The Rev. Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell were appointed by the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) to establish and develop a new congregation in Alice Springs. This appointment was publicly announced during the 2012 centenary celebrations of the establishment of Presbyterian ministry in the outback by the Rev John Flynn. Keith has been the minister in three parishes in three different States, having left his job as a hospital chaplain to establish this new work. His wife Jenny was a project manager at the RMIT University Bundoora campus. They have five children and six grandchildren. Keith says, “My heart rejoiced when I read the advertisement the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) had placed for a minister to commence a new congregation in Alice Springs. I thought, this must be every minister’s dream: to start a congregation from scratch. We had no Presbyterian contacts in Alice Springs; we had no “core group” to take with us to start the work; but we did have Jesus’ declaration that He would build His Church. That was enough for us and the PIM.”...
A church plant in Alice Springs

by Keith Bell

ONCE WORD was out that we had been appointed to the Alice, I was contacted by a couple of people who said they were Presbyterians and were looking forward to our arrival. Jenny and I arrived in the Alice in April 2013. Soon after we had settled in, I emailed those people who had contacted us, inviting them to a barbecue and discussion on 5 May. I was pleasantly surprised when not only the people I had invited arrived, but they brought several others with them. We agreed to commence a weekly worship service the following week (12 May) at 3 pm.

The PIM had arranged to rent the Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM) property for us to use. This large property is in southern Alice Springs and has an “L” shaped building. The long arm of the “L” faces the road and is the church. The base of the “L” is the manse. We are well set up. At the time of our arrival, the AIM was holding a morning service hence our choice of 3 pm. Circumstances changed and our service is now at 10 am.

Eight people attended our first service. Slowly our attendances have increased, and like many other congregations, ours is multi-ethnic (a foretaste of heaven). Regularly in attendance are Aborigines, Anglo-Colts, an Indian (Mizo) and South Sudanese. For the 1st year, the average weekly attendance was 15.6 though this has risen to 17.6 for 2014. We rejoice that attendances are increasing.

Encouragements

Most weeks visitors from around Australia worship with us. We enjoy their company and the encouragement they give us. This year, we have been blessed with the arrival of a couple of doctors and nurses who are in their intern year. We will miss these people when their year’s appointment concludes later. We will miss these people when their year’s appointment concludes. We are well set up. At the time of our arrival, the AIM was holding a morning service hence our choice of 3 pm. Circumstances changed and our service is now at 10 am.

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Challenges

Which version of the Bible should we use?

For the Sudanese who attend, English is their 3rd, 4th or 5th language. One lady has never been to school. Many of the Aborigines have poor English. So we use one of the modern, easier-to-read English versions of the Bible.

I learned that Aborigines prefer to be outdoors rather than indoors and to worship in the “open air cathedral”. They suggested one morning that it would be good to have the service outside. I was a bit slow to take the hint.

They repeated it a few weeks later, I got the message. Now on the last Sunday of the month, our worship service is held in the open air cathedral around a fire.

Community Ministry

Many years ago, I learned from Rev Lindsey Timms (then minister at Charleville) that to have an effective ministry in a remote location, the minister must show he is interested in the town and its people by becoming a part of the community and committing himself to a long-term ministry there.

Jenny and I like being in Alice Springs and we see ourselves (God willing) staying here for many years. To show our commitment to the community, Jenny is a volunteer chaplain to the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (PFES). I serve the PFES three days per week and the church three days.

Also I have been asked to provide cover (two mornings per week) for the hospital chaplain while she has three months’ leave to attend her Order’s conference overseas.

We are afraid that unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it” and of Jesus’ declaration, “I will build My Church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Jesus is building His Presbyterian congregation in Alice Springs. Jenny and I rejoice to be His agents in His work.

We look for others to join us. If you are able to come – short-term or long-term – to assist in this work please contact us. (08 8953 7748 or keith.jenny.bell@gmail.com)

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SOME MAY recall six years ago the birth of a very small Mansfield baby. Tiny Thomas Mansfield was born at 24 weeks and 3 days gestation, surprising the world, and in particular his parents, with his rush to meet his brothers.

The youngest of three boys at the time, his parents spent hours by his incubator as he slept, drank and grew. Many trips into the amazing Mater Mothers’ Hospital were made as his family patiently waited for him to come home.

He spent 92 days in hospital and overcame many hurdles to get to where he is today – a soccer-playing, Colin Buchanan-singing, pizza-eating, trampoline-jumping six-year-old.

On 10 May this year, Tommy turned six and gave his family a chance to reflect on the blessing of those six years.

Premature birth is not as unusual as some may think. Over the years, many times, friends and family would remember ‘Tommy’ and his daily battle as they prayed for and comforted others in the same, or slightly different circumstances. It’s a daunting situation for anyone, and a heartbreaking challenge to leave your baby in the hospital while you head home to sleep. One that would be countless times more difficult without a relationship with the One who knit us together in our mother’s womb.

Thomas Mansfield – Six Years On

Tommy is a walking talking miracle. He doesn’t yet understand just how amazing his first 92 days were. He just says, ‘I came too early…’ we say he came at just the right time, according to God’s plan.

To those who remember this time six years ago and prayed for him, and to those who he has met (and charmed!) along the way, and to those who we stand shoulder to shoulder with, united in faith and looking forward longingly to the day when Jesus returns, here are a few photos of Tiny Thomas Mansfield at 6 years old.

Kate Mansfield with son Thomas at Mater Children’s Hospital six years ago
The launch of “Truth Matters”  
by Rt Rev David Cook

THE FIRST Preaching Refresher Seminar has been held at Christ College, Sydney. I was joined by David Jones and Peter Barnes for three days.

There were six sermons preached, three from Numbers, three from John’s Gospel. Peter Barnes gave historic sketches of Richard Baxter, Charles Simeon and Charles Spurgeon and there were various features relating to preaching and discipling. Participants wrote;

“there was a helpful balance between talking about preaching and listening to sermons.”

“I really appreciated the balance of practical and theoretical input.

“Great to be together with those who understand our denominational system and its blessings and strengths.”

This seminar will be repeated at PTC Victoria in March 2015 and QTC in November 2015.

The talks can be downloaded at www.christcollege.edu.au.

During the seminar the ebook Truth Matters was launched. This book, written for Bible study groups, session study and individual use, contains chapters on:

- The Authority of the Bible by David Burger.
- The Trinity by Peter Hattie.
- The character, plan and purpose of God by Greg Goswell.
- The person and work of Jesus Christ by Bryson Smith.
- The person and work of the Holy Spirit by Gary Millar.
- Salvation - its nature, order and authority by Peter Barnes.
- Humanity by Neil Chambers.
- The Church in God’s economy by Ian Smith.

