They have returned to the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehra Dun, India, where Vijai will resume lecturing. Thank you very much to those churches and individuals who made this possible through prayer and financial gifts. We are very grateful to the Revesby congregation which hosted the Tagores and lovingly cared for them while they were in Australia.

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Do you have a vision for theological education in the South Pacific?

APWM is recruiting people for service at Taluna Ministry Training Centre, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Please note that each position requires the raising of Partnership Support.

Dean of Studies

Commencing mid to late 2015

The Dean of Studies
•  has responsibility for the care and development of the Bachelor of Ministry program.
•  maintains standards set by the Asia Theological Association.
•  oversees the Registrar and Librarian.
•  lectures in the Bachelor of Ministry program & communicates with sponsors of the 8 Min program.

Qualifications:
•  a PhD in a theological discipline or working toward obtaining a PhD.
•  pastoral-evangelistic experience.
•  cross-cultural experience (preferred) & training in education (preferred)

Lecturer: Bachelor of Ministry program

Commencing early 2015

The lecturer will
•  lecture full time in the Bachelor of Ministry program
•  carry out responsibilities at the college determined by the lecturer’s abilities and Taluka’s needs

Qualifications:
•  a Master’s degree in a theological discipline, preferably a research Master’s degree;
•  pastoral-evangelistic experience
•  cross-cultural experience (preferred)

Head Teacher: ‘English for Academic Purposes’

Commencing mid to late 2015

The head teacher will
•  oversee the development of the Foundation Year and BMIn students’ academic skills, particularly in the area of English.
•  have special responsibility for coordinating the Foundation Year program.
•  organise and oversee guest lecturers for English and academic skills.

Qualifications:
•  a Master’s degree in Teaching English for Academic Purposes or equivalent.
•  experience in teaching.

Response Form

Please send to: APWM
81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134
Name:
Address:
Postcode:

Please indicate an amount

Phone: 0421 366 720)

finance@apwm.org.au (temporary and provide the name of the

Account:

Date of first payment

Bank name:

Expires:

___/___

Signature:

Your account name(s):

Date of first payment

Signature:

Direct debit

Your account number(s):

Signature:

Please indicate how your regular payment will be:

- one-off
- monthly
- quarterly
- half-yearly
- yearly

Four Ways to Give

1. Cheque (made out to Australian Presbyterian World Mission)

2. Credit card

3. Visa

4. Mastercard

Name on card:

Date:

For more information, contact

Kevin Murray at APWM 0421 366 720 or kevinmurray@apwm.org.au

Missions Interlink Training Courses

Missions Interlink is an organisation made up of representatives from the different mission groups throughout Australia. In 2014 Missions Interlink is running a number of training events.

Partnership Support Workshops: March 18-20 & March 24-26, 2014

Myles Wilson is coming to Australia to run his renowned Partnership Support Workshops. The 2 day workshop is for those needing to raise support, to learn how to build a strong network of supporters and advocates for your ministry, as well as practical tips on how to raise support for your ministry. The 3 day workshop is for staff from agencies who have a role coaching others in partnership support and incorporates the 2 day workshop as part of the training. These workshops are based on Myles Wilson’s book, ‘Funding the Family Business’ and outlines the biblical principles of giving and receiving, and provides an opportunity to learn and share with others in similar positions to you. http://www.missionsinterlink.org.au/events/partnership-support-workshops

Venue:
Mon 16th – Fri 20th June, 2014
Venue: Chermside International Convention Centre
Contact: Kallista, Victoria
Brochure & Registration:


Missions Interlink Language Learning (MILL) is a 5 day pre-departure program designed to help develop the skills, techniques, methods and attitudes necessary to learn another language.

Day:
Mon 16th – Fri 20th June, 2014
Venue: Chermside International Convention Centre
Contact: Kallista, Victoria
Brochure & Registration:


Missions Interlink Short-term Training (MIST)

MIST is a 3-4 day weekend course designed to provide an environment in which participants are stimulated to think and learn more about the challenges of living and working as a ‘short-termer’ in a cross-cultural setting. MIST dates are yet to be confirmed for 2014. For more details see www.missionsinterlink.org.au/training/mist

GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY

Mount Magnet, Western Australia

Mount Magnet, Western Australia, is a mining town located 6 hours drive north-west of Perth. It is a regional centre with a population of approximately 750 people.

The District High School has students from kindergarten to Year 12. Eighty of the 113 students (over two-thirds) are Aboriginal.

Who will reach the people of Mount Magnet with the gospel? The Presbyterian Inland Mission has a pastoral based in Mount Magnet. The current Patrol Padre, Bert Pierce, together with his wife Penny, are due for retirement. PIM has a church building and a residence. The only other Church in town is Roman Catholic.

The town has a significant Aboriginal population and for this reason, APWM has entered into a partnership with PIM to help fund the cost of a new Patrol Padre for Mount Magnet.

APWM & PIM recently interviewed Surenda and May’an Wesley for the position of PIM Padre at the Mount Magnet Patrol. Surenda was born in India and May’an was born in New Zealand. Both have lived in Australia for extended periods and have experience in a rural environment. Surenda has just completed his theological studies in India.

The next step is to raise the needed support for this ministry. APWM has set a goal of raising $30,000 a year in team support for the Mount Magnet Patrol ministry. Will you consider partnering with us in this ministry to Aboriginals who live in outback Australia?

Surenda, May’an and Gabriella Wesley

If you would like to give to this ministry or join the regular support team for Mount Magnet, then please forward your pledge or gift to our office using the form on page 4 of this newsletter.

APWM Directory

2014-2015

In early 2014 our new APWM Directory will be available. It will be distributed via churches so please look out for your free copy. The Directory is a great way of keeping up to date on who is serving with APWM and where they are located. It is a great aid to the APWM Email Update Prayer notes. Please note that the Directory will NOT be available in a digital format.
WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! 2

Praise God because He hears our prayers and answers them. Pray that in 2014 God might be pleased to bless us and enlarge our territories and areas of ministry to one another.

