What a great time of celebration for those who attended the Celebration Rally at Clayfield College as part of this year’s Assembly. Catching up with old friends, checking out the displays, enjoying Guido’s famous barbecue, a varied and entertaining program, meeting the new Moderator and hearing David Jones’ excellent message on Compelling Love were just a few of the highlights. On a beautiful day/night, Clayfield College was a perfect venue for this wonderful time of fellowship. The program was varied with a string quartet from Somerville House, a brass ensemble from Brisbane Boys’ College, a puppet presentation from Presbyterian Christian Education and a hip hop demonstration from a Mitchelton outreach group. Each year, the Celebration Rally precedes the State Assembly as a means of congregations coming together to praise God for all His blessings.
Decisions of the 2013 State Assembly

by Rev. Lesleigh Hall, Deputy Chair of Assembly

The Assembly:

* Inducted Hon. Greg Rodgers as Moderator.
* Was informed by the Moderator that he had appointed Rev. Matt Viney and Rev. Garnet Swan as his Chaplains.
* Thanked the Moderator for his address, "He said, 'OH'!
* Requested the Moderator to visit the Presbyteries of North Queensland, Darling Downs, Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast and Mowbray. Recorded its appreciation to Rev. David Niven for his service as Moderator.
* Declared Rev. Phil Cae, Manager of the Coorparoo Charge, as Moderator-Elect.
* Accepted the resignation of Elder Keith Booker as Assembly Treasurer with deep regret, giving thanks to God for Keith’s tireless and devoted service to the task of Treasurer for the nine years that he held the office. Keith will continue in this role as General Manager.
* Appointed Elder George Harris as Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.
* Welcomed the following new members to the Assembly: Rev. W. Hsu, Assistant Minister, Acacia Ridge Charge; Rev. A. Pinnell, Minister, Caloundra Valley Charge; Rev. J. G. Smart, Minister, Willows Charge; Rev. J. W. Assistant Minister, Creek Road Charge; and Mr Barson, including the Assembly for the first time.

Recorded with regret the death of the following elders: Kenneth McRae, Rockhampton, died 6 July 2012; Donald James Murray, Gladstone, died 28 September 2012; G. J. Keinke, Mäleny, died 12 April 2013; Ross Gill, Maleny, died 12 July 2012; Alfred Mark Collins, Bell/South Toowoomba, died 20 July 2012; Robert Charles Bazley, Dalby, died 21 April 2012; Francis Campbell Grimes, Bell/South Toowoomba, died 16 September 2012; James Towns, Assistant Minister, Toowoomba, died 29 May 2013.

* Tackled the Resigned of Mr Bruce Sharpe, Elder with the Ann Street Charge, and former Assembly Officer, on Monday 24 June 2013.
* Received a letter from Rev. J. L. Heath Ross (President), Mrs Heather Burton (Secretary) and Mrs J. F. Fitzgerald (Treasurer).
* Received the Women’s Ministries detailed report on the meetings of the Women’s Ministries Board and Mowbray on the work of their respective presbyteries.

Participated in the Assembly seminar “Engage Your World” conducted by the Committees of Ministry Resourcing and Outreach and Communications and featuring Sr Rev. Dr. David Jones, Rev. Steve Cree, Pastor Karl Pinto and Rev. Davy Millar as the keynote speakers.

* Noted that F&KB is utilising $62,500 during 2013 from the Capital Profits Reserve to subsidise Assembly and SMP assessments, to ease the financial strain on congregations.
* Empowered the Property Board to ensure that a Contractor Superintendent is engaged by a congregation or other denominational body when considered necessary.
* Encouraged qualified congregational members to accept an invitation to become members of the Stipends Commission.
* Was addressed by Paul and Mrs Jenny Rayner (Central Presbyterian Church and Thailand), Rev. Gavin Henderson (Burdekin Presbyterian Church and Myanmar) and Mr Nathan Stewart (Browns Plains Presbyterian Church and Japan).
* Noted the new names for our State and Federal Mission Committees (APWM, Queensland and APWM National) and that the name Mission Partners is no longer being used.
* Gave thanks to God for the successful commencement of Partner Church ministry by the Evans family with the Presbyterian Church of Japan; and by Andrew and Marilyn Schade and Brian and Judy Cullen with the Presbyterian Church of Malaysia.
* Accepted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Union Questions and Communications Committee in its current direction.
* Requested that a representative from the Creek Road Charge within the North Queensland Presbytery should be available to meet with the Creek Road Charge within the Southbank area.
* Wheelchair access.

* Inducted Rev. Dr. Andrew Bain as Vice-Principal of QTC.
* Requested the Committee on Ministry Networks and Communications, with Presbyteries, the Faculty and Corporate Services, to conduct a review of the Rules of the Church concerning the Trials for Licence for students in the theological colleges.
* Reappointed Rev. Peter John Barson to the Position of Director of Ministry Recognition and Chaplaincy Education for a further term of five years.
* Encouraged all Charges to consider how to engage their local communities with the gospel and how to bring them into those communities.
* Strongly objected to the dissolution of the Religious Education Advisory Committee and requested the Minister for Education to ensure that a representative from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland continues to be invited to comment on issues related to religious education and chaplaincy matters.
* Was addressed by Mr Roger Crane, Father of the North Queensland PIM Patrol, and Mr Jesse Caulfield and Ms Dione Dune from Inside/Out Chaplaincy.
** Reappointed the accreditation of unpaid ministry workers by CMR to make the process more flexible and able to meet the needs of the congregation teams being developed throughout the Church.
** Refined the accreditation of unpaid ministry workers by CMR to make the process more flexible and able to meet the needs of the congregation teams being developed throughout the Church.
** Restructured the provision of subsidies to charges by CMR to ensure that church planting and church restructuring projects are not unnecessarily impeded.

* Noted the retirement from the PMSA of Mr Bernie Stein, and thanked God for his valuable contribution to the Association in many capacities during his 37 years of service.
* Congratulated Mrs Maria Woods on her appointment as the Principal to the Sunshine Coast Grammar School, and assured her of the Assembly’s prayers as she undertakes this important ministry.
* Noted the much appreciated service rendered to Emanuel College by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland Councillors, Rev. Dr Bruce Winter, Ms Susan Anderson and Mr Bruce Pearce.
* Congratulated the new Principal of Grace College, Rev. Dr Anita Monaco, on her appointment and assured her of the Assembly’s prayers for her work as Principal of the College.
* Reappointed Rev. Matt Viney, Ms Kristine Gask and Mrs Cecile Orford to the Grace College Council for a further term of three years.
* Noted the Interim Policy of St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital on the termination of pregnancy, and requested the Public Questions and Communications Committee to be available to meet with the Board of St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital, Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs), ethical advisors and other interested parties, to discuss the position statement of the Church in these countries so that the citizens of these countries may live in peace, with freedom of movement and of association.

* Forwarded a statement by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland entitled ‘Reiterating the common ground in sexuality debate’ to the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia for the information of the General Assembly of Australia.
* Appointed Mrs Mendy Campbell, Rev. Dr Don Lewis and Rev. David Niven to represent the Presbyterian Church of Queensland to the Annual General Meeting of DrugARMS.
* Appointed DrugARMS to the prayerful support of the Church.
* Appointed the Committee of Assembly as authorised by the 2012 Assembly to conduct the process for the election of members to the Committee of Management.

* Noted that the new Principal of Grace College, Rev. Dr Anita Monaco, on her appointment and assured her of the Assembly’s prayers for her work as Principal of the College.