Each chapter concludes with questions for group discussion. This ebook is published and distributed by the General Assembly of Australia Christian Education Committee and costs $10. On purchase, the ebook will be sent to your provided email address and each purc.asher has the right to make ten copies.

My thanks to Greg Goswell, David Burger and Bob Thomas for their production assistance and to all the authors for their contribution.

I am keen about cricket and rugby, I have been watching some soccer lately, but none of our pastimes are worthy dominators of our life.

Humankind has been made to know God, it is our “chief end” and the main business of life, the Lord Jesus says “in the essence of eternal life is knowing God” (John 17:3).

“Truth Matters” has been written to facilitate such knowledge and for $10 you can have a copy and you have copies to give away to nine friends.

Please place orders at christandpca@gmail.com

Overcoming the last of self-vindication

WHEN THE Treasurer Joe Hockey said ‘we all have to share the pain’ whilst delivering the 2014 budget, he knew the public reception wasn’t going to be good.

Although political leaders gain a level of public acclaim, they also attract their fair share of public ire. Anyone who takes on a public office (of any form) should expect to be vilified. To discount this is foolhardy.

I recall my early years of pastoral ministry, when called upon to make difficult decisions, there was usually a percentage of the congregation that felt disaffected by a decision. In these situations my first temptation was to try and console the disaffected constituency. Strangely enough, this strategy rarely worked. Not only was the disgruntled faction upset by my initial decision, they were now suspicious that I was attempting to cover up something more sinister. Of course, the hardest thing in this case is ‘knowing’ that the ones you are actually acting on behalf of, have misunderstood and misrepresented you. In this case, one of the greatest challenges faced by all leaders, especially Christian leaders, is overcoming the desire to vindicate themselves.

Living with misunderstanding can be hard, and many simply acquiesce to what St Augustine described as the ‘lust for self-vindication’.

Augustine was a man well-acquainted with the struggles of the inner life, and in his Confessions, wrote, ‘And Thou knowest how far Thou hast already changed me, who first bequeathed me of the lust of vindicating myself...’ Augustine saw self-vindication as a cancer of the soul; a malady that only God’s grace could heal.

Regrettably, self-vindication is only the surface tumor; more malignant strains flourish beneath. Self-vindication feeds on self-justification, which extracts its nutrients from self-righteousness, which in turn draws its sustenance from self-sufficiency, which has its tap root in self-vindication.

Fear (usually the fear of other’s opinions) causes the Christian to stop trusting in God as the justifier and vindicator. This cancerous fear strangles faith, and nourishes a self-righteous spirit, which manifests itself in self-vindication.

If we remain adamant about vindicating ourselves, our spiritual life stagnates and withers; the lust for self-vindication eats away at the heart, gradually depleting our inner joy. Focusing on self-vindication scuttles the opportunity to develop into secure and mature followers of Christ.

Give them the opportunity they need to make during his ministry, you could possibly excuse him for occasionally seeing the need to vindicate himself. Yet, even when the apostle ‘boasts’ of his credentials for the sake of the others, he considers it a ‘foolish’ way of arguing (2 Cor. 11:17).

However, for his own sake, Paul never entertains the notion of self-vindication. With his trust firmly in Christ, Paul confidently asserts without any sense of inadequacy, “I am the foremost of sinners.”

Where did he gain such confidence? Paul’s significance was grounded in his identity ‘in Christ’ (Gal. 2:20); in this he was entirely secure. Furthermore, God’s grace was more than a mere theological concept for him; it was a deep abiding reality that animated how he thought and acted. In embracing God’s grace, he accepted God as his justifier ‘in Christ’, the need for self-vindication evaporated. For Paul, administering personal justice and judgment was ultimately God’s business: ‘Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them...’

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay”, says the Lord.’ (Rom. 12:19)

There are few things in life a person can be certain of; one of those is injustice. Whether it is actual or simply perceived, its effect on our souls can be devastating if not dealt with rightly. Rigently dealing with personal injustice and avoiding the trap of self-vindication starts with the knowledge of what we can and cannot change.

Firstly, we cannot change the fact that injustice will happen; and often we cannot right the wrong, even if we desire to do so. What we can change, however, is how we deal with the injustice. Beginning with a firmly understanding that God is the Judge who will ultimately administer all justice, we are freed from the burden of responsibility to ‘play God’.

Secondly, appreciating the wonder of the Gospel and how Jesus Christ bore the brunt for our injustices against God frees us to look on our situation with unerring humility. Finally, knowing that if we walk obediently in faith, God’s vindication will enable us to become more like Christ in the experience, and this frees us to rejoice in him despite our circumstances.

If responding rightly is the pathway to true freedom, then let us constantly pray that we may by God’s grace overcome the last of self-vindication.

Rowland Lowther
BEWARE THE OPEN HATCH!

by Dorothy Jorgensen

ALLAN AND I had held a dream of living on a boat since we were married.

As we booked into our hotel in Manly, Allan said, "I feel like I am in a dream, and I am only just stopping spinning." It was that I didn’t break my skin open, but that I always go through the hatch and slid me across to the bed) - a hover bed (which pumped me up where I was). When I awoke next morning I looked up and there stood the doctor and said, "I wish you were dead." He told Allan I had lost a lot of blood and was still bleeding somewhere internally and that was causing the extremely low blood pressure. They were concerned that I had possibly ruptured my spleen or had other internal injuries.

After another CT scan all seemed okay as they identified the bleeding was into soft tissue in my buttock. They thought I would have to be operated on to remove the clot and stop the bleeding. Praise God that I didn’t have to. My warfarin was reversed with Vitamin K and other drugs to stop the bleeding. Later that afternoon I looked up and there stood pastor Dan Rigby and Allan. I had sent Dan a photo of us on the water in the morning before I fell down the hatch and said, "I wish you were here."

Redlands decided to send me to the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I had a nurse escort and paramedic sitting beside me. When we got into PA Hospital I went straight in to the resuscitation bay. I had another CT scan at 11 pm. Bruises were coming up everywhere and it was very hard for them to get the cannulas in. I had about eight bags of blood in total, six straight away and two more on Saturday as I was still bleeding. I was sent to the ward on Wednesday.

Then there was a complication, a pain in my left leg. I kept saying I had a bad pain but I was so badly bruised we thought it was an internal injury. I recognised a blood clot pain! I was then sent straight for ultrasound and I did have a blood clot. So now they had to start on heparin and eventually warfarin. Even though I was still bleeding and my haemoglobin was low, they had to treat the clot. More bruises!