Pray for the 2014 Ministry to Women course at QTCC and that many women will be able to arrange their busy lives so that they can attend and be blessed by the teaching they receive. Pray for those organising the course and delivering the material that they will be confident, focussed and clear in their message of passing on the gospel.

Pray for those who are facing new milestones in studying the Word, perhaps by attending a Growth Group for the first time, or reading the Bible with someone, one-to-one, or being involved in some other mentoring process in the model of Titus 2. Pray that they will be encouraged by those around them as they take new bold steps for the sake of the gospel.

Give thanks for chaplains (in schools, hospitals and prisons), for Scripture Union workers, for those who teach scripture classes in schools, for AFES workers in universities. Pray for those who teach and care for the very young, that they might be a Jesus to them, always striving to model exemplary Christian behaviour.

Pray for those who find themselves in challenging or painful situations – starting new jobs or studies, returning to difficult situations, Christians in secular workplaces, working mums, difficult family situations (eg blended families, special needs children, relationship struggles, caring for newborns, elderly, disabled, or those with mental health issues etc). Pray that God’s hand will be with them and they will be kept from harm and pain.

Pray that as we minister to those around us in our families, churches and communities, we would continually seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the right words to say and the best ways to reach out to them, so that they might be clearly pointed towards Jesus and so discover for themselves the hope He gives to those who trust in Him, as they deal with the challenges of life.

Praise God for the encouragement of His Word and pray for opportunities to read it together, teach it, and share it. Give thanks for Christians in schools, churches, youth groups and kids ministries where the Word of God is taught faithfully.

Pray for WMPC as we start the new year with a revised vision, goals and plans to minister to the women of Queensland, and wish a strong desire to work together closely with other ministries in our churches with similar objectives.

MINISTRY to WOMEN

A 12-week course for women serving in local churches

Ministry to Women (M2W) is for women who would love to be equipped to serve Christ more effectively. The focus will be on understanding, teaching and applying the gospel of Jesus to ourselves and to other women in the context of one-to-one relationships, small groups, and evangelism to women.

The course will run on Mondays from 10am-1pm starting February 17 and will cost $250 (including reading material).

For more information and a course outline visit www.qtc.edu.au/ministryto2women

To get an application form email registrar@qtc.edu.au

Gemma and Naree Keighley

WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH NAREE KEIGHTLEY ABOUT HER STORY

Wendy: Welcome to Girl Talk, Naree! Although we’ve not actually met before, I’ve seen your name recently in connection with the M2W (Ministry to Women) course at QTCC, which we’ve been talking about many times this year or so. But more about that later… It’s always great to meet new people and find out about their stories. So let’s start with your name … Naree. It’s unusual, and I’m wondering if you can say a bit about how you came to be known as Naree.

N: I like to joke that my parents were just bad spellers and couldn’t spell Maree but they actually got the name off some friends of theirs. When I introduce myself, people often hear it wrong, so I end up greeted by Maree and Mary a lot.

W: Now we’ve got that sorted, let’s go back to the beginning and find out where you grew up and where you are currently living.

N: I grew up in Kyonggi. It’s a small town but lots of people seem to have met someone from there. I left home at 18 to go to university. These days I’m living in Wynnum West.

W: And what kind of studies/ work etc did you do along the way?

N: I studied Journalism at QTCC and worked at a newspaper in Brisbane for two years, then decided to go to Bible College. She converged off to SMBC and did two years there.

W: What about your family … tell us about them and what an average day might look like for you?

N: I’m married to Jeff; we met at SMBC and will have our 8th anniversary in January. We have a daughter Gemma who is 7 ... honey moon baby! Five days a week I drop Gemma to school in Wooloongabba, then drive around to QTCC at St Lucia and work as the Events Coordinator and PA to the Principal. On Sundays you’ll find us at Manly- Lota Presbyterian where Jeff is the minister.

W: So how did your becoming a Christian fit into all this?

N: My parents are Christians. They really love Jesus, so I grew up knowing that God was real. There were a few ‘lightbulb moments’ along the way, when I realised I was a sinner and that following Jesus meant handing over my whole life, not just bits and pieces.

W: Did that change the way you lived your life? How did that work for you?

N: It made me very thankful that Jesus died for me. And it made me realise that my life is not my own. I bought at a price. So I try not to live to just please myself but to think about pleasing God. Like, all Christians I am a work in progress. I always remember something Elizabeth Ford said at a camp I went to, “Holiness doesn’t happen overnight, but it does happen”.

W: She could be right there. Who or what do you think helped or encouraged you most, as you grew to know Jesus more?

N: I’ve met some amazing Christians along the way. There were a bunch of people from surrounding towns on the North Coast that I had to hang out with in high school. They took following Jesus seriously and just watching their passion for prayer and Bible reading made me realise that I was a pretty lazy Christian. Then moving to Brisbane, I started going to Unichurch and heard some great teaching there and through AFES.

And then there are all the girls over the years who I have met with 1-to-1 to read the Bible and pray. That has been hugely encouraging and I still have a strong bond with a lot of them.

W: What challenges has life brought you?

N: Our daughter Gemma was born with a genetic condition. When she was a baby we were told that she was blind and had an intellectual impairment. That was pretty hard to take; we shed a lot of tears (and still do). Now that she is older she can actually see more than they thought she could, but she didn’t learn to walk until she was four and she hasn’t learnt to talk. A lot of my life’s other challenges tend to pale in comparison to that one.

W: That certainly sounds like a huge responsibility for you. Has your knowledge of God and His Word helped you with this or any other challenges of life, either personally or in walking beside others? Do you have a favourite scripture that encourages you?

N: When we first found out about Gemma’s disabilities we were really comforted to know that God is in control of everything. Having had this experience has certainly brought us into contact with people we wouldn’t otherwise have met and to some interesting discussions with other parents of disabled kids. A favourite verse of mine, even before Gemma came along, is ‘Many are the plans of a man’s heart but it is the Lord’s way that prevails’ (Proverbs 19:21).

W: How have others encouraged you in difficult times?