Front cover photos: PresCare representatives General Manager James Woods and Apprentice Chef Kylie Bondent delegates with complementary macaroons baked fresh under PresCare’s catering business The Contented Chef; making new friends at the Celebration Rally; PCE puppet item; Lunch break during the Assembly seminar; Catching up with friends at the Celebration Rally; and Lunch break during the Assembly seminar.
THE NEW MODERATOR-ELECT

A Committee, consisting of the Moderator, the Clerk and the Treasurer, together with past Moderators who are members of the Assembly and one elected elder from each Presbyterian church met on Wednesday morning of the Assembly to choose a Moderator who is a member of the Assembly at a special order of the Assembly to choose a Moderator-Elect. In 1983 and 1984. In 1985, he was recommended to the Assembly. He then moved to Melbourne to study with Civil Aviation for sixteen years. He started school at Wooloowin State, soon moved to Kalinga where he worked in IT. After finishing school, Phil followed a career in electronics as a technician with Civil Aviation for sixteen years. His father died in 1951 and not long after that, his family moved to Brisbane. He grew up in Camp Hill until age 5 during which time his family worshipped at Norman Park. His father owned a corner shop at Camp Hill but they soon moved to Kalinga where he started school at Wooloowin State School. The family attended Kalinga Presbyterian Church, then later Clayfield Methodist Church. The highlight of his life is his four daughters and eight grandchildren who constantly inspire him and bring joy to his life.

BELL CHURCH ESCAPES MAJOR DAMAGE

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Bell Church escaped major damage when a Dog Trailer from a gravel truck almost ran into it. The trailer was parked across the road from the church. It broke away from where it was parked, ran down the hill, across the road, mounted the footpath, through the fence, and only came to rest when the front wheels were stopped by the concrete steps at the front of the church. The front corner of the church was damaged, but the porch took the main hit from the side of the trailer, with the front corner of the porch being torn off. The porch was pushed sideways and the front steps demolished.

As there was a small amount of asbestos in the construction, this case was considered. The front of the church is not usable and although services have continued, entry is now via the back door. (One advantage is that people don’t seem to come late, and are sitting closer to the front!) Repairs have not yet been made as there are insurance matters to consider. We praise God that the trailer did not hit the side of the church, which would have resulted in much greater damage.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT ST ANDREW’S PC GOONDWINDI

The weekend of celebrations began with a “Walk through the Years” on Saturday evening where members of the congregation, accompanied on the piano by Ina Winter, sang an Afrikaans hymn during the collection of the offering and then the remainder of the congregation sang the same hymn, “Take my life and let it be”, in English. The weekend finished with a tasty lamb spit roast lunch prepared by Ian, Sue and Tim Cuthbert. Keith Dowding, an elder in the church 50 years ago, cut the Jubilee cake which had been made by Aileen Norman. Ian, Sue and Tim Cuthbert. Keith Dowding, an elder in the church 50 years ago, cut the Jubilee cake which had been made by Aileen Norman. It was a “big” weekend in the life of St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and took months of preparation but it was well worth the effort. To God be the Glory!
Introducing our new columnist .. Roland Lowther

ON 28 April 2013 a well-attended Commissioning Service was conducted for Andrew and Marilyn Schache at St John’s South Toowoomba Presbyterian Church, prior to their leaving for Vanuatu.

It was officiated by Rev. Kevin Murray from APWM (National) with Rev. Rob Farr, Rev. Graeme McKay, Elders and the Missions Committee of St John’s, Presbyterian of Darling Downs members and the congregation all taking part.

Andrew and Marilyn told how excited they were to take up their roles in the life of the Tullia Bible College, serving God and using their talents in maintenance and administration respectively. This allows the good work of Bible training and mission work at the Tullia College to continue uninterrupted.

In the two years that they plan to be away they will train Nationals to take over from them.

Many family members and friends joined with the St John’s congregation to sing “The Blessing” and will continue to uphold them in prayer. Andrew and Marilyn left Australia for Vanuatu on 7 May.

TOP: LtoR: Andrew and Marilyn Schache, Rev. Rob Farr, REV. Kevin Murray (Director, APWM National)

BOTTOM: LtoR: Rev. Rob Farr, Andrew and Marilyn Schache, Rev. Wal Jones

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH

is seeking a new Minister

Clayfield is an inner-northern suburb of Brisbane under ten kilometres from the CBD. Scots Presbyterian Memorial Church has been part of the fabric of Clayfield for over a century.

We are a small but growing church family with a range of ages and backgrounds. We want to serve Clayfield and Brisbane’s north-east and to grow a loving Christ centred community.

Church on Sunday morning includes Sunday School and creche. Mid-week there are Growth Groups and a healthy and over-flowing play-group. Scots has enjoyed ten years of healthy revitalising ministry and now ready for a new minister who will continue faithful Bible teaching, purposeful leadership, training and equipping.

For further inquiries please contact Rev. Steve Blencowe (Interim Moderator)
by phone 07 3305 0256 or email steve@kpc.org.au

Grass-Roots Reflections

The Departed

Recently I had the pleasure of catching up with old friends whom we had served with on the mission field in the early 1990s. As usual there was the preliminary conversation about our current lives and how things had changed, and of course there was reminiscing about the “old times”. Eventually the conversation took on a more reflective mood, as we began to exchange those “whenever happened to...” questions.

Havening not spoken for nearly 20 years, I was anticipating that some sad news was almost certain to surface, and my fears were not misplaced. Regrettably there were stories of broken marriages, untimely deaths and once-faithful believers consumed by worldliness.

Now we all have personal stories of friends who have fallen through moral indiscretion, joined some eccentric Christian group, or allowed the exigencies of life to extinguish their once vibrant faith. So I thought I had heard it all. But there was one story that shook me to my absolute core.

When we went to the mission field, we had the great privilege of working with a devoted Christian couple who took us under their wing and mentored us in cross-cultural work. They appeared as the quintessential cross-cultural missionaries: authentically Christian, Bible College trained, dedicated to learning the language, well integrated with the concerns of the local people, active in discipleship and outreach. Of particular note was the personal godliness of the wife, who had all the attributes of the godly woman described in Proverbs 31. She was a Christian who seemed to have an unshakable devotion to Christ and His kingdom—a veritable rock.

To be sure, I was shocked on hearing of her divorce from her husband. But nothing could prepare me for the underlying reason of that divorce: she had become a Muslim. That’s right: she had abandoned Christianity and converted to Islam! Moreover, the conversion was predicated on the grounds that she had never felt “so loved”.

I agree we don’t have to go too far to find examples of unloving Christians or churches with which we can become disillusioned. Although I can reconcile a mature Christian’s disillusionment with less consistent examples of Christianity, I really struggled with the notion that a devoted Christian can abandon Christ altogether on these grounds, and then embrace a false religion.

I immediately tried to make sense of it, can a Christian really fall away? Of course, the theologian in me wants to rationalize these events on the grounds that the person in question isn’t a Christian, or if they are, this is a temporary aberration that will eventually lead to repentance. Yet, was this logical exercise merely an attempt to assuage my deep fears that my theological systems may be conceptually flawed, and nothing more? Moreover, even if my theological mind could be consoled by its own internal logic, the brutal fact remains—Christians do fall away!