Gradually over the next week things improved. Nursing staff and doctors constantly told me I was lucky, but I told them luck had nothing to do with it. God and His angels did the lifting I could never do (to get out of that spot). I was also told how lucky I was that I didn’t break my skin open, have internal bleeding in my head or internal injuries when I fell, as they would not have been able to stop the bleeding. Again, God was in control.

A week later I was allowed out of hospital.

I thank my heavenly Father for His love and care of me, for His timing in all of this. Many thanks to Redlands and PA Emergency Room and Ward staff, as the treatment I received was amazing.

I have so much to be thankful for and it has been wonderful to be able to witness to other patients and staff, even though they thought I was mad. Allan was in a state of shock for the first few days after the fall, and he wants everyone to know, "I didn’t push her."

Our Bible verse for the boat is: "Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty." Psalm 93:4. * * * *

It has been two years since I fell and experienced God’s hand on me. It has taken a while to get my back and legs working normally even though I am working normally even though I am still unsteady at times.

Tupelo is now at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron Marina in Manly and Allan and I are happily living on board. We had a very rough trip to Townsville where Allan worked for a year then a very rough trip back to Manly.
Vela residents support Compassion

by Glenda Booker, Chaplain

ON SUNDAY 13 July the Vela Worship Group - those of us who worship together on Sunday mornings at PresCare Vela - celebrated Compassion Sunday. This was a day to acknowledge the work that is done by Compassion in countries where there is great poverty and need.

We sponsor two children who live in different areas of Nicaragua. Eveling, who will be 8 on 14 September, and Jorving who will be 11, also on 14 September.

Residents at Vela enjoy hearing from both Eveling and Jorving, and we write to them on a regular basis. We are privileged to be able to help with the work of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ into areas that we ourselves could not possibly reach. We can do this by using the small freewill offering collected each week to support the work of Compassion.

In many ways older people are isolated by society, and sadly we often feel abandoned by the church, primarily because the focus seems to be on children and youth work. Through Compassion we feel that we are able to continue doing God’s work and we can make a huge difference, not only in the lives of these two dear children, but also in their families and their whole communities. We don’t have much, but what we do have, we share to the glory of God.

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions in truth.

1 John 3:17-18

Vela residents Shirley Dredge (left), Cath Boyd (centre) with Christopher Robertson who regularly preaches at Vela

EASTERNFEST IS excited to announce that Grammy award-winning band, Switchfoot, will return to the festival in 2015.

Switchfoot’s debut at Easterfest in 2011 was shortchanged when they played to a significantly reduced crowd, after the festival experienced a severe sudden rain event. Lead singer, Jon Foreman reported that although the evening may not have gone exactly as planned, it was still a highlight career performance as fans endured the elements to show their support. He promised a return visit.

Since Easterfest 2011, Switchfoot have embarked on a different challenge – to create a documentary film of their journey as musicians and surfers.

The band travelled to Jeffreys Bay and Crucify Factory in South Africa, Bronte Beach in Australia, Realan in New Zealand, and Uluwatu III Bali, and chronicled their physical and emotional journey, as well as their unshakable brotherly bond, in the film Fading West.

Switchfoot will have several of the band’s songs featured on the soundtrack to several of the scenes in the film.

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The movie is part of a larger project, The Journey – a multimedia franchise that will span music, film, video and education. The movie is part of a larger project, The Journey – a multimedia franchise that will span music, film, video and education.

“Tackling the complexity of Easterfest head on, Switchfoot once again deliver a story that is both stimulating and impassioned.”

Swim deep into the ocean and feel the salinity on your face – the Swimmers is a Poem by Frank H. Fanning

Now at $15, 13% off the full price of $18, the switchfoot.com.au swimmers poem booklets are available at selected bookstores in Australia, or online.

“Swimmers” is a poem by Frank H. Fanning.

Easterfest will be held from 2-5 April 2015.

Easterfest will be held from 2-5 April 2015. Early bird tickets are on sale now at significantly reduced prices. For further information about Journey in Mission events or about mission through CMS contact qld@cms.org.au, telephone 07 3112 6590 or visit cms.org.au. Working towards a World that Knows Jesus.
Hear Live Share the Gospel

The Moderator’s address based on Mark 4:1-9 and Galatians 2:11-21

Hear the Gospel – we are to live the Gospel. So what does it mean to live the Gospel?

In the passage we read, Paul takes exception to Peter withdrawing from eating with the Gentiles because of the Good News that the Jews rejected. The Good News was not living consistently with the truth of the Gospel. Peter said that none can be made right with God, or be justified, by what we do, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. 

But Paul emphasizes that a person is not justified by works of the law. In the case of Jesus Christ ... because by works of the law ... Galatians 2:16.

It is so easy to slip into thinking that the service we give and the things we do make us more acceptable to God. Generally, this thinking is in our thinking that because we haven’t done x or y, we will live as less. Or by thinking, I’m OK with God because ... 

The hardest thing for a person to do is to live under the demands of Christ’s forgiveness. That is to live the Gospel. 

As Christians who live the Gospel, lives the Gospel and shares the Gospel. Similarly, a Christian Church is one that hears the Gospel, lives the Gospel and shares the Gospel. 

If He has done this for me, the life I live now has no longer my own. I have exchanged the life of one who is subject to the power of sin for the life of infinite worth.

Would I have the luxury to indulge my own desires? No! I can no longer do things to please myself. I have to be alive to please the One who suffered and died for me. 

The announcement of the ascension of Jesus to be Caesar Good News because he brought an end to a long period of wars, pirates on the seas and thievery on the road. He brought “The Pax Romana” – The Roman Peace. Of course, he brought it about with the edge of the sword. But people were just glad to have peace at any cost. When it was announced that Augustus was Caesar, people knew they had to obey him. Now, do we say, “Listen” and believe it? 

The important thing to note is that the gospel is momentous news. And the Christian Gospel is the momentous news of what God has done to reach us. The Christian Gospel is the momentous news that the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth is God’s Christ (or King) and the Lord of all the world. Therefore all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ”. Acts 2:36.

That’s good news because as God’s Christ, He has the right to reign, was raised from the dead, and now rules from the right hand of God. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

Galatians 2:11, “Caesar is Lord” was gospel or news because he brought an end to a long period of wars, pirates on the seas and thievery on the road. He brought it about with the edge of the sword. But people were just glad to have peace at any cost. When it was announced that Augustus was Caesar, people knew they had to obey him. Now, do we say, “Listen” and believe it?