N: Usually not with words to tell you the truth! We’ve had Christians say some biblically true but unhelpful words to us over the years. When we were living in Ballina a group of ladies from our church saw that everything was getting a bit much for me and they set up a roster so that two people would come to my house three mornings a week. One would do some cleaning and one would do some physio exercises with Gemma or read to her while she was strapped in her standing frame. It was such a blessing. I love those ladies!

W: They sound amazing! And what do you like to do to relax after a tough day or just anytime?

N: I love to read and to cook sweet things. Unfortunately I also love to eat sweet things, so I don’t cook very often.

W: Sounds like a plan! Finally Naree, can you tell us a little about what your role has been in the Ministry to Women course and what that’s been like for you?

N: To tell you the truth my role is pretty minimal. As the Events Coordinator I generally promote things, so I send letters to churches telling them what a great course M2W is. And any emails from Fiona and Robyn that need to go out to the ladies enrolled usually get sent by me.

W: Well, now we’ll know who you are if we receive any promotional material from you … Thanks so much for encouraging us all by sharing your story.

See information for Ladies Bible Study retreat on the “What’s On” page. The retreat will be held from 23-25 May at QCCC Brookfield and the guest speaker will be Beate Teale on the topic The Unexpected Jesus.
Jesus Christ has defeated death, don’t be afraid, keep the faith was the message at the CMS Summer School 2014 Mission Conference.

More than 650 people kicked-started their year at Tamborine by exploring the Book of Revelation and mission opportunities in Australia and overseas.

It’s divided Bible-believing generations, but Revelation is still very relevant today, especially to the persecuted church, said keynote Bible teacher Rev. Peter Rodgers, Federal Secretary of CMS Australia and former missionary to Indonesia. The message written to every church in every generation that is suffering is: victory is won through Christ,” Mr Rodgers said. “Most of the church, most of the time, suffer for their faith. That is normal. We are the exception. Held from 3-8 January, the conference featured practical, informative seminars and electives on victorious Christian living, understanding Buddhism and Islam, ministry to international students, refugees and Indigenous Australians and developing a church mission program.

It’s exciting to see people from many different churches coming together eager to support God’s work in the world,” said Rev. Jeremy Gehrmann, General Secretary of the CMS Queensland with Northern NSW branch.

One minister told me that he wonders if he is wasting his time in a suburban local church. What is the best use of his time to reach gospel-poor people? The needs throughout the world are so great.

“For many people, Summer School broadened their view of mission, by equipping them with ideas and solid biblical grounding to engage with people cross-culturally at a local level, as well as being partners in global mission.”

Guest speakers at this year’s conference also included Dr Kang-Sun Tan, Executive Director for AsiaCMS and official spokesperson for the World Evangelical Alliance on Interfaith issues, and Richard Shumack, mission expert on engaging on Interfaith Issues, and Richard Shumack, mission expert on engaging with a Dream (coordinated by Ravi Harrison, Pastor Harold Wills, Rev. Peter Rodgers, CMS-Australia Federal Secretary, presenting at CMS Summer School 2014, Tamborine Mountain.

Friends of Kingsford Terrace gather for morning tea

OVER 50 guests, including those who have already committed to the Kingsford Terrace community and lifestyle, attended a morning tea and presentation at the brand new Display Suite on site at Corinda in December.

This event was the second Friends of Kingsford Terrace gathering, but the first to be held in the newly-built Display Suite. Attendees were eager to explore the suite and see for themselves the quality fittings and fixtures they’d heard so much about. Feedback was very positive, with guests commenting on the impressive high ceilings, European appliances and modern look of the display apartment.

Former CEO of Retirement Villages Association, Andrew Giles, was the special guest speaker and spoke about the benefits of community living and the emerging trends across retiring in Australia. Andrew advised his audience that they were the pioneers of retirement living in Australia, paving the way for future living trends for seniors. The lifestyle being created at Kingsford Terrace is the way of the future and one which is clearly appealing to many retirees.

For more information about CMS, visit www.cms.org.au.

Encouraging a real community atmosphere at Kingsford Terrace

WITH AUSTRALIANS living more independent, healthy and active lives well into retirement, the importance of communal recreational areas within a retirement village cannot be overstated.

Future residents of Kingsford Terrace will be encouraged to participate in the many interest and sporting groups and clubs that will be available from the moment they settle into their brand new apartment. The Concierge, responsible for facilitating day trips, competitions and general interest activities, will act as the catalyst in building the community spirit at Kingsford.

The concept for the Southern Cross Community Centre was simple; to create an extension of the residents’ apartments, a place they can relax with friends in the cocktail bar, take in a movie in the comfort of the theatre room, compete in a bridge tournament while overlooking the gardens, or simply do a few leisurely laps of the swimming pool.

There are so many features and facilities at the centre that residents can be as active or as laid-back as they choose. Facilities include a billiards room, library, games room, cocktail bar, café restaurant, function room, gymnasium, consulting rooms for health practitioners, a rooftop garden, hairdresser, indoor swimming pool and a chapel.

It is common practice for many new retirement villages to build their community centre only once all stages of development are completed. However, the facilities at the Southern Cross will be available for use from the first day residents move into Stage One of Kingsford Terrace.

Celebrating 100 years of life

MRS ETIEL Priestly, aged 100 years, crosses the storefronts of Warrego and Leichhardt Highway intersection at Miles (centre of Surat Basin coal seam gas) to her Presbyterian Church for morning worship.

Ethel was born Ethel Margaret Frier on 21 October 1913 in Geelong, Victoria. The family attended the Noble Street Methodist Church at Newtown/Chillwell. She was schooled at ‘Neossia’ Private School, Flanders State School and then Geelong High School. In 1935-1941 Ethel was involved with the choir and the Sunday School activities in the Darling Road Methodist Church. Returning to the Noble Street Methodist Church she ‘reluctantly’ led a junior boys Bible class, later becoming the superintendent of the kindergarten for 14 years.


Moving to Queensland, they attended the Indoopilly Presbyterian Church until 1977.

In 1980 they purchased the property of ‘Wallen Park’, 7200 acres near Miles and attached themselves to the Miles Presbyterian Church. Ethel and Bob were blessed with two children, Bruce and Penny (Mrs Penny Heard and her three daughters). Bruce has helped to enhance the Presbyterian worship services with his outstanding musical expertise on piano and organ.