When I look to the Holy Scriptures on this subject, I don’t find its authors continuing arguments to explain away every incongruity between life and doctrine, simply to balance their theological ledgers. I find “realistic” assessments of lives lived before God in a hostile world. I find people who have a complete understanding of God’s sovereignty, but live with an immense sense of personal accountability in the face of their eternal destiny.

I see the Scriptures approaching the subject this way: “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door...” (Jesus); “... make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him” (Peter); “You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?” (Paul); “...let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fail by following your example of disobedience.” (Hebrews).

There are no excuses being offered; faith in Christ meant (and means) enduring submission to Christ. Regrettably, as I get older, the catalogue of the departed grows larger, and the shocking surprises fewer. It is my prayer that we won’t take our commitment to Christ lightly, loosen our grip on our living faith in Christ, take for granted the privilege of sharing in the gospel of salvation, or allow worldliness to extinguish our witness. As we persevere in Christ we are assured on never being numbered among “The Departed.”

Rowland Lowther
ON SATURDAY 18 May, St Paul’s Presbyterian Church Brisbane hosted a special concert of religious hymns and songs to celebrate part of 4MBS Festival of Classics. This concert was also one of a series of special events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of St Paul’s in 1863.

Taking part in the concert was the Brisbane Congregational Choir at St Andrew’s under the baton of Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié and the Brisbane Regional Youth Orchestra conducted by Mr Shaun Dorney. There were almost 100 singers and musicians taking part.

The choir part of the programme included well-known hymns such as ‘Greater Love hath No Man, My Soul There is a Country, God Our Fathers and John Rutter’s beautiful arrangement of ‘For The Beauty Of The Earth’.

The singing of these hymns was enhanced by the amazing voices of soprano Stephanie Bendell and baritone Jim McNicol. Eduarda van Klinken accompanied the choir on the organ.

The rafters were raised when the Old Hundredth was played by the orchestra, supported by Eduarda van Klinken on the organ and Malcolm Liddell, Damon Leongheed and Lindon Wiese on the trumpet.

The audience particularly enjoyed hearing the orchestra play well-known pieces such as Jupiter by Gustav Holst and the Battle Hymn of the Republic by Samuel Ward and John Howard Payne.

The second part of the programme included ‘The Lord’s My Shepherd’, handbells by John Leech, and a group dance ‘Ewig Licht’. The choir and orchestra performed two numbers with an African theme.

The audience was expectant and the expectant audience was rewarded with a standing ovation which lasted for many minutes. The audience then added their appreciation of the performers with a standing ovation once more.

Chair Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié conducted.

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Chair Dr Debra Shearer-Dirié conducted.

The tour of the archives of the church was conducted by Mr Shaun Dorney.

Unfortunately, the girls in the school didn’t all agree with her. Some of them were clearly annoyed that the performance was compulsory and that they had to be involved in something so distasteful.

The point being, that whenever we do something because it is required of us, or because it is our duty, or obligation, it can lose some of that sense of wonder and privilege. It can become boring, instead, the thing that we complain about. Even something as wonderful as performing in the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House can become boring and tiresome.

So I’ve been thinking about the concept of privilege and wondering about the privileges I’ve enjoyed over the years.

Serving cross-culturally in Nepal felt like a privilege. I still say that, even though it involved bombs and earthquakes and war and suffering and difficulties. Amidst the difficulties, I was usually aware that the opportunity I had to make friends and spread the good news of faith in another language and culture were an incredible privilege. I would do those years all over again if I could.

But I wonder whether I would say that if I was forced to be in Nepal, if I had no choice in the matter at all? Would I still value the water and electricity and the constant strikes and uncertainty and make me more annoying and rebellious than if I saw it as a choice?

And maybe if I was forced to do speaking engagements at churches and conferences, would I also lose some of the awe and wonder that I have?  When I consider my ministry opportunities?

And if I was a follower of Jesus because I had to be, or because I was obligated to be one, would I also grumble about the daily preparations that I make so I can prepare to meet the Lord? Would I be so tired, so finished, that I lose my desire to worship?

That’s the greatest privilege any of us can ever imagine. Let’s respond today with awe and wonder.

This concert was also one of a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of St Paul’s in 1863 and the sale of the site to the National Bank of Queensland. With the proceeds, land was purchased at Spring Hill to build a new church in what was then Leichhardt Street. The organ, stained glass windows, wrought iron fence, steeple and some of the stonework were relocated from Creek Street to the new building.

In recognition of this impressive structure, the city renamed the street St Paul’s Terrace in 1930, after the name by which the congregation and church were now known.

Worship in the new church began on 5 May 1889 but our focus as a congregation in this anniversary year has been the witness and worship of God’s people over the span of 150 years.

We would be delighted to start our next 150 years with an augmented congregation on Sunday 18 August and we extend a warm invitation to one and all to join us for this final celebration.

Pray, Live, Serve .... but what is a privilege?

by Naomi Reed

LAST YEAR, I went to see Mrs Carey’s Corner on location. I still say that, even though it involved bombs and earthquakes and war and suffering and difficulties. Amidst the difficulties, I was usually aware that the opportunity I had to make friends and spread the good news of faith in another language and culture were an incredible privilege. I would do those years all over again if I could.

But I wonder whether I would say that if I was forced to be in Nepal, if I had no choice in the matter at all? Would I still value the water and electricity and the constant strikes and uncertainty and make me more annoying and rebellious than if I saw it as a choice?

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And if I was a follower of Jesus because I had to be, or because I was obligated to be one, would I also grumble about the daily preparations that I make so I can prepare to meet the Lord? Would I be so tired, so finished, that I lose my desire to worship?

That’s the greatest privilege any of us can ever imagine. Let’s respond today with awe and wonder.

This YEAR is shaping as an exciting year in our church. Church attendance is up encouragingly on last year and growth in the spiritual standing of the congregation is also showing signs of enhancement. We have had a number of young Koreans who are here for a couple of months who have been an added blessing.

There is a view that God is about to do something great in the Maranoa and this view is reflected by our pastors in town who are also seeing growth. It has been a prayer of the congregation and the presbyterians was confirmed when five new communicants were received into membership on profession of faith at the Communion Service held on 28 April. These new communicants were received with much rejoicing and thankfulness to God.

With the encouragement of the Moderator, Rev. Ross Pethbridge, Pastor Bruce Clarke has been leading the congregation through a planning process so that we can be open to where God will lead us. As we get ready to move ahead, it is possible to look back and see God at work for many years preparing us for whatever lies ahead. It is the hope that this process will produce a clear direction for our immediate future under Christ’s leadership.

Thanks be to God, Amen.
Kingsford Terrace offers stunning, brand new apartments in a community designed with exceptional facilities and services to make life easy. Everything has been considered, from beautiful gardens, a superb café and lounge, to the sensational indoor pool. There’s also the security that comes from knowing Kingsford Terrace is operated by PresCare – a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Premium retirement apartments from $440,000.
Phone us on 1300 287 672 or register your details at kingsfordterrace.com.au. Alternatively, please return the completed form below to receive your information pack.

Kingsford Terrace display suite opens at Milton

BRISBANE’S NEWEST and most stunning seniors’ living community – Kingsford Terrace – opened a display suite at Milton last month.

As part of its mission to deliver enhanced independence, health and wellbeing for seniors in Queensland, PresCare is building Kingsford Terrace – an exciting new chapter in the organisation’s 80-year history of caring for people.

Ian Hart, a member of the PresCare Board who is also heading up the Kingsford Terrace church and community engagement program, today said the project was shaping up to be the most stunning and well-appointed seniors’ living facility ever developed in Brisbane. As the former manager of Keperra Sanctuary Retirement Village for 13 years, Ian brings a wealth of practical experience to the Kingsford Terrace design and services offering.