The Gospel frees only life through Jesus Christ. You cannot do anything to earn it. We are not saved by following the teachings of Jesus. We are saved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We appropriate the benefits of Christ’s death by believing in Him, by believing the Gospel of Christ. “By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you,” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Someone once said to me, “If all your sins are forgiven, why not just keep on sinning”. That’s like saying, “If you had been married, your wife would promise to stick with you for better or worse, why worry about what she likes, why not do whatever you please”?

They had heard what I had said, but they hadn’t heard the Gospel.

The Gospel is the Good News that God has become man, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He died for our sins. He now offers free and full salvation to all who believe in Him. This is the Gospel we are to hear.
Not according to plan

By Kirsty, Lady Leader, Proshikkhon 2014

This year Proshikkhon did not go according to plan. It ended up even better than we’d hoped for. I think it was my best Proshikkhon yet!

In Proverbs 16:9 it says, “A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.” This Proshikkhon we certainly saw that as our plans didn’t always eventuate.

But looking back now we can see how God orchestrated things so well. There were three main challenges in this Proshikkhon: change, captivity and communication.

Change
During our training in Maleny (Queensland), we prepared the participants to expect change. Day by day we introduced changes to get them used to the idea.

But when we got to Bangladesh, even the leaders were surprised by the number of changes that happened! It seems like our arrival and departure dates were the only things that didn’t change.

We were unable to leave the city to visit some ministries. We had to leave the capital early with just a few hours’ notice. One group of participants pulled out. Another group couldn’t come, and then we were able to come (albeit a couple of days late). Every day something in the schedule changed.

We joked, “So now we’re up to plan W+1.” However, the changes had positive outcomes. For example, one group arrived early so they received an extra contextualisation seminar to themselves. This also helped the Australian team to have better preparation, and provided training for more Bangladeshi staff. The original schedule (disappointingly) only had Bible storytelling visits scheduled every second day. But then they ended up going out every day! God made changes for the better!

CAPTIVITY
The peace and order situation of Bangladesh was quite unstable while we were there. This meant that we were frequently in lockdown. “You can’t go outside today,” our national colleagues said.

Normally, as foreigners, we accompany the Bangladeshi staff and participants for the first few days to help break the ice when they go into new communities to share the Gospel. After that we stay back to pray.

But this year we couldn’t go out at all. From the beginning they went out on their own.

On the first day they were told, “Focus on building relationships with the people in the community first. Don’t worry if you don’t get to tell Bible stories on the first day.”

But when the groups came back they said, “The villagers welcomed us. We were able to tell them the creation story. Then they said, ‘Please come back tomorrow.’”

It didn’t go according to plan, but it was even better than our plan!

COMMUNICATION
As a small group of foreigners sat down with their group, they handed out the learning materials in Bangla language. The group sat there sheepishly. One lady tried painstakingly for three minutes to etch out her name.

Then the realisation hit them, “These people can’t read”. We hadn’t planned to have illiterates at the seminar. We also hadn’t planned to have Hindus and lapsed Christians at our seminar for Christian leaders.

But what a great opportunity!

We were able to help new believers navigate the Bible and understand its big picture. We also had to think about what Bible stories we could use in our contextualisation training, not just Bible propositions. It was unplanned but fantastic!

This year’s Proshikkhon didn’t go according to our plan, but according to God’s plan, and for that, I’m truly thankful.

FOOTNOTE
Change is what God is all about. God has used Proshikkhon to change the lives of many Bangladeshi tribal people. He has also used it to change Kirsty, and can use it to change you as well. Are you willing? Applications are open for Proshikkhon 2015 (26 December 2014–26 January 2015), email proshikkhon@wycliffe.org.

Not according to plan

Chris showing the position of Poland on the map

Are you living in North Queensland and wanting to do some theological training? Or do you know of others who might be interested? Then an exciting new QTC initiative could be just what you need.

Starting in Semester 2 2014, QTC will be offering units of study in North Queensland in intensive mode. All of the units offered can be taken either for credit towards the Australian College of Theology qualifications offered by QTC, or for audit only (without academic credit or assessments). We will be offering one unit per semester in Townsville, and from 2015, one unit per year in Cairns. The units will be taught in-person by our highly-respected regular QTC Faculty, allowing people in North Queensland to be able to access the top quality training currently offered to students based in south-east Queensland, without having to travel to Brisbane. The units offered will enable potential students to complete one of our shorter qualifications, such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology, entirely in North Queensland. Those enrolling will also be able to gain up to one year’s credit towards our longer qualifications such as the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity, if needed.

Our first offering will be the half-unit Principles of Interpretation, which introduces students to how to carefully read and study the Bible. It will be taught through a short intensive running from the evening of Thursday 28 August through till the afternoon of Saturday 30 August.

We are excited about this initiative as it is a great opportunity for the College to be able to serve people in another part of our State, allowing people to access training in person and in a classroom setting alongside other local students, without having to move to a new city.

For more information, please contact our Registrar Ted Brennan at registrar@qtc.edu.au or on (07) 3871 9348.

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Enjoying fellowship at the meal, LtoR: Richard and Elizabeth Shaw, Judy and Chris Ayres, Christine and Rev Walter Jones.
WENDY HENRY TALKS ABOUT THE RECENT LEADERS’ SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN’S MINISTRIES AND SHARES COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED

ONE SATURDAY morning in February 2014, a group of leaders representing the many faces of ‘women’s ministry’ from across the Presbyterian Church in the current year and to gain some insight into the direction that women’s ministry should take in the future.

We began with some inspiring words from Lesley Ramsay, who directed our thoughts to Ephesians 2:10-21 and we considered how to have unity at the centre of our vision – how to create that unity (between God and people, and between people and people), how to know unity (by being one in body, spirit, hope, Lord, fasting, baptism, God and Father) and how to maintain unity (in humility, gentleness and patience).

Advancing maturity through God’s grace, the gifts of the people around us and focusing on His Word came next, followed by looking at the “trellis and vine” model of “Word” work.

The ministry mindshifts required to put this model into practice were outlined – i.e. from running programs, working with and using people to BUILDING people, TRAINING them to share their faith and GROWING them! On this great foundation, some of the leaders then shared about the various organisations they represented. Some highlights were as follows:

- Women’s Ministries PCA – the 2007 paper to the General Assembly and the Flourish conference coming in 2015;
- Women’s Ministry PCQ – goals to Encourage, Equip and Extend women spiritually and practically and progress-to-date;
- Presbyterian Women’s Association – history of PWA and PWMU and many years of supporting missionaries and theological students;
- Queensland Theological College – current ethos and workings of QTC with 126 students currently (46 of them women) and the Ministry to Women course (M2W) specifically for women; and focusing on their local churches, now in its second year, and with a vision to expand to regional areas in the future.