Sadly Ethel’s husband, Bob, missed celebrating her 100th as he passed away in August at the age of 96. Ethel’s faith has been reinforced by teaching from Rev. Stuart Andrews, Rev. Jon Breen, Rev. Dr John Harris, Pastor Harold Wills, Rev. Walter Jones, Pastor Josh Aason and the local elders. She has a faith which has a strong focus on missionary endeavours and support, daily family Bible readings and a great love for the beauty of the bush. She is well respected in the Miles community.
An Adventure with God

Robyn Sansbury’s Story

ROBYN SANSBURY, a member of the Caloundra congregation, worked for a number of years for one of the large supermarket chains in Caloundra. Interestingly, however, she wondered how she might more effectively serve the Lord through the gifts that He had given her.

Little did she know then what He had in store for her, or how He would use the agencies of the PCG to provide a fruitful sphere of ministry for her in fulfilment of her desire to serve Him.

Four years ago Robyn’s life took on a new direction and became something of an adventure with God, an adventure in which our own PresCare had a role.

As she began to explore what the Lord might have in store for her, Robyn found employment as a part-time pastoral caret with PresCare, based at what was then the new Kowana Office. Then three years ago she began further studies with Christian Heritage College in Brisbane.

On 6 December 2013, three years of hard work, and sometimes inconvenient travel to Brisbane, paid off when Robyn received her Bachelor of Social Science degree from Christian Heritage College. Her degree, and that of a number of other recipients, was capped off by a ‘Dean’s Commendation’ for a grade point average that was 6.0 or above.

It was a very special occasion, not only for Robyn and her husband Stan, but also for others who came in support of Robyn as she celebrated her achievement and that of about 200 other graduates that evening.

Among the two thousand or more people attending, were Alan and Di Paternomore, Michelle Taylor, PresCare volunteer Joan Grayson and Ian and Norma McIver, all from the Caloundra congregation, along with John Gilmour, Director of Chaplaincy, and Julie Hoffman, Volunteer Manager, both of whom represented PresCare, and Keith and Glenda Booker from Church Office and PresCare.

John and Glenda both played a major role in the practical assignments that were required as part of Robyn’s degree course.

As part of her third year placement, Christian Heritage College required Robyn to spend time working in an aged care residential facility. John Gilmour suggested that she could do some work at Vela, PresCare’s aged care facility in the Brisbane suburb of Carina, to fulfill this requirement.

Glenda Booker, the Chaplain at Vela, acted as her mentor for the semester. Glenda is very experienced in her chaplaincy role so, by working with Robyn, was able to learn a great deal about the ministry of chaplaincy. Robyn is very grateful for the mentoring role that Glenda provided for her during her practical assignment for the College.

Her time at Vela also gave Robyn the chance to compare the differences and similarities of a chaplaincy role in a residential aged care setting. It also helped her to see that God had entrusted her with an important ministry to fulfill in the community as a Pastoral Carer for PresCare, and that she needed to be prepared to depend upon the Lord’s wisdom and guidance to carry out that role in an effective and compassionate manner.

Over the last several years it has been wonderful to see how the Lord has led Robyn in the development of her own particular talents for ministry.

Equally, it has been wonderful to see the way in which the Lord has so sensitively brought together the talents of others in an effective and compassionate manner.

The link between PresCare and local congregations is important and needs to be developed.

The ministry of aged care in general, and of our own PresCare in particular, is set to grow enormously as the post-war baby boomers swell the ranks of the retirees and of an aging Australian population. The members of Presbyterian congregations will not be exempt from this aging phenomenon, nor from the need of care in advanced old age.

Thank you, Christian Heritage College for your vision for the application of Christian faith to all of life and for your contribution to Robyn’s preparation for ministry.

Thank you, PresCare for your ministry of compassion on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland and for your support of Robyn as she worked towards the important milestone that her studies at Christian Heritage College represent. It’s good to be part of an adventure with God, and to know that He is at work in our Church and in its institutions.

And above all, congratulations Robyn.
150 years of ministry on the Darling Downs

THE WEEKEND starting Friday, 29 November 2013, saw the beginning of a series of special events held on the Darling Downs to commemorate 150 years of continuous witness and work by the gracious hand of Almighty God through the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

While this occasion was remembered by Presbyterian churches across the Darling Downs on that weekend, for many the centre of the activities was to be found in Toowoomba, the largest city on the Downs and a centre with three Presbyterian churches.

On Friday, there was a combined worship service held at Christ Life Church in Toowoomba, where the theme was squarely centred on thanksgiving and praise to our glorious God for His faithfulness and provision throughout these last 150 years.

The Moderator of PCQ, Hon. Greg Rodgers, was the special guest speaker at the service, and there were short reports from a number of churches in the Presbyterian of Darling Downs as to how God has led them over the years and what they see as His leading in the future.

There were wonderful musical items from a local choir, the Helen Earley Ensemble, as well as great singing from those present as the Helen Earley Ensemble. As well as items from a local chorale, the Helen Earley Ensemble. As well as items from a local chorale, the Helen Earley Ensemble.

At the conclusion of the evening, those present took the opportunity to catch up with others for a chat and some wonderful fellowship as we also examined displays set up by various congregations to share pictorially some of the highlights of church life in the past 150 years.

Saturday 30 November saw a gathering of enthusiastic folks at St David’s church hall to hear from local historian, Mr John Clement, who shared many interesting facts and tales regarding the various Presbyterian worship centres on the Darling Downs over the years. There was even a bus tour for those who wanted to see first-hand some of the things that John was telling them about.

One very significant event on the Saturday was the unveiling of a plaque by the Moderator, Hon. Greg Rodgers, commemorating the 150 years of continuous witness and work of God through the Presbyterian Church. The plaque was mounted on a cairn which was made to celebrate the 100th anniversary and erected on the site of the first Presbyterian church in Toowoomba.

On Sunday, a special combined worship service at St David’s, North Toowoomba saw other Presbyterian churches on the Darling Downs come together with the North Toowoomba Presbyterian congregation. The service was led by the Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner and Rev. Peter Playsted with the Queensland Moderator bringing the message from God’s Word, and the service included the sacrament of Communion around the Lord’s Table.