“We are very excited that work has started on site for Stage One’s 68 beautiful and spacious apartments accompanied by magnificent grounds and community facilities”, Ian said.

“Kingsford has been painstakingly created by a team of Australia’s leading designers in unison with PresCare. Apartments are modern, light and boast a contemporary flavour delivering residents stylish and elegant living with the added benefit of beautiful shared community spaces”, Ian said.

Display Suite
19 Lang Parade, Milton Queensland 4064
Kingsford Terrace
260 Cliveden Avenue, Corinda Queensland 4075

To find out more about the great lifestyle on offer at Kingsford Terrace, simply call 1300 287 672 or register your interest online at kingsfordterrace.com.au.
Having nurtured at Brookfield

Lesley Ramsay

THE LAST weekend in May has long been a calendar looking for women of PCQ.

Last May, 24-26, was no exception. The Brookfield Community Centre was buzzing with anticipation.

Thirty-two attended from as far away as Roma, Gayndah, Kingaroy and Toowoomba.

The Bible Study Leader was Lesley Ramsay from Terrigal NSW. She inspired and encouraged us with the same words that Jesus gave His disciples in His last days prior to the crucifixion, and afterwards when He returned should there be any doubts.

Breaking into discussion groups after the teaching session brought further consolidation to the theme, ‘Jesus can be Trusted’.

Over the years, the Lord has enriched and encouraged us through the ministry of speakers who have faithfully opened up the Scriptures. Consequently, the Be Nurtured Camp has been a blessing to many women since its commencement.

Our camp committee looks forward with anticipation to the Outreach and Nurture Committee giving approval to the holding of a Be Nurtured Camp in 2014.

Called to use gifts for Gospel ministry

by Katrina Witham

AS REV Andrew Parcell stood to take his oath during his recent ordination and induction as minister for the Callide Valley Presbyterian Church, he accepted his first charge to the ministry knowing it would be done in partnership with his faithful congregation.

It was a full house at St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Biloela, as members of the local Session, the Central Queensland Presbyterian, family, friends and other special guests gathered to give their support and celebrate the joyous occasion on 6 June.

A hearty meal and fellowship were enjoyed in the adjoining hall prior to the service. The service included a performance from the Biloela Town Choir (the ‘Local Vocals’), Rev Mike O’Connor’s (St Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton) sermon, and the formal commissioning procedures, which were conducted by Presbytery of Central Queensland Moderator Rev. Jon Chandler (Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Rockhampton).

In Rev Mike O’Connor’s sermon, he challenged all present to have open hearts, not only to God but to other believers (2 Corinthians 6:11).

Soon after, the moment came for Andrew to be formally inducted during which he gladly made the oath that and for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a desire to see souls led to the Lord, and not worldly interests, were his great motive and chief inducements to the work of the Holy Ministry.

Following the vows, Rev Chandler addressed the gathering and referred to the charge Paul gave in the letters to his young disciple Timothy, likening the work of ministry to that of a soldier. “Timothy, and now Andrew, having committed himself by solemn oath, is told that he has a responsibility to maintain sound doctrine,” said Rev Chandler. “Timothy is solemnly reminded that ministry is not a matter to be trifled with, but a matter of being under orders from the commander-in-chief. ‘For God had chosen Timothy, and now Andrew, for this ministry.’”

When it came time for members of Presbytery and the Callide Valley Session to offer the right hand of fellowship and lay their hands on Andrew, it was his personal prayer that he would go on to serve the Callide Valley to the very best of his ability in accordance with God’s grace.

In an interview conducted with Andrew during the service by friend and fellow minister Rev Peter Dimond of Mackay Presbyterian Church, he shared insight into the journey that led to his calling.

“In my time working in project management for major telecommunications companies Telstra and Marconi, I realised I had gifts that I had been given that could specifically be used for the ministry,” said Andrew.

“Talking further with Andrew after the service, he said, ‘I saw a great need for biblical gospel ministry and as time went on, the call became stronger and stronger, that my gifts should be used for this purpose, rather than to make a large corporation more profitable. At that time, I was encouraged to consider serving in the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) before going to Bible College. After much prayer, my wife Kerri and I found ourselves stationed in Chartersville, in the South West Queensland patrol area. After three-and-a-half years serving with PIM, I applied to be a candidate for the ministry, and began at Queensland Theological College in 2009.’

During his four years of study, Andrew served as a student minister at Wynnnum Presbyterian Church and Peninsula Presbyterian Church in Redcliffe. It was a couple of months prior to graduation, that Andrew and Kerri received confirmation their first charge would be in Biloela at Callide Valley Presbyterian Church. A significant answer to prayer for the local congregation, the Parcels (including Andrew and Kerri’s three young sons John, Mark and Timothy) wasted no time in moving to the Central Queensland community and after arriving in December 2012, Andrew conducted his first service on January 20, 2013.

With a thriving youth group (VIP Net), active Bible study, prayer, and scheduled community outreach endeavours, the Callide Valley Presbyterian Church is committed to undertaking the great commission and serving their local community alongside Andrew and Kerri.

Called by God, Andrew and Kerri are now working toward the purpose: ‘Jesus can be Trusted’.
New Directions, August/September 2013 - Page 8

The following is the Moderator's message delivered by the Hon. Greg Rodgers at his Induction Service held at Wavell Heights PC on 23 June 2013.

When Someone Says, ‘Snakes Don’t Talk’, What Should You Say?

by Ian Hodge, Member, Peace PC

SATURDAY NIGHTS on Queen Street West are a time of great anticipation for many. Two groups of people who study the Bible meet in “mortal combat”. On one side are the Christians, under the banner of Operation Phys. On the other side are members of the Brisbane Atheist Association. The common topic is always God and the implications that flow from those assumptions.

The atheists study the Bible to find fault with it. Their strategy is to find Christians in the Matthew effect, ‘The meek will inherit the Earth’. On the other hand, Christians might be found in the inanimate world and all that God has created. From this starting point, they spread the Gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all commands and the implications that come with the moral law.

On 31 May, Peace church was filled to capacity with Christians and atheists as the ideas from both debates were presented. Chaired by Rev. John Nicol from Calabourie Presbyterian, the crowd was entertained with discussion from the Q&A section of the debate. Wayne Cunningham complained about the presentation of the Christians and the way he was depicted.

Apotheosis of the debate was when Rev. Ian Hodge explained why the Bible is the Word of God, and provided the argument for such a claim: the Bible itself, and its statements reflected in the physical world.

“Is the Bible the Word of God”, between Ian Hodge (Member, Peace PC) and Wayne Cunningham, chaired by Rev. John Nicol.

In John 4 we read the encounter of Jesus with the woman of Samaria who was going to the well to draw some water when Jesus asked her for a drink. She was shocked that this Jew would even talk to her because there was so much hate between the Jews and the Samaritans. He met her where she was. He showed care and concern for her that enabled Jesus to talk to her about things of the heart. Now, more than ever, we need to be the empowered people of God. We need, above all else, to know Him and acknowledge Him as the King of our lives and our church, that we might be Christ personified on earth. For if we do not, I believe that we will not believe what God can do in and through us. I have spoken it and I will bring it about. I have proposed it and I will do it.’

“Is the Bible the Word of God”, between Ian Hodge (Member, Peace PC) and Wayne Cunningham, chaired by Rev. John Nicol.