After lunch, representatives of local churches spoke about their experiences. Here is a snapshot of what they shared:

- Creek Road PC – see people as ‘gists’ to the church, a kaleidoscope of how different women (young and old) serve the church with their individual gifts and abilities;
- Calaburture PC – in conjunction with other local churches, ‘Teen link’ reaches out to teen girls at risk, with the love of Jesus, through school chaplains and providing a series of camps for girls in Years 8-12;
- Dalby PC – vision based on the great commission and working on the Encourage - Equip - Extend model, including training and evangelism events, as well as one-to-one ministry;
- Armidale PC – from a background of PWA, other women’s ministries have developed including Women’s Growth Group (Bible study), one-to-one Bible reading, prayer breakfast, and an annual event for all women, with Bible talk, interviews, lunch etc.;
- (Women Encouraging Women);
- Mitchelton PC – focus on meeting with women around the Word (Women on Wednesday), as well as training in leadership, evangelistic events, camps etc.

Finally, Peter Barson spoke, reporting the PCQ, on the need to be united in respecting the past, and yet being open to change, if that is what is needed to produce different ways of engaging women. The ‘trellis’ is a need for women to be uplifted and encouraged to take their place in establishing ministry.

After some general discussion based on what we’d heard, Lesley Ramsay summed up the day by reminding us of the need for vision, that one-to-one ministry is strategic; outreach must be the goal; that church leaders have a crucial role to ‘set women free’ to minister; that older/younger relationships is key; coffee, praying, sharing lives etc are important; and big conferences like GROW certainly have their place; but the “main game” is “women round the Bible.”

A feedback from those present at the symposium included the following:

- Question 1: What have you heard today that was helpful or important; and big conferences like coffee, praying, sharing lives etc are crucial – train women to do “wine” work in their own churches and support smaller churches.
- Question 2: What direction do you personally believe our church should take, over the next few years, to co-ordinate and develop the work in ministering to women?

Comments:

- Keep equipping, through training opportunities;
- Keep encouraging and helping ministers and leaders in supporting women’s ministries;
- “Vinework” – making disciples – growing in godliness – building/training/growing PEOPLE;
- Focus on rural areas and small churches;
- Older women need to be nurtured and acknowledged;
- Persevere in encouraging and equipping women for ministry;
- Inclusion of women in a meaningful way by ministers and elders;
- Equipping and encouraging are crucial – train women to do “wine” work in their own churches and support smaller churches.

WMPCQ is thankful to all those who contributed to the symposium and consequently have helped in clarifying our direction for the future.

There is still work to be done and we look forward to seeing the women of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland becoming more and more confident and gracious, as together with men, they serve Jesus their Saviour in His Church.

WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

- Praise God for the work of women in our church, from its beginnings with PWMU in 1982 to the newly-developed Ministry to Women course at QTC to train women for their ministry to others.
- Give thanks for all the women over the years who have worked faithfully together, through PWA, WMPCQ and WMPCA and in their local churches, to encourage and build one another up in their personal lives and in their knowledge of Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom as we face the journey ahead, with inevitable change as people change, but with the knowledge that God’s love and purpose for us never changes.
- Pray that there will be unity as the various organisations within the church seek to develop ministries that encourage strong “vinework” that is aimed at building, training and growing PEOPLE, rather than structure.
- Pray that women will see this “vinework” as being crucial to the way they minister to one another.
- Give thanks for the godly input of Lynda Rackley in her work at the Church Office over many years, demonstrating the way women can support and encourage the men who lead our church. Pray that we will all take on the responsibility to work faithfully in whatever role God has given us. And pray that Lynda enjoys the satisfaction of having completed this part of her journey so successfully.

At the recent State Assembly, four Principals of the Queensland Theological College attended the business meeting on Wednesday afternoon. We were able to take this special photograph of them with the Principal of Emmanuel College, Adjunct Professor Stewart Gill, from left to right: Rev Dr Gary Milhar, Principal 2012 to current, Rev Prof Norm Barker, Principal 1981-1994, Adjunct Prof Stewart Gill, Rev Dr Bruce Winter, Principal 2007-2011, Rev Ian McIver, Principal 1995-2005.

Lesley Ramsay
MY NAME is Michelle Martin. I will be the new PA to the Clerk of Assembly and Editor of New Directions. I grew up in a Christian family with two younger sisters. My parents both come from reasonably large families. My family attended the Presbyterian Reformed Church at Pine Rivers until I was 10, and we then went to Grace Reformed Church at Pine Rivers until I was 16. My family then moved to Mitchelton Presbyterian Church until they worshipped at Mitchelton Presbyterian Church and later at Grace Reformed Church. My parents first introduced me to the Lord. My family attended the Presbyterian Reformed Church at Pine Rivers until I was 10, and we then went to Grace Presbyterian Church. At the age of 21 I commenced worshipping at Mitchellton Presbyterian Church until they planted Village Church which is where I am now. In terms of interests I enjoy the outdoors, in particular the beach, going for bike rides and bush walks. I also enjoy travel. Once I finished high school, I went to TAFE where I completed a Diploma of Justice. Not long after this I started working for a private law firm as a junior where I progressed to the position of Legal secretary.

Most of my work has been with the State Government as an Administration Officer assisting in providing justice for disadvantaged people in Queensland. Some of you are probably wondering why I am now working for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Whilst I enjoyed working in justice, I felt it was time for a new challenge. I left my job to study Building Design at TAFE full-time and completed it at the end of last year. I looked for work in building design but was unsuccessful in obtaining employment in this field. A couple of friends told me about this position and I decided to apply. What attracted me to the position was the opportunity to be able to use both my administration and creative skills in ministry. I am excited about this role and thankful to God for His provision!

My hope is to use my legal skills to assist the Clerk of Assembly and my creative skills to continue to share the ministry work of the Presbyterian Church with the wider church community through New Directions. I look forward to meeting and talking with you as I settle into this role.

Kingsford Terrace is coming to life

VISITORS TO the Kingsford Terrace site in Corinda will have a lot more to look at in August with commencement of construction on Stage One of PresCare’s first premium retirement living community. Chief Operating Officer Mike Bosel says building works on 68 premium independent-living apartments with one, two and three bedrooms, along with the $5 million Southern Cross Community Centre will be well underway by Christmas 2014.

