

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND



Induction of Moderator at State Assembly 2015

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as well as seeking to bring Glory to God and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

VOLUME 19 ASSEMBLY 2015 ISSUE

Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

CONTRIBUTIONS of stories, ideas and images are welcome. Stories and advertising should be sent to the editor.

Photographs should be saved in JPEG or TIF format and must be high resolution (300dpi). Written permission is also required from the person providing them to reprint the photographs.

If quoting other people's work in your article that should be acknowledged in the article. Please limit articles to **460 words or less**.

To view the online publication go to www.pcq.org.au.

Please email the editor for an electronic copy.

Closing date for editorial and advertising for the next issue is Monday 21 September. The **next issue** for *Pres Life* will be available on Sunday 1 November.

For full details on advertising please contact the editor.

Cover:

Publisher:
Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Editor, Design and Advertising:
Michelle Martin
preslife@pcq.org.au

Proofreaders:
Lesley Bloomfield and Virginia Kettniss

Printing:
Fairfax Media

Presbyterian Church of Queensland
Level 4, 19 Lang Parade
Milton QLD 4064
PO Box 1351
Milton QLD 4064
P: (07) 3716 2800
F: (07) 3716 2810

State Moderator:
Hon Greg Rodgers

Church Liaison Officer:
Rev Lesleigh Hall

Articles and advertising in *Pres Life* are the opinions of the authors, not necessarily the editor. Every effort is made to ensure the correctness of facts and information; however, we cannot accept responsibility for errors.

The publisher reserves the right to accept or decline any advertising or submitted articles. There is no provision for 'Letters to the Editor' but any feedback provided to the editor will be considered and referenced in 'From the Editor' section.

From the Editor



with Michelle Martin

Dear Readers

Welcome to the special edition of *Pres Life* which will inform you about what happened during our State Assembly week.

There's the induction of the State Moderator and his talk, news from the Presbyterian Women's Association and Women's Ministries Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Hope you all survived the cold snap we had recently. In the sunshine state of Queensland in a place called Stanthorpe, snow came down from the heavens. Check out the story and photos on page 10.

Enjoy reading!

PS: *Pres Life* formerly known as *New Directions* will be distributed quarterly instead of bi-monthly plus a bonus issue in August specifically about the State Assembly.

Contents

Moderator's Talk	3
State Assembly News	6
Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Qld Unit)	8
Women's Ministries Presbyterian Church of Queensland (WMPCQ)	9

Be Creative Retreat

Date: 6-8 November

Location: Watson Park, Dakabin

Choose from 15 different workshops including patchwork, puppets, hand stitching, spinning, papercraft, acrylics, watercolours, jewellery and woodwork.

The gospel message will be clearly and lovingly