The video of the debate, “Is the Bible the Word of God”, can be found at the Peace website:

**WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH WOMEN WHO ATTENDED**

**NEW WCPCS ASSEMBLY EVENT**

Wendy: On a chilly Tuesday morning at the end of June, a group of women gathered at the swimming pavilion at Clayfield College in Brisbane – no, not to swim in the pool – but to face a different kind of challenge from Fiona Millar. It was the annual women’s event for Assembly weekend over 40 women woke up for the challenge!

After a brief catch-up with other ladies from all over the State while enjoying the attractive morning tea, we proceeded to get to know Fiona a little better.

Then we began to explore together as a group how we relate to God, how we relate to others as God has shown to us?”

• Do we show the same grace to forgive others as God has shown to us?
• Do we feed or starve others?
• Do we speak naturally about Jesus to others?

So it was encouraging to be reminded of Christ. Am I taking it down through my words that bring glory to God. 

The speaker for the evening will be Mike Raiter, Director of the Centre for Biblical World’ which is aimed at keeping mission on the agenda of local churches. QTC will be hosting an event on 8 October called ‘Reaching Queensland, Reaching the World’ which is aimed at keeping mission on the agenda of local churches.

Wendy: Thanks Ladies, for sharing your thoughts with us on Girl Talk. And a special thanks to Fiona for her diligence in thoroughly preparing “Sweet Talk” and presenting it to us so passionately. It really was a day not to be missed! But if you are disappointed that you missed out because you didn’t know about it, make sure this doesn’t happen again by signing up for our free monthly online newsletter. Find out how, at www.wmpcsq.com.

**YES - CONNECTED form, so you always know what’s on!**

**WOMEN @ PRAYER …**

**Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long**

Psalm 35:28

• Praise God for His Word – speaking to us in a way we can understand, giving us both boundaries and freedom!
• Give thanks for the cross where Jesus died for our sins so that we can be forgiven, and live in a way that brings glory to Him.
• Thank God for the gift of speech and the privilege of sharing God’s Word and His gospel.
• Pray God’s wisdom to listen, as well as speak, and pray that we might learn to do both of them well.
• Pray for protection from Satan’s plans to drag us into sin and to use us to hurt God.
• Pray that each of us would learn to use “sweet talk” rather than “rotten words” and build up the body of Christ to His glory, instead of advancing Satan’s lies.
• Ask God to make us fully aware of our weaknesses, to give us the humility to confess them, and to grant us His strength to overcome them, so that we don’t fall into sin.
• Remember to pray for our special friends and families, that they will choose God’s way of living and speaking.
• Praise God for the great time of fellowship and digging into God’s Word together at Assembly.
• Pray for our church and its leaders, as the decisions made at Assembly will put into practice. Pray for wisdom, strength, courage and compassion as they lead us deeper into our relationship with Jesus through God’s Word.
Mission to Kenya – Part 3 – Samburu, Northern Kenya

Our visit to Kenya was nearly over. Our team had enjoyed a rich variety of experiences during our three weeks. We had provided the Agape Hope Orphanage in Nairobi with basics such as electricity, hot water and well-lit classrooms and dormitories. We had been enriched by our visits to two Maasai/Dorobo congregations on the western side of the Rift Valley. And we had come into contact with a range of tribal peoples and their cultures, along with others of Asian, European and American background, all of whom share a common love of Kenya.

Now, during our last few days in Kenya, there was the opportunity for one more involvement in ministry along with two days in three of the game parks for which Kenya is so famous – the Samburu and Shaba National Reserves in the northern part of Kenya, above Mt Kenya, and about 300 kilometres north of Nairobi!

On a previous visit to Kenya in June last year, two of our party had seen the plight of a Samburu tribal village just down the road from the main game lodge in Shaba National Reserve.

The contrast was stark. We spent three nights in the Lodge enjoying western style accommodation with all mod cons and meals provided. Meanwhile our friends in the village have nothing of this world’s goods and live with the constant threat of the African game that we had come to see and enjoy from the safety of our vehicle. Just a few months earlier a lion had taken a man from a neighbouring village, and a rabid hyena that threatened the villagers and their children had to be destroyed.

There are no fences around Kenyan game parks.

The Samburu are a pastoralist people, but the ravages of extended droughts have meant that their herds, and therefore their livelihoods, (and even their self-respect) have been decimated. As a result they try and scratch a living the best way they can. The villagers of Itungai Samburu Village have lost nearly all their livestock to the drought of recent years. However, led by a very creative, mission-educated young lady called Beatrice Chilli, they are now trying to make a living by inviting passing tourists to come to their village, view their culture and buy their souvenirs, beads and bangles. So much more needs to be done and we realised that we could only help in a small way. The fact that we were returning to Samburu six months later gave us the opportunity.

We decided that a start would be to provide them with a sign to erect on the road near the village so that passing tourists would know of their presence and invitation;

A sign was duly ordered and made by a roadside metalwork shop near where we were staying in Nairobi, for a total cost of about $200. The sign came with us on our travels to the Rift Valley and then on to Samburu, about 600 kilometres altogether.

On our arrival in Samburu we were given a warm welcome by the villagers, who had no idea what we were bringing but were very pleased to have their new sign when it was unloaded and erected.

We were also able to leave about twenty of the Arch children’s Bible storybooks for their small primary school, along with a selection of new clothing that we had brought.

We do not know what the results may be, but hope that some tourists from America, Germany, Japan or even Australia, will take the opportunity to learn a little more about Samburu tribal culture by visiting the village and sharing in the activities provided.

We have no real idea in our western world about the hardships that many of the world’s people have to endure just to survive. Part of the tragedy is that there is indifference in the Christian Church in the West. The Samburu people of Northern Kenya are a case in point. Their problems seem insurmountable. No electricity or running water, no showers or toilets, their cattle decimated by on-going drought, a small poorly-equipped primary school in the village, the older children travelling six or more kilometres to secondary school through country where the game animals of Africa (kobs, leopards, hyenas and others) also live. And yet by bit, through personal visits or through organisations such as Compassion or Samaritan’s Purse, a difference can be made through the provision of bore water, improved facilities for education or the teaching of basic health care and hygiene. We hope that we may be able to return to the same village and do a little more next time we are in Kenya.

On our last day we drove more than three hundred and fifty kilometres to Nairobi and the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. One last treat on the journey was to visit the “Trout Tree Restaurant”, near Nanyuki for lunch. It’s not everyday that you get to experience lunch in the branches of a tree. The restaurant has its own trout farm and hatchery and its customers enjoy fresh trout while watching the antics of the black and white Colobus monkeys that live in the trees around the restaurant.

As we flew out of Nairobi for Dubai and home we knew that our team had experiences in Kenya that would not come as part of a packaged safari tour. Why? Because we were constantly moving among African people with whom we had a bond in Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit; people with whom we so often realised that, notwithstanding differences of tribe or language or culture, we were at one within the bonds of Christian love.

There can surely be no greater privilege than finding the family of God in some of the far-flung and unfamiliar corners of the world.

That was certainly our experience and we look forward to more adventures with the Lord in worlds when the 2014 team goes to Kenya in January next year.

In the meantime He also has work and witness for us here at home as well. Our own “Jerusalem” here in Queensland is no less, and no more important, than “the ends of the earth” [Acts 1:8].