“At PresCare we are all very excited about this next stage in the project”, Mike says. “It’s the next key milestone and one that will be very visible not only to us, but to any visitors to the site.”

This milestone will be celebrated at a small event on 28 August at which journalist and Kingsford Terrace Ambassador Mike Munro will officiate. Those who have bought into the site so far have relied on artists’ renders of the buildings and apartments, the 3D model and the beautiful on-site display suite to imagine what their new homes will be like. Mike says it won’t be long before their dreams will come to life.

The 68 apartments will be spread across two buildings, with Litchfield being built first, followed by Taylor with one, two and three bedrooms, along with the $5 million Southern Cross Community Centre will be well underway by Christmas 2014. “One of our future residents worked as a nurse at the former Hopetoun Nursing Home and I think it’s so wonderful she has chosen to make her home here, as it really shows how much this place means to people in the Corinda community.”

“Wouldn’t it be wonderful to live where the lifestyle is as magnificent as the surroundings.”
Hear, Live and Share the Gospel (continued from page 7)

So why share the Gospel? I always think about how I don’t have to explain why we should share the Gospel. We are simply required to share the message. If I knew a bridge was faulty, and with no announcement, then people were allowed to use it, I would be held culpable for their death. How much more culpable am I if I believe in Jesus Christ but have no desire to let others know the Good News of Life through Him. Others must hear so that they also can know the love of the One who died for them. How will they hear unless someone tells them?

If we have received eternal life, and enjoy the relationship with God, how can we not share the Gospel with others. That would be like having Cookies and Cream ice cream and keeping it all to yourself, saying to others, “You won’t like it”.

Christ has given us the privilege of being His fellow workers. We should share the Gospel because we want to. The Gospel is not advice or a bargain-priced slow cooker. When I found one on sale, reduced from $80 to $40. I was very pleased with myself at getting a bargain. I found myself wanting to tell others my good news. Perhaps they might be in the market for the same appliance.

If I want to share the good news of a bargain-priced slow cooker, how much more should I want to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Not all of us will be up-front evangelists. There are those called to share the Gospel full-time, and those who simply support the ministry in some way. Every Christian will be somewhere between those two ends of the spectrum. At the very least you should have the desire to see others hear the Gospel in the hope that they will come to know Christ as you do. Each of us should be able to answer those who ask us to give a reason for the hope that we have. Of course we must do this with gentleness and respect. Unfortunately, something that many forget to do.

Perhaps there are some reading this who are not Christians. How do you hear the Gospel? The Good News that Jesus is Saviour and Lord of all. The Gospel is Good News for those who know they are separated from God, it is Good News for those who despair of living life in a fallen world and are looking for rest. It is Good News to those who would love to know for certain that they are right with God.

Jesus promises rest to those who come to Him. Rest from trying to get right with God. Rest from worrying if you are good enough. Rest from trying to do it all by yourself. He offers the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit for all who come to Him. He offers the assurance that all who believe in Him will live in right relationship with Him and the Father in this age and the next - no tears, no pain, no sorrow or death.

The offer is a free gift for all who trust in Him. The only appropriate response to the Gospel is to believe it, to begin a personal relationship with Jesus living for Him, and to pass from a life-centred on self which does not satisfy and brings death, to an abundant life lived as our Creator intended. This is a promise you can rely on. No one who trusts in Him will ever be put to shame, Romans 9:33.

To those who are Christians, what is the message for you? I put it to you that the Gospel is the only theme of the program.

Cristina explained. “We may never meet again, but Christian witness has been established.”

Carolyn Russell, Alison Dines and Beate Teale
WEILDING

A STUNNING influence over Scotland in the sixteenth century, John Knox (c. 1514-72) was one of the most heroic leaders and theologians in the annals of church history.

Regarded as the Father of the Scottish Reformation and the Founder of the Scottish Protestant Church, Knox was a sharp, religiously astute man, who articulated and defended his beliefs with precision and power. A fiery Reformer and talented preacher, Knox spared no quarter in his attacks on the papacy, arguing that the church of Rome was the greatest obstacle to the salvation of his country. His influence spread throughout the known world.

If Martin Luther was the hammer of the Reformation, and John Calvin the pen, John Knox was the trumpet. For the next two years Knox devoted himself to his new role, he pressed forward in his new role, he excelled that he obtained clerical orders even before he reached the age fixed by church canons. As he pressed forward in his new role, he became the prophet of the Reformation. The thesis that he defended in the same encumbrances of Catholic dogma that had been promulgated against the Scottish people of the saving knowledge of God, is for John Knox’s gospel to rumble in truth-deprived generation.

Conversion and growth (1547)

During this time (1543), Knox was soundly converted to Christ, probably through the influence of his father, Guillaume, an ex-Dominican friar and dean of the Cloisters families. Guillaume, said it, was ‘the first man from whom Mr Knox received any taste of the truth’. At the end of his life, while upon his deathbed, Knox would ask his wife to read to him the seventeenth chapter of John. “It was there’, he said, ‘I first cast my anchor’.

The truths in the high priestly prayer of Jesus to be the solid rock on which he first anchored his soul. Alone. Guillaume also gave Knox his first experience to Reformed doctrine. Now realizing the polluted system of Rome for what it was contaminated and corrupt - Knox declared, ‘It pleased God to call me from the sea of Papistry’. For the next two years Knox devoted himself to the study of Scripture in a diligent search for a deeper knowledge of truth.

From bodyguard to reformer (1545-49)

As Knox grew in his new faith, George Wishart, a powerful Reformed preacher, began a preaching ministry in the East Lothian. When he came to East Lothian, Knox held the ear of the influential and fashionable clerics and disciples and followers. In a relatively short period of time, he exercised strong influence over Knox in the Reformed faith (Dec. 1545-Mar. 1546). Knox’s influence would profoundly shape Knox’s ministry for the remainder of his life.

As Wishart’s ministry gained increasing popularity, Knox’s young preaching drew serious threats upon his life. With divine loyalty, Knox soon became Wishart’s personal assistant and bodyguard. He protected his spiritual mentor with a two-handed sword, ready to defend his life. By this bold step Knox’s courage in standing and fighting for the truth began to emerge.