After the service, the ladies of St David’s coordinated a wonderful ‘bring & share’ celebration lunch. It was another great time of fellowship for Presbyterian from churches all over the Darling Downs and there was even a special 150th anniversary cake baked for the occasion. Of course, the Moderator did the honours and cut the cake for us.

All in all, it was a marvellous time of celebration and thanksgiving for us here on the Darling Downs as we trust and thank God for, and seek to draw attention to, His unfailing grace, love, mercy and direction. Of His continuous work over the past 150 years in this area.

Our prayer is that should He tarry, He will continue to bless and keep us for the next 150 years and beyond; at least until He takes us all home to be with Him forever.

There are many who are deserving of special thanks, but I’m sure that all would agree that it is God alone that deserves the glory for the weekend and for all that He has done, continues to do and will do in the future – praise His glorious Name.

Reflections from a new camper

by Judy Putt, Townsville

MY FIRST visit to the much talked about craft camp! I have never been in a position to attend the camp prior to this year due to time and distance so this year was it!! God willing, I would be able to attend.

Of course there was that added little encouragement from Jan who is ever on the lookout for new craft ideas. The truth of the matter is that Jan coopted my friend, Rosemary, from Allerton to be a tutor at the camp, which she agreed to, so I went along as support and possible helper.

The SDA venue at Dakabin, I must say, suited the needs of the campers very well. Accommodation was motel style (own amenities) shared between the three northern ladies. Transport to Dakabin was a little anxiety provoking given the venue was a distance away from the station but to the rescue came Keith, from Cairns, who organized with Jane to collect us all. What a blessing it was to have selfless people who made the weekend run so smoothly. Our thanks must surely go to Jan and her team of workers!!!! Of course the meals were excellent also (we always seemed to be eating!).

The speakers over the weekend were inspirational. For these women to share their joy and love of the Lord, after experiencing adventures throughout their lives, was a real inspiration and testament of God’s grace and love.

Down to the craft. There was something for everyone (almost). What amazed me was the stamina of some of these crafters had!! After the evening activities, when I needed to go to bed, many were back in the craft room busy at their projects! Now that was dedication.

My craft of choice I must admit is mostly around the sewing machine but distance restricted being able to carry the equipment required so I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried a different medium - and what a great choice it was. Narelle, our excellent tutor (patience must be her real gift) instructed us to a point where we completed our artwork framed and all!! I would not say I have a natural gift for art but certainly the desire to learn more has been fed.

Overall, I would say the experience was well worth it. Would I recommend the camp to others? Most definitely!!!!!
Children’s moving tribute to their father

On 6 August 1983, their first child was born, Andrew Bruce. Bruce walked down the aisles of Mareeba hospital singing ‘Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.’

On ANZAC Day 1985, Talitha Joy was born. Grandma and Grandpa Harrison came up for Talitha’s baptism, and Grandpa also took Bruce up to see Gove where he served in the war.

During the next few years Bruce continued working for the Mareeba Shire Council. Many adventures were had around Mareeba and the surrounding areas with the two children, camping trips and a visit to Expo 88.

It was during 1988 that people started to tell Bruce that he may have talent for the ministry. He wondered if it was God calling him. One day Liz said to him, ‘Maybe it is God’ and told him he should study, even though previously she had been very much against it. So Bruce applied. Even though he had failed English, the Presbyterian still said “it is amazing what can happen if God is in it” and told him he’d be ok.

Having plans of going to Europe on Bruce’s long service, they had put off having any more babies. But after deciding to study instead of the holiday, Liz said, “I want my baby”.

And little did they know when they moved from Mareeba to Brisbane just after Christmas, James had already been conceived. On moving to Brisbane they bought a house at Seventeen Mile Road.

At the start of 1989, Bruce started studying at the Queensland Theological Hall with two others in his class.

On 16 September 1989, James Douglas was born. The family moved to Miles after Bruce finished his study, and he was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1993, the Minister in the Presbyterian Church in Miles for six years.

He enjoyed many great friendships while living in Miles. While there, he was a member of the SES, which he really enjoyed.

On 11 February 1994, the eldest child of Jim and Elaine, Harrison, was born. There was much drama, as they had to take him home during the only cyclone ever to hit Brisbane. They went home to the house that Jim had built at 99 Pembroke Street Carina, where Jim and Elaine have now lived for over 60 years. The house is located on the corner of Pembroke and Bruce Street, which was a mere coincidence. In 1995 his only sister Lyndee was born, who he called ‘Net’.

In 2005 Bruce and Liz took the long service leave to tour Europe that they had always wanted to take. They went to England, and landed only a few hours after the London bombings.

In 2008 they also travelled to Italy and Greece visiting Patmos and Ephesus, and also to South Africa.

After ten years of ministering at the church in Springsure, Bruce felt it was time to move on and took a call to Goodwood, moving back up to North Queensland - another place he really loved. In 2009, his only child Elizabeth found another boyfriend. He thought she was a bit forward so tried to hold hands with him. Dad said grace. On the walls of the house, the dinner table, they all sat down and

Bruce welcomed into ministry by then Moderator, Rt Rev Jack Knapp.

One thing he loved about living in Miles was that of the fact that the town was right next to Miles. Bruce had always loved the bush and the mountains, so the fact that Mt Zania and Carnarvon Gorge were so close to town was really great. In the time they lived in Springsure, the family went to Carnarvon Gorge more than 15 times. And they went up Mt Zania countless times.

While in Springsure the family enjoyed a holiday to New Zealand for five weeks. Bruce had always wanted to take the family to walk the Milford Track like he had done years earlier with the QIT Bushwalking Club. The original plan was to go in the year 2000, but five weeks before leaving, James broke his leg. Because of travel insurance, the trip was postponed a year later, even though Andrew had broken his arm three times in the eight months before.

In 2009 Bruce and Liz were back in England and Europe. In 2012, Bruce and Liz went on a cruise to New Zealand.

Bruce felt it was time to move on and took a call to Goodwood, moving back up to North Queensland - another place he really loved.