Footnote: When the students of Fairholme College Middle School heard Erin’s report about our visit to Kenya at an assembly, they decided to do some secret fundraising for the Agape Hope Orphanage. Erin knew nothing about it but the result was over $800 raised for our next visit. Erin duly presented the cheque at Caloundra one Sunday in June. How generous of those Fairholme girls, and how proud we can be of their school.
VISITORS TO THE 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

The General Assembly of Australia will be meeting in Sydney from 9-12 of September, 2013. As part of that meeting a number of overseas visitors have been invited to the Assembly. These are:

Japan
The Rev Dan Iverson serves as the team leader for the Mission to the World Church planting team in Tokyo. Dan will be accompanied by Rev Tetsuya Dedachi and Rev John Evans from APWM. Dan will be preaching at a number of churches in Sydney and Queensland.

Timor Leste
The Rev Daniel Marcal, Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

Vanuatu
The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, the Pastor Kalaronga Ova and Mrs Rose Ova. In addition the President of the Presbyterian Women’s Missionary Union, Mrs Leifa Chilia and the General Secretary, Mrs Cyteline Iani, will be attending the Federal Conference of the PWA. On the morning of Sunday 8th September, 2013, the 9:00am and 10:30am services of the Epping Presbyterian Church will focus on Vanuatu. Outside of formal meetings, some of our visitors will be holding talks with other missionary groups in Australia. Such visits help to strengthen the bonds that we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ who live overseas.

ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

Jesus said “Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:38) One of the privileges that I enjoy in my role is meeting up with people who are seeking to serve in cross-cultural mission. I love hearing of their desire that God should be honoured in the particular part of the world for which they feel a burden.

Please join with me in praising God that at the moment there are many people applying to serve with APWM. For one of our APWM State committees that is proving to be a real challenge in terms of timetabling interviews — but that is a great ‘problem’ to have!

For those who have been praying along the lines of Jesus’ command in Matthew 9:38 — thank you! You may not see it now but on the final day you will see how God took your humble prayers and used them to honour His great name everywhere. What a deep joy that will be!

REV DAN IVERSON – JAPAN

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

...my word ... goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it; Isaiah 55:11 God’s word never fails. It’s the investment that lasts for eternity.

We ask that you consider leaving a gift to APWM in your will to help us continue to declare God’s word throughout the world.

You might like to consider giving: a) a percentage of your estate to APWM b) a specific amount to APWM c) a piece of property to APWM

Please provide this wording to your Solicitor when seeking advice and assistance in drawing up your will.

“...I give to THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (AUSTRALIA) PROPERTY TRUST for the Australian Presbyterian World Mission National Committee (intended amount), (description of property/item) free of testamentary charges and duties for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.”

Giving to APWM for its general purposes allows APWM to best respond to the needs of the time.

If you need any help with this then please contact us on (02) 9792 1373 or email us at national@apwm.org.au.
TIMOR LESTE: MULTIPLICATION

Rob Duncanson, Darwin,
APWM Timor Leste Coordinator

Picture the scene. There are well over 5,000 people. How can they be fed? There’s one boy with five barley loaves and two fish. He gives them to Jesus who multiplies it and multiplies it until 5,000 people are fed and there is plenty left over.

Do you think that boy ever forgot what happened to his five barley loaves and two fish that day? Of course not! Sometimes the grace of God works in unexpected ways, but if there was anyone you would expect to have been blessed through this event it must have supremely been this young boy. As Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:33).

The people within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste pray for you. They pray in their regular church services. They pray in their prayer meetings. They pray that the Lord would richly bless those who are in the Australian Church. The words of one young man are imprinted on my mind: “He is from a very poor area, and when we met for the first time he said, ’Previously we had only met around the throne of grace, but now we have met face to face.’ I don’t know his name. He did not know my name, and he does not know yours, but he did know that there are the brothers and sisters in Australia who cared for him, and he was thankful in seeking our blessing.”

I don’t invite you to give to me or to APWM, but I do invite you to give some of the resources that the Lord has given to you. It may be the value of two small buses, or you may be able to give much more than that, it does not matter how much because God can work with much or little. Maybe you will give to Timor Leste or to P&IM or to other of the Lord’s ministries – that is up to you to decide. But, I will tell you what the needs are currently in Timor Leste and then simply leave it in your hands.

Currently the Presbyterian Church in Australia gives the Church in Timor Leste $4000 each quarter for use for ministry purposes. We have agreed on the type of expenditure for this money, but we do not involve ourselves in the details. At the end of each quarter the church in Timor Leste reports to us exactly where the money went. This allows us to give them an appropriate degree of autonomy. They take up their responsibilities faithfully before the Lord and we preserve ourselves from any colonilist arrogance which would suggest that we know better than they do what is the best way to minister within their culture.

We currently have money set aside for Bible Translation and also for a building in Dili. This money has been given for these purposes and will be spent for these purposes. We presently have no funds at all for sending a teaching team to Timor Leste in June. We expect that this will cost around $2500. We also have no funds at all for the next quarterly grant which is due in June ($4000).

We have mission teams going from Darwin Presbyterian Church at the end of May and another one from Western Australia in July. Both are funded by the participants.

We are not worried, because we know that the Lord is not short of money - far from it. We do, however, encourage you to be faithful with the resources that the Lord has given you whether that be through giving here or there or elsewhere, and to pray with us that the Lord will send His provisions, and multiply them for effective witness in the land of Timor Leste. What He sends will be just the right amount.

Rob Duncanson, Minister at Darwin Presbyterian Church and APWM Coordinator for Timor Leste

APWM 8 Sylvia Grove, Picnic Point, NSW 2209
www.apwm.org.au/supportingfinance

24,000 NEW TESTAMENTS FOR VANUATU!

L TO R ASSEMBLY CLERK PASTOR KALSASKAI URTOLO, JACOB REUBEN
DIRECTOR OF BIBLE SOCIETY AND MODERATOR PASTOR GED MOSES WITH THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT FROM THE CONTAINER

In 2011 we made an appeal for funds for New Testaments for Vanuatu. That was because there were none left for sale in the country. Members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia generously gave enough money to buy 24,000 New Testaments. Some donors told us that that was responding because they could not imagine being without the Word of God themselves.

After many months of planning and some delays, the New Testaments finally arrived in Vanuatu in late April. There was much excitement at a ceremony to mark the arrival of the Scriptures and to open the shipping containers.

This is an exciting project simply because the word of God is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12). It never fails to achieve its purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Through this project lives will be changed. Families will be changed. Communities will be changed. The result is that God will be glorified and it doesn’t get any better than that!

Thank you to everyone who gave to this significant project.

Kevin Murray

WORKPARTNERS VANUATU December 2013

Applications and expressions of interest are now open for our Workpartners Vanuatu December 2013 team.

WHEN: Tentative dates 6th to 23rd December
WHERE: To complete the building of a Presbyterian Resource Centre at Loro village, Paama Island.
COST: Approximately $2,100. We suggest that participants pay 1/3 themselves, approach their church seeking a contribution of 1/3 and then fundraise the remaining 1/3.
WHO FOR: Committed Christians, minimum age 18 years.
CONTACT: APWM (02) 9792 1373 or national@apwm.org.au or go to www.apwm.org.au and click the “What we do tab to go to the Workpartner page and download an application form or get more details.

It is our hope that the December team will be able to complete the construction of this building along with the people of Loro village, Paama Island.

Please note that we plan to send further Workpartners teams in July and December 2014 to the Tana Ministry Training Centre, Santo, Vanuatu.