As religious tension and persecution reached fever pitch in December 1548, Wishart was arrested and taken to St Andrews Castle. When Knox attempted to rescue his mentor, Wishart insisted that he go back to Longniddry. Wishart implored his local bodyguard, ‘Return to your bairns (pupils), and God bless you. One is sufficient for one sacrifice.’ Wishart was burned at the stake on 1 March 1546 at St Andrews Castle by the nephew of the same Archbishop, David Beaton, who had earlier martyred Patrick Hamilton (1548), the first Reformed preacher in Scotland in this era. As the flames flashed across his body, Wishart cried forth. ‘I beseech Thee, Father of heaven, forgive them that have any of ignorance, or else have of any evil mind, forgery any lies upon me. I forgive them with all my heart. I beseech Christ to forgive that have condemned me to death this day ignorantly.’

With these dying words the gospel beacon was passed to John Knox. In Wishart’s martyrdom, the flames that consumed his body had already ignited Reformation fires and by means of Knox would spread throughout all of Scotland and Great Britain.

Historian, William G. Blairie writes: ‘The chief result of this murder was to substitute John Knox for George Wishart, as the man of light and leading for the congregation that had gathered for worship in St Andrews Castle. In a sermon preached by John Rough, Knox was publicly charged before the congregation to answer what the former believed to be the divine call upon his life. A startled Knox burst forth in most abundant tears, and withdrew himself to his chamber’.

Knox believed he must not run where God had not called him. Locked in his room for days, he underwent much soul-searching until, at last, he stepped forward to answer the call to preach. Knox, now assured of God’s summons, presented himself for installation as pastor of the Protestant congregation in the castle.

Gripped by a sense of direct accountability to God, Knox preached his first public sermon on Daniel 7:24-25 in Holy Trinity Parish Church, St Andrews. Throughout his exposition Knox declared his Protestant convictions with unmistakable precision and power. The sermon was delivered with the force of a lightning bolt from heaven. It was said by those who heard him, ‘Others said [log off] the branches of the pulpit, but he straitly at the root also to destroy whole’.

Some concluded, ‘Master George Wishart never spoke so plainly; and yet he was hustled. Even so will John Knox be.’

From this time forward Knox ministered as a marked man. After this inaugural sermon, Knox would later affirm that St Andrews was ‘that place where God first in public opened my mouth to His glory’. For the remainder of his life and ministry Knox asserted, ‘I must blow my Master’s trumpet’.

Few preachers in the history of the church have ever sounded forth the Word of God with such intense fervor and bold conviction as he. If the church is to see another Reformation in these days, there must be a new generation of such fiery preachers. Like this Scottish Reformer of old, they must be men who are unswerving in their certainty that God has, indeed, called and commissioned them to preach His Word. They must be deeply convinced of the biblical doctrines of the saving gospel of God, and they must be willing to defend against all present day assaults. Like Knox of old, they must herald the full counsel of God, be it popular or not, without stammering or stammering. Such men of God must blow the trumpet with a clear and compelling sound.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, ‘the prince of preachers’, was one such preacher. In his own day he was unashamed to identify with both the great Scottish Reformer and his gospel: ‘John Knox’s gospel is my gospel; that which thundered through Scotland must thunder through England again.”

The urgent need of this present hour is that John Knox’s gospel to rumble in pulps and resound throughout the church. May God give a multitude of Scripture-saturated, gospel-grounded voices to preach the Word to our truth-deprived generation.

This article first appeared in the February-April issue of Banner of Truth magazine. Used by permission of Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh.
The Schaches sparking on all cylinders

by Royce Perkins

Talua Tales

Remember that the college is quite remote in a very hot climate, usually with high humidity, and surrounded by bush land growing vegetation. The Schaches engage without fuss in a bewildering range of activities. No day is typical – except for the first few hours: the 5 am changing of the guard on iron on iron, euphemistically called a bell, signals wake-up for personal devotions. Then again at 6 am for breakfast, 7 am for chapel devotions (on various days for various groups) and 7:30 am for lectures to begin. Chapel and church services invariably include beautiful harmony singing, often unaccompanied, sometimes with guitars. Wonderful, joyous, inspiring.

Andrew has refurbished a staff house, installing ceilings, water pumps, solar power, LED lighting, added another room, some painting. Around the campus he is one of the 'fix-it' frontliners – maintaining the 1956 reconditioned tractor given by a Queensland farmer that does a sterling job on a huge range of tasks, amongst them hauling trailer loads of bagged coral gravel, the basis of the concrete used for various construction projects. Then there is the welding, installing, repairing, building. There seems no end to his cheerful energy and passion for frontline innovative skills, all the time demonstrating to others the ‘how-tos’ within limited budgets and sometimes hard-to-get supplies. Meanwhile, Marilyn’s volunteer role provides invaluable support to the Dean of Studies and the Registrar in record keeping, data entry, all kinds of organising, planning, emailing, sorting, incidental accounting, and other sudden and unexpected requests for help. She spends many hours each day on computers. All that, plus warmly interacting with numerous local women with guitars. Worshipful, joyous, inspiring. The Schaches firmly believe the ultimate goal for the college, its community and the national church must be the development of self-sufficiency under God, and that this needs deliberate hastening. Highly desirable, one would think, after more than 130 years of Christian and mainly Presbyterian missionary activity (the Presbyterian Church was the first and is by far the largest denomination in Vanuatu). Marilyn insists that ‘we have learnt so much. These people are so generous, befriending us, and praying for us. So many opportunities just to talk with women, building them up through informal conversation. Being part of the chain of service is such a privilege. Andrew: The informal chatting with the men as we work is a joy. They are sponges and learn quickly. To see them applying newfound skills in their daily Christian lives is inspiring.

The Schaches have accomplished so much, some of it quite miraculously in answer to fervent prayer. And they have plans to do so much more before their 20-month stint ends and they fly out on Christmas Day. Backgrounders? No way. Frontliners! They surely embody Francis of Assisi’s injunction: ‘Preach the gospel always; if necessary, use words.

We are so very thankful and happy to receive Mr Jones as our new minister this month. He was a joy and convivial event.

THE VERY Rev David Jones was inducted as Minister and welcomed to Ann Street Presbyterian Church on 6 March 2014. Rev Ron Clark, Principal, and Rev Dawn Strain, Modular Director, conducted the Induction Service. Afterwards, members of the congregation and the Presbytery of Brisbane enjoyed supper together in the church hall. It was a joyful and convivial event.

Thank you to Rev Ron Clark, who has faithfully cared for us as Interim Moderator while we waited upon the Lord to provide us with our own full-time Minister.
GenConnect success in Maryborough

A GROUP of thirteen students from Riverside Christian College in Maryborough recently spent five weeks visiting residents at our Groundwater Lodge and Yaralla Place facilities as part of the pilot for the PresCare GenConnect program. An initiative of the PresCare Volunteer Program, GenConnect is designed to bridge the generation gap and hopefully help those students feel more connected, through a living history, to their place in society.