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In 2009 Bruce and Liz were back in England and Europe. In 2012, Bruce and Liz went on a cruise to New Zealand.

Over the last 15 years, even though Bruce was sick and his health was declining, he found it more important to spend time with his family than to get treatment in some cases. He definitely wanted quality of life, not quantity.

A life centred on family and ministry.

Bruce James Harrison was born on 11 February 1954, the eldest child of Jim and Elaine.

He graduated Senior with good marks in Physics and Technical Drawing, but again failed English. His goal of being an Architect was ruined, but he went on to complete a Certificate in Technical Drawing.

In 1966 he started high school at Camp Hill State High School. He was the only one in his junior class to fail English and pass German. Bruce graduated Senior with good marks in Physics and Technical Drawing, but again failed English. His goal of being an Architect was ruined, but he went on to complete a Certificate in Technical Drawing.

In 1975, Bruce went to New Zealand with the QIT bushwalking club, where he walked the Milford Track, among many other great walks.

While he was studying the Civil Engineering Certificate, he tried to get a job with Antony Todd and Partners as a cadet Draftsman. In Bruce’s words, ‘The trouble with failing English is that everyone assumes you are thick as two jugs and nobody wants to employ you’.

While studying the Civil Engineering Certificate, he managed to get a job with Antony Todd and Partners as a cadet Draftsman. In his time there, he worked in the Civil Department, planning roads. Even though wanting to be an architect, he came to love being a Draftsman.

While working at Antony Todd, Bruce made some very good friends, John Mulder and Martin De Vries, but at heart he was still a ‘lone wolf’. When he joined the QIT bushwalking club he would have many walking adventures at Lamington National Park with them, but just as many on his own.

His interest and love of caving also started around this time at the coves in Texas, and then to Mt Elma at Roebuckport and later in Chilkoo in North Queensland.

At 16, he left the Senior Scouts and became a Rover Scout. In 1974, he organised an Easter trip to Carnarvon Gorge for the Rover Crew. While there he led what is known as a Scout’s Own, which was his first ever preaching experience.

In 1977, Bruce went to New Zealand with the QIT bushwalking club, where he walked the Milford Track, among many other great walks.

During 1976 and 1977, he went to visit his parental in America twice, only his chance at romance was not successful. In his words, ‘Lost and lonely I went to a Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. I have no idea what the Minister preached: all I know is that he preached Jesus. I had always been confused about how Jesus came into it. I understood God, and this man opened my eyes to Jesus. I happened to walk into one church that preached the Gospel, preached Jesus. I became a saved Christian.’

In 1978, he trained to be a pilot gaining his private pilot’s licence and was able to fly out over Stradbroke Island solo. Working at Antony Todd and Partners was very stressful with deadlines. He often had to ‘go bush’ in order to de-stress.

In January 1979 Bruce moved to Cairns and got a job with the Mareeba Shire Council as a Draftsman. One thing he loved about living in Mareeba was how close it was to the Chilko caves. He eventually joined the Chilko Caving Club and many weekends were spent caving at Chilko.

After a year, he bought a 4 bedroom house at 20 Basalt Street in Mareeba. He had three mates boarding with him – Glen Park, Ian Pack and Ian Stoodley. Before the 45th bedroom was taken by Ian Stoodley, a man who wanted to stay with them came to dinner to check out the house. At the dinner table, they all sat down and said grace. On the walls of the house were various Christian posters as the three of them were all Christians. They later found out through Ian Stoodley that this guy had thought they were a bunch of ‘religious freaks’, and he definitely wasn’t interested in living with them.

At Easter 1980, Bruce went to a camp at Tinawoo, where he met a nice young lady from Cairns Presbyterian Church who took a shine to him. After going for a walk with her, she tried to hold hands with him. Dad said grace. On the walls of the house, the dinner table, they all sat down and 

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New Directions, February/March 2014 - Page 17
MOVING INTO a brand new home for the first time in their lives has been made possible for a number of tenants with PresCare’s $10 million affordable housing projects in Rockhampton and Maryborough.

Residents moved into the two-bedroom units, which are located next to PresCare’s Alexandra Gardens facility in North Rockhampton and Groundwater Lodge in Maryborough, in December.

Board Chairman Wayne Knapp says initial feedback from the residents has been positive, with one resident who had moved from public housing saying how impressed she was with the size of the unit.

"PresCare designed these units with senior living in mind," Mr Knapp says. "It was important these houses were not only aesthetically pleasing but also practical for older occupants. We have provided wider hallways, easier access to bathroom and kitchen facilities and as much light and space as is possible in a two-bedroom unit."

For several of the new residents, this is the first home they have lived in which is brand new.

"Seniors who struggle to find affordable housing in our communities often can’t hope for anything more than cheap rental", Mr Knapp says. "We’ve not only been able to provide them with an opportunity to benefit from the market rate, which in Rockhampton works out at $240 a week and in Maryborough at $160, but also make some dreams come true in terms of having a nice new place to live."

Research shows many regional areas in Queensland are lacking in affordable rental accommodation for older people. Rockhampton is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. Over the next 20 years, Rockhampton’s population will increase by over 14% and the over 65 age group will make up the largest proportion of this growth – over 20% of the local population. In Maryborough, the statistics are similar with expectations that over the next five years the local population over 65 will be the community’s largest cohort.

PresCare sees NRAS-funded developments as a natural fit in its mission to care for older Queenslanders. Funded through the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) by the Australian Government in partnership with the Queensland Government, the 64 two-bedroom units have been built on land owned by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Mr Knapp says PresCare is applying for further NRAS funding in the current round in regional areas and in south-east Queensland and hopes to announce further construction early in 2014.

Anyone over 55 years who is interested in the units should call PresCare on (07) 4999 3000.

A gift from above

SHARON WEIR says she doesn’t believe it is simply good luck that she is now one of the new tenants in PresCare Maryborough’s affordable housing development.

"I believe God had a hand in this," Sharon says. "I am so grateful that I was given the opportunity to live in this lovely new house.

"I have been sitting-in for the past 16 years as I couldn’t afford to rent a house on my own, so now to have a place that’s all mine is just an amazing feeling."

Sharon says she loves the sense of space the high ceilings and wide entryways provide, and she is looking forward to putting her stamp on the space.

"I’ve talked to PresCare about planting a vege garden and some fruit trees, and they’ve been very positive about the idea. I love gardening and intend to ensure this lovely neighbourhood stays fresh and green.

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Can you have your cake and eat it?

"Can you have your cake and eat it" information session held at Vela

PRESCARE VELA at Carina in Brisbane’s south-east was proud to host an information session and networking event entitled ‘Can you have your cake and eat it?’ for around 60 aged care industry professionals in December.

The Heath Hill Pathways and Nursing Agency presented this session, with guest speaker Dr Anthony French talking to the group about new trends in diabetic management in the elderly.

Facility Manager Joy Cunningham said that she and her team really enjoyed having the event on site.

"Staff were given an opportunity to showcase our facility to industry professionals’, Joy says. “This resulted in many compliments on the facility itself and on the care and services we offer to our residents."

"We also found the session hugely educational, and it’s important for us all to keep up our education so we can continue to provide the best possible service to those in our care."

Joy says that Dr French’s presentation was very relevant to the group and gave them all a lot to think about in terms of how they approach the issue of diabetes and its treatment for the elderly and she appreciated the opportunity to network with her fellow facility managers and clinical nurse managers from across Brisbane.

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To make a donation, you can go to the PresCare website and donate online – www.prescare.org.au

Day after day... month after month

WHEN PRES CARE first launched the 2013 Christmas Appeal it was much excitement.

A goal of $50,000 was presented to help fund the implementation of a Social Isolation Program.

Although there has not previously been a social isolation program within aged care, PresCare sees NRAS-funded development for the community as a way to help overcome the disadvantage of loneliness, boredom, withdrawal and often depression which can result from being socially isolated, day after day, month after month.

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Broadly scoped the program aims to develop a range of social activities for all PresCare clients to help overcome the disadvantage of loneliness, boredom, withdrawal and often depression which can result from being socially isolated, day after day, month after month.

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What’s on...

Ladies Bible Study Retreat 2014
The Unexpected Jesus
Guest speaker Beate Teale

5pm 23rd May to 2pm 25 May, 2014.

QCCC Brookfield
179 Gold Creek Rd, Brookfield

The committee of women responsible for the arranging of the Ladies Bible Study Retreat in May 2014 (formerly Be Nurtured) has been busy preparing for a great weekend of encouragement, fellowship and good Bible teaching. We have made some changes to how the weekend is conducted, and we think there is much to look forward to.

We pray that many of you will be encouraged to enjoy this time together as this is something we often say we wish for...time to really immerse ourselves in God’s Word and fellowship together.

There’s a lot more to this weekend than great Bible studies. It is one weekend of the year to step aside from the rush of life, to remove ourselves from the multitude of commitments we have to family and friends each day.

It’s about taking a short time away with friends from church to really invest in our Christian lives, to put the time we often can’t find into the relationships we care so much about.

Here is a brilliant opportunity to take a short break from that sometimes chaotic life, gather a group of friends that you ‘love hanging with’, and come to Brookfield, the bush to the city, and let’s together dig deep into the scriptures.

Looking forward to seeing you there, Lorraine

Darling Downs
Easter Convention

APRIL 18TH – 21ST 2014

DR. DON HARDGRAVE

Come and share a weekend of challenging teaching on the book of ROMANS and learn how it is so relevant for assisting the Christian Community in its journey of life. Walking the talk and walking the talk. Learning to communicate the truths that are revealed in the Word in a way that is full of Grace, Ingenuity, and Love.

Rev. Hardgrave has been sharing these truths for many years. He has taken part in the camping ministry challenging both high school students and young adults. He has served in pastoral ministry in both the Wesleyan Methodist and Baptist Churches. Don has also had the privilege of lecturing in both Switzerland and in the USA.

THE PROGRAM FOR THE WEEK END

FRIDAY 18TH
9.00 AM - 10.20 AM
Paul’s confidence and concern God’s Message Through
Creation to the World
A False That Changes Us and
Our World
The Peace of God That Flows
From Forgiveness

11.00 AM - 12.15 PM
Assurance of Salvation and
The Struggle with
Freedom of Life in the Holy

SUNDAY 19TH
7.00 AM - 7.45 AM
Communion in the Chapel
Attending Church Services of
Our Own Choice in Warwick

8.00 AM - 8.45 AM
Renewing the Mind – Living
God’s Will in a Fallen World

MISION SPEAKERS

SUNDAY 19TH
6.30 PM - 8.45 PM
MISSION SPEAKERS

20.30 PM - 10.30 PM
The Delight of Duty – Country –
Government – Neighbour – Brother

PLACE: WARWICK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SLADE CAMPUS
70 HORSMAN STREET WARWICK

For more information please go to our web site: www.ddcc.net.au

What’s on in 2014

March 11–13
Preaching Week
That everyone might know his name

QTC’s 3rd annual Preaching Week promises to be the best yet! A great line-up of speakers headed by Roy Gales (Shut Up and Blime Minister of Sydney), and Doug Green (Western Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) will explore the challenges of preaching in Australia today so ‘That everyone might know his name’. In addition, the seminar dreams will ensure that everyone has the chance to get set up for a fresh teaching series in church in 2014. See the website for more details.

August 8
August will be packed full of great teaching as QTC partners with other Christian organisations to bring to you these world-class speakers.

September 12–14
Theology Conference

Don’t miss this amazing weekend of teaching from some of the best known names in theology. Celebrate this weekend with a theology conference and love working with others in studying the Bible.

October 18
Children’s Ministry Conference

It’s anticipated that Colin Buchanan will join us at the Children’s Ministry Conference next year. Colin has years of experience making God’s word understandable and memorable to kids. He is a popular Aust Aus based loved children’s artist. Colin began his working career as a teacher in a public school for two years before helping kids engage with ideas in the Bible, so it is sure to be a valuable conference to attend.

Don Carlson returns
Don Carlson will be returning to QTC in July 2014 to conduct a series of lectures and speak at a chapel event.

Call for Papers – Future Studies

2014 Paper Enquiries

Potential topics include:

• The future of Australia
• Australia in 2020
• The future of work
• The future of the environment

To make a submission, please send a one-page abstract to Martin Carter at martin.carter@qtc.org.au

briefly

CHANGED ASSEMBLY DATES
The Assembly dates this year will be Celebration Day, 21 June; Induction Service, 29 June, Assembly seminar and business meetings, 30 June-3 July. Mark in your diary and plan to come.

UNIT TO LET
CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from $300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 905 161 or rayrjane@hotmail.com.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES
Any changes wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3251 4100 or email churchoffice@pcq.org.au

TIM KELLER/CITY TO CITY CONFERENCE
Check out the City to City Australia website at www.citytocityconference.com. It is full of information on all 4 events including detailed event descriptions, content and more. Online registrations are now being accepted for all events. If you haven’t already registered for the Planters and Pastors Conference and Consultation, please do so as soon as possible.

A STRING of yearly phone calls has seen Easterfest play first hand in bringing pop rock band WhiteHeart, of 90-90’s fame, out of 14 years of retirement. Lead singer Rick Florian insists they were done with band life forever, but a phone call from Easterfest Event Director Dave Schenk inspired the band to come together again to be headliners at Easterfest 2014. With God’s hand at work, what started as a commitment to appear at Easterfest has sparked a mini-tour across the US and even work on a new album.

Easterfest’s line up adds fuel to the pop culture renaissance of all those 90’s, with ska band The OC Supertones returning for their first show since they hit pause on their career in 2003. Playing songs from the 90’s along with hits from their recent album ‘For The Glory’ they will cause a sensation for old and new fans alike when they hit the Easterfest stage.

Multiple Platinum and GRAMMY Award-winning band, One of Clay, will feel at home alongside the 1990s comeback as they emerged on the music scene in that era.

But the lineup is not all old school. New Zealand born but now Melbourne based band, Firemore, with their huge hits ‘It’s Too Late’ and ‘Light Surrounding’ will return to Easterfest in 2014. ‘We’re excited to have Evermore join us next year, especially after they this year performed exclusively for Premium Ticket holders’, says festival director Dave Schenk. ‘This time they’ll be front and centre for all fans and will undoubtedly pack out our massive new undercover marquee.’

After touring this past year with bands Ovel City, Neon Tres and Good Charlotte, Empire from Sydney will return as one of Easterfest’s most requested bands with a new album “In Breath”.

With spin off band, The Almost will join Easterfest’s star-studded lineup. Amidst the bands thundering rhythms and massive hits, vocalist Aaron Gilespie promises to deliver a solo performance with the message that ‘There’s hope’, resonating with the Easter story.

Also joining Easterfest’s diverse line-up is Alternative Rock, Ben Laughton, DJ Maj, Everson and Hawk Nelson. The latter is joined by Tommy Needham, Shordick, Slip on Stereo, Savoy Grace and Sydney’s hot new Youth infused worship band, Young and Free.

These artists will join over 150 artists at Easterfest performing in over 50 venues throughout Queensland’s Gold Coast, Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Australia conference website at www.citytocityconference.com. It is full of information on all 4 events including detailed event descriptions, content and more. Online registrations are now being accepted for all events. If you haven’t already registered for the Planters and Pastors Conference and Consultation, please do so as soon as possible.

For more information please visit easterfest.com.

2014 LINE-UP

AARON GILESPE + ALAUNGRIT BOX + THE ALMOST + BLC LAUGHTON + DJ MAJ + EVERSON + HAWK NELSON + THE IDEA OF POINTS + JARS OF CLAY + JAY MEYER

NEW EMPIRE + OC SUPERTONES + SAVING GRACE + SKELETONS + WINDSORADELL + YOUNG & FREE

YNET CONFERENCE

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FOR THOSE of us living on the Gold Coast, Schoolies is usually associated with the arrival of masses of newly-graduated students anticipating far more fun than their time together often delivers. But each year we return to Stradbroke Island with Jumpstart Schoolies, schoolies students consistently underestimate what a great time they have in store.

It all begins as we disembark from the ferry and head across the island. As the buses round corners, schoolies begin to comment on the beauty of the area—especially those from Northern Queensland who can’t believe how good the beaches are and can’t wait to get in the surf. Those who come with friends chat away, still celebrating the end of school. But those who arrived on their own are already being welcomed into conversations that, they hope, will become life-long friendships.

Then, as we round the final corners and approach Point Lookout Surf Life Saving Club, a silence falls on the bus as, slack-jawed, each schoolie gasps at exactly where they’ll be spending their week. Atop the rocky lookout that begins the long, long expanse of Stradbroke’s eastern beach, the club offers breathtaking views—especially on our first day this year when a storm gradually approached from the opposite end of the island.

From that day on, schoolies revel in the freedom to do what they want with their time—be that going for a swim, sandboarding, four-wheel driving, snorkelling, learning to surf or simply kicking back with friends to watch a DVD or read a good book. There’s always someone up for a game of pool or cards and a trip to the local gelato shop can become a much-enjoyed daily ritual.

But where the expectations of most schoolies are blown away is the relationships they experience during the week together.

This year, as is so often the case, it was the people who came on Jumpstart Schoolies that made the week truly memorable. As Danny Mitchell helped us to see God’s invitation in Jesus to truly rest, numerous conversations were triggered as we reflected on life, what’s important, and what may lie in the years ahead.

As a way of finishing twelve years of study, Jumpstart Schoolies is rewarding. But as a way of beginning the rest of our lives, it was once again transforming.

Though our time together listening to God’s Word seemed only a small fraction of the day, it was a huge encouragement for those that love Jesus and want to live life for Him. And those schoolies who didn’t know Jesus never felt left out and were often keen to be part of the discussion because they could tell that the relationships they were experiencing during their time away were exceptional. Not the bickering and deception that so often mars the experience of too many Gold Coast schoolies, but a group of people who have discovered forgiveness and welcome in Christ and who are learning to love and care for others as God has loved them.