APWM WEBSITE

The APWM website was recently given a make over. You can now download PowerPoint and information sheets on some of our partner countries, find out about serving, giving, Indigenous ministry and more. www.apwm.org.au

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AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

Pray. Give. Send. Go.”

Pray. Give. Send. Go. Please some house/flat immediately necessary.

Give. Partial cost is all we ask.

Send. Everything bought crowds for our partner community.

Go. Please some house/flat immediately necessary.”

www.apwm.org.au
A very busy week for PWA ladies during Assembly

by Heather Burton, State Secretary

IT IS a custom that the new Moderator preaches his first congregational sermon on the letter to the Corinthians, which had been rent by factions which based their differences on personalities and styles of the different theologians which had preached in that community.

He pointed out that this type of division within a church community causes the church to lose its power and effectiveness as a witness to the world; that, in fact, such differences do the devil’s work for him. God it is that gives growth; Christ it is that provides salvation. All our differences in style and presentation are cosmetic, and God uses us for His greater purpose. We should therefore desist from such fruitless disputes and focus on that which we should be doing – proclaiming the gospel.

After the sermon everybody enjoyed socialising at morning tea and chatting to Mr Rodgers and his daughters, who were able to come to the event.

We wish Mr Rodgers and his family the very best for the coming year, and pray for the Lord’s protection, peace and blessing on his great task as Moderator. Thank you, Mr Rodgers, for coming to visit us!

Council Executive were presented to the Assembly. Our President spoke on the events of the previous year and that 2013 was the 40th anniversary of the first meeting of the PWA of A (Qld Unit). She presented the Moderator with the Annual Report for 2012. After this we were able to attend the “Sweet Talk” event organized by Women’s Ministries. Mrs Fiona Millar was the guest speaker and her words reminded us that we should use our talk to the glory of God and be careful to think before we speak.

The bus trip on Wednesday was the most relaxing day with all formalities ended. The bus left the old People’s Palace at 9 am and joined the rest of the travellers at PresCare Vela in Carina. We enjoyed a wonderful morning at Vela with Mrs Glenda Booker as our tour guide and hostess. Some of the residents who are PWA ladies joined us for a delicious morning tea and a chat. Vela provides care for the body, mind and soul of the residents.

The bus travelled to Wynnum with Mrs Heather Ross giving a commentary on some of the historical sites along the way. The Wynnum church hall was beautifully prepared by Heather and her husband Don.

Contributed by the Ladies of the Cairns PWA

Vale Dorothy Irene Wright (Irene)

IRENE WAS born in Cairns on 30 June 1930 and passed away on 23 May 2013 after suffering a massive heart attack. She was 82.

She had attended the Cairns Presbyterian Church for Sunday School, Junior Choir and PFA and spent most of her life in Cairns.

She left Cairns to pursue her nursing career in Atherton, before moving to Cloncurry where she worked for the Flying Doctor. She met Roy in Cloncurry and they married in 1956 in Cairns. They moved to Mount Isa with Denise, Janice and Barry, where Graham was born.

When they moved back to Cairns, Irene became involved once again in our church and was a member of PWA, FNPA and the Women’s Camp Committee for as long as anyone can remember – mainly in an Executive role, just changing hats every few years.

She was on the Committee of Management for years and knew the right way to go about things. She knew the history of our Church and was involved in everything that was happening, right up to the end of her life.

She was also involved with Boy Scouts and Girl Guides; and in later years, Trefoil, as well as other community organisations.

Irene kept the ladies of the church busy, always working for missions and teaching craft and card making.

She will be remembered for her devotion to God, her love for her family and friends, and her active and long involvement in the life of our church and community.

Well done good and faithful servant.
Generous donation assists dementia unit at Vela

Vela resident Rita Cole enjoys the new outdoor setting

A day on the green to improve residents’ health care

CONSTRUCTION ON PresCare’s $10 million affordable housing projects in Rockhampton and Maryborough is now underway.

Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon, Tim Mander, turned the soil for the vital community development in Rockhampton in June. Fraser Coast Regional Councillor, Daniel Sanderson, and Member for Maryborough, Anne Maddern, were part of a soil-breaking event which will provide affordable rental accommodation for older people.

CEO Greg Skelton said many regional areas were lacking in affordable rental homes for older people in Maryborough.

“Housing affordability is a concern for many people living on lower incomes”, he said.

“In areas such as Rockhampton and Maryborough, with over one-third of the population renting, the need for good quality affordable housing is paramount.”

Mr Skelton said now was the time to start addressing the issue of housing availability especially as a large proportion of Australia’s population becomes aged over the next two decades.

“Our units will provide a place for people to call their own, a home that is affordable and is located in an area of need.”

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, Rockhampton’s 40 two-bedroom units and Maryborough’s 24 two-bedroom units will be ready for tenancy in late 2013 for residents aged over 65 years. PresCare will develop the two projects totalling almost $10M.

Mr Mander said PresCare not only provided a roof over people’s heads but also addressed the social and spiritual needs of the people they served.

“It’s a holistic approach; it’s about the whole person”, Mr Mander said.

Mr Skelton said the units will be co-located with Rockhampton’s Alexandra Gardens and Maryborough’s Groundwater Lodge aged care services.

“Our affordable homes are next door to our aged care services. This means as tenants age and their needs change, instead of having to leave their communities, neighbours and familiar surrounds to receive appropriate care, they can remain in their homes”, Mr Skelton said.

“The service they may need will be right next door. If one partner has to move into residential care because of higher care needs, their loved one does not have to travel far to be with them.”

The units will be built on land owned by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland with a total of 64 two-bedroom units being built. This would contribute to the local regional economies.

Mr Skelton said PresCare was applying for further NRAS funding in the current round for Rockhampton and other areas in the south-east of the State.

For further information please contact:

Rockhampton: 07 4928 4089
Maryborough: 07 4121 1918

For Community Services enquiries, call 1-800-PRESCARE (1-800 773 722) or visit www.prescare.org.au

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS help those in need

PEOPLE WITH dementia at PresCare’s Vela at Carina will benefit from a generous donation from a resident and her family.

Rita Cole and her relatives have given a sizable donation to PresCare for use in the dementia care unit at Vela.

Vela’s Quality Resource Officer Sharon Johnson says the donation means a lot to the unit, and is enabling the purchase of a number of vital support tools.

“It’s important that dementia activities focus on enjoyment instead of achievement”. Sharon says. “Items like fidget boards and fiddle mats provide activities to keep our residents stimulated, and keep their hands and fingers nimble.”

The gift will also fund a number of items to benefit the residents’ leisure time, including a new outdoor setting for the garden area and several board games.

“Our residents in the dementia unit often spend a lot of their time indoors”, Sharon says, “so having a new outdoor setting for them to use on nice sunny days, and when their families visit, has been a source of great enjoyment”.

Rita has been a resident at Vela for around three years and enjoys regular visits from her family.

PRESCARE’S ANNUAL golf day next month will help improve the lives of its elderly residents through the implementation of a new $150,000 electronic medication system.

The PresCare Woollam Constructions Charity Golf Classic, in its seventh year, expects to attract up to 25 teams with the aim to raise funds to support the implementation of the new system, which will incorporate a fleet of 18 high-tech medication carts with built-in computer tablets.

The Charity Golf Classic on Monday 2 September at the prestigious Indooroopilly Golf Club will contribute to fundraising efforts for this electronic medication management system to be installed across all five of PresCare’s residential facilities including Vela at Carina, Lake Sherrin at Thornlands and Roslyn Lodge at Mount Tamborine.

PresCare CEO Greg Skelton says residential aged care services are continually looking for more efficient systems to assist carers to improve residents’ quality of life and health outcomes.

“This initiative will see the replacement of the existing manual medication system with an integrated electronic system that links the aged care medication, medical practitioner and pharmacy”, Greg says. “This system will ensure our people have more time to attend to residents’ needs and provide quality services.”

Improving the quality of life for people like Elizabeth Somerville is what PresCare is all about. Elizabeth moved into Alexandra Gardens main care facility in Rockhampton in February 2013, after struggling to manage her medication by herself.

Elizabeth says, “This is my home … and I don’t think you would get better”.

If you are interested in joining PresCare and Woollam Constructions in what promises to be a fun and rewarding day on the golf course, please contact Special Events Advisor Brett Holdway at bholdway@ prescare.org.au or on 0403 440 036.

For further information please contact: Rockhampton: 07 4928 4089
Maryborough: 07 4121 1918

Maryborough Groundbreaking Ceremony - Daniel Sanderson, Anne Maddern, Greg Skelton
What’s on …

The Bible, the new 10-part docu-drama television series from Survivor producer, Mark Burnett, premiered on Channel Nine with a landmark double episode Tuesday, 16 July, at 9.00 pm.

The Bible, which features captivating stories from the Book of Genesis to the Book of Revelation, is the number one new cable program of 2013 in the USA, where 13 million viewers watched the premiere.

9.00 pm.

Burnett, premiered on Channel Nine with a landmark double episode Tuesday, 16 July, at 9.00 pm.

The Bible showcases some of the greatest stories ever told and combines spectacular action and breathtaking vision against the backdrop of a powerful score by the Grammy and Academy Award-winning composer, Hans Zimmer.

The Bible, which begins with Noah aboard the ark, tells the story of Moses; Joshua invading and conquering Jericho; David’s betrayal of Joab; Samuel anointing Saul as King; the birth of Jesus; the betrayal of Jesus by Judas; the Last Supper; and the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mark Burnett, who is also the man behind The Apprentice and the American version of The Apprentice, created the series with Barnabas Bloodworth, Stephen Verona, and the Barnabas Bloodworth team and is executive produced by Mark Burnett, Roma Downey (the co-executive producer) who plays Mother Mary. Joining Downey are Portuguese TV star Diego Morgado as Jesus, and an array of acclaimed UK-based actors including Sean Teale (Skin), David Rintoul (The Iron Lady, My Week with Marilyn), Amber Rose Revah (The Borgias), Peter Guinness (famous Shakespearean actor) and Simon Kuz (Four Weddings and a Funeral, Parent Trap, Match Point).

The Bible is narrated by Keith David, winner of two Emmy Awards for Outstanding Voice Over for The Bible - told by him and Golden Globe-nominated actress wife Roma Downey (the co-executive producer) who plays Mother Mary. Joining Downey are Portuguese TV star Diego Morgado as Jesus, and an array of acclaimed UK-based actors including Sean Teale (Skin), David Rintoul (The Iron Lady, My Week with Marilyn), Amber Rose Revah (The Borgias), Peter Guinness (famous Shakespearean actor) and Simon Kuz (Four Weddings and a Funeral, Parent Trap, Match Point).

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Mega Sportz Soccer Camp

FOR THE last 14 years, as I’ve sat down to reflect on Soccer Camp, the same thought goes through my mind. What on earth would possess us to gather a hundred (or more!) campers from their school holidays, pump up 300 soccer balls and run ourselves ragged making sure that these campers have the best week ever! It always takes me a week to recover (and usually a couple of boxes of cold and flu tablets).

But it doesn’t too long to remember the reason. Campers from all across south-east Queensland (plus Dalby and Hervey Bay) are hearing the gospel presented clearly, some of them for the very first time. God made the world, we ruined the world, God saved the world - now we can be on God’s Team!

We also had a visit from Soccer and flu tablets). It was missed him this year. He was ill and flu tablets). Speaking of Mr Germain - boy we were surprised at the start of the week. We split the teams into eight groups and had a competition to find who could collect the most bottle tops. We called Pirateopoly. Amazing what you can do with bottle tops! The wind from the high seas to play a game called Pirateopoly. Amazing what you can do with bottle tops! The wind called Pirateopoly. Amazing what you can do with bottle tops! The wind called Pirateopoly.

Also thanks to our great leadership team, youth and children’s leaders from Presbyterian Churches all around south-east Queensland joining together to ensure a safe camp with a clear message. Thanks very much everyone.

As for me, well … I’ll be back next year. And I’ll bring my family, because I can’t think of any other place I’d rather be in the middle of winter than Soccer Camp.

EVERY YEAR I am overwhelmed by the challenge of running a camp for 90 plus young girls. But every year God is faithful in assisting me and all the other leaders to pull it off. After 11 years of Mega Sportz Netball Camp (MSNC) I am still amazed at how it runs. Let me give you a quick rundown.

I have a great bunch of leaders, some of whom have been on every netball camp. Some are campers who came back as leaders and this year we had an eager young lady come all the way from Tasmania with the desire to help. One of the best things about camps is the friends you make and who encourage them to the wee hours of morning, but on the up side, it blew the clouds away and we awoke to a beautiful sunny day.

With the sun shining brightly we headed out to the oval to get some skills and drills in. The girls all tried very hard and learnt or improved on skills. In the afternoons we played our inaugural “Nourse Cup” (Lauren Nourse is the camp director’s favourite player). The team “Triple P’s” were the winners this year.

Wednesday night was our presentation night and awards dinner. We gave nine awards from the leaders to the girls to who had done something special; being a special encourager, giving 110% etc. Our teams this year were again handpicked by Kirstine Harper. Thanks to Kirstine our teams, EarRi, Fusion and Power were even in the competitive sense. Our shirts once again looked fabulous thanks to our sponsor Pinnacle Sportswear.

Our final day saw many parents come up to the camp to watch their girls. Many lovely comments were made and many thanks were offered. It is great to be able to show them our desire for their girls to have a great time within a Christian environment.

We improvised as much as we could. The program had to change to accommodate the weather. Monday night saw us dressed as Buccaneers from the high seas to play a game called Pirateopoly. Amazing what you can do with bottle tops! The wind that night kept a lot of children awake to the wee hours of morning, but on the up side, it blew the clouds away and we awoke to a beautiful sunny day.

I can’t begin to say how much I appreciate my leadership team. They are the ones who keep the camp flowing all week. They are the ones who teach the Bible in their small groups to the campers, who pray for them, and who encourage them throughout the weekend, both on and off the netball courts. They work really hard and some had little sleep because of a few sick girls.

I also can’t say enough thanks to the amazing cooks who come to camp. Troy our head chef had to leave camp and was hospitalised with pneumonia over the weekend. All his hard work in preparation though kept going. My sister, Christine Millmore, picked up and rallied the team with a real servant’s heart. The food once again was the best you will ever get at any camp. Huge thanks cookies to your efforts!

To me though, the best thing about camp is being able to share the Gospel of Christ with the girls. I feel so undeserving of this honour, but as long as God gives me the strength, I will share the truth wholeheartedly. Please pray that campers’ hearts will be softened to hear God’s Word; that God would do the work and bring many of these children to know Him.

We are always looking for more leaders, coaches and umpires for Mega Sportz Netball Camp. If you are interested in joining us please contact me on 0411 841 991 or thejackos@optusnet.com.au