Volunteer Program Manager Julie Hoffmann says the idea for the program came from observations of the way her grandkids interacted with her elderly father. “I wanted to help show these kids that nanna didn’t arrive old, she had a life, she had experiences and wishes and dreams of her own as they do”, Julie says.

Students were each partnered with a resident, and over the course of five weekly visits, learned about the life of their partner, and in some cases a lot about the history of Maryborough itself. GenConnect participant Ethan Peaker, who was paired with John Hansen, a 92-year old war veteran, says it made him happy to see the residents be interacted with so happy and excited to talk about their experiences.

It is expected that GenConnect will shortly be implemented across the State, partnering with high schools located near PresCare residential services.

Chaplaincy and pastoral care progress at PresCare

PRES CARE’S CHAPLAINcy services continue to grow in reach and engagement, with chaplains and pastoral carers becoming more integrated into the Care team at each site.

In the residential arena, PresCare has been actively engaged in the purchase and management of state-operated aged care facilities. This resulted in PresCare becoming the successful tenderer for Yaralla Place, a 96-bed aged care facility in Maryborough, in September 2013. Chaplaincy’s involvement in the integration of Yaralla Place into the PresCare family and ensuring the work there reflects its values was integral, as was the way we transitioned employees there from treating it as a purely clinical environment to thinking of Yaralla Place as a home.

The growth we have seen in our Chaplaincy services has seen more engagement between our chaplains and pastoral carers and clients, not only in the residential sector, but also in our community care business. This is often through the Friendship Groups that are being run by many of our community teams. These are an important way we can help our clients stay more connected and reduce the likelihood of social isolation and its associated impacts.

The involvement of our chaplains and pastoral carers in the implementation and running of these groups has been the key to their success in many regions.

Growth is also occurring in the relationships between local Presbyterian congregations and the corresponding PresCare site, both residential and community.

Over the past several months Robyn Sansbury, Chaplain in our Kawana Community region, has been developing strong relationships with the Caloundra congregation. Several members of that congregation attend the monthly Friendship Groups which are often held at the Caloundra church.

“Claire is one of our regular visitors to the Friendship Group”, Robyn says. “She loves to come along and chat to the clients; and I have had many of our clients say they really enjoy talking to Claire as she’s such a gracious lady.”

Robyn says for her, it’s all about building relationships with clients and the Friendship Groups are a great way to do that.

We greatly appreciate the volunteers we’ve received from local congregations, and hope to widen our pastoral ministry with more congregational volunteers who are able to share the Gospel.

Robyn Sansbury enjoys visiting with client Betty Manion regularly

Garden Restoration Project for Healthy Ageing in full swing at Alexandra Gardens

IT’S ALL systems go at Alexandra Gardens with raised garden beds being replanted with vegies and herbs, and courtyard gardens in each of the five houses having a makeover following a recent Saturday working bee.

Plants and herbs have carefully been chosen and planted by resident gardeners. The vegetables are now thriving from the ongoing care and attention from the residents who look forward to looking after their gardens each day.

In addition, a recent Saturday working bee saw residents, staff and families of residents volunteer their time to help provide labour, garden plants, soil, mulch, garden pots and tools.

Children and grandchildren of staff and residents were keen participants throughout the working bee and it was difficult to keep up with their energetic enthusiasm – particularly when the garden ornaments had to be played in the gardens!

Facility Manager, Sandra Thomson, says the camaraderie leading up to the working bee, as well as the pride all residents showed by all of the restored gardens has been rewarding for those involved.

The residents thoroughly enjoyed participating in the working bee often offering advice and suggestions based on their years of experience as keen gardeners”, Sandra says.

The working bee was also a competition with a prize for the best restored garden.

Gardenia Court won the prize and all other houses were awarded highly commended.

Shanaye and Joyce

Robyn Sansbury enjoys visiting with client Betty Manion regularly

Gardening Working Bee
What’s on ...
DECISIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY

by Rev. Leslie Hall, Deputy Clerk, PCQ

THE ASSEMBLY

Inducted Rev. P. N. Case as Moderator.

Noted the retirement of Rev Dr Paul Logan as member of the Board of Directors.

Declared Mr Greg Rodgers, Elder as Moderator-Elect.

Appointed Mrs Anneke Bull, Director for PeaceWise.

Thanked Rev Walter Jones for his service as a member of the Board of Directors since 1998.

Approved changes to the Constitution of PresCare so that the Assembly appoints the CEO, the Convener of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing is a second visitor to PresCare and no member of the Board of PresCare can be employed by PresCare although the Chairman of the Board of PresCare may be remunerated for governance work done on behalf of the Board.

Noted that thanked the Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner for his exemplary and dedicated service to Fairholme College, as a member of the Board of Directors for 35 years since 1980.

Noted and thanked Mrs Frances Tilly for her dedicated service to the College, as member of the Board of Directors since 1998.

Was addressed by Mr R. B. Logan for his service to the Federal Church and assured of his continued service to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCA).

Was addressed by Very Rev R. F. F. Benn, Convener of the GAA National Journal Committee.

Was addressed by Rev. G. F. Rodgers for his service as Moderator.

Began the process to amend the Constitution to allow for land banking to a new account and to remove the requirement for any specific opening balance in the Capital Profits Reserve to subsidise capital work in Charges on a short or long term basis.

Noted that the following decision of the 2013 General Assembly of Australia is not to be held as a ‘Live-in’ Assembly at Clayfield College in Brisbane, and to take action, including making Constitutional changes, arising from the report.


Was addressed by Rev. D. N. Jones, Minister, St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Very Rev R. Herrmann for his dedicated service to Fairholme College, and thanked for his service.

Was addressed by Ms C. I. O’Gorman, Chaplain at Somerville House.


Was addressed by Rev. D. N. Jones, Minister, St Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Very Rev R. Herrmann for his dedicated service to Fairholme College, and thanked for his service.

Was addressed by Ms C. I. O’Gorman, Chaplain at Somerville House.

Acknowledged the retirement of Rev L. Senituli, National Minis as a member of the Board of Directors.

Appointed Mrs Anneke Bull, Director for PeaceWise.

Thanked Rev R. Herrmann for his service as a member of the Board of Directors since 1998.

Thanked Rev Walter Jones for his service as a member of the Board of Directors since 1998.

Approved the appointment of a new CEO for PresCare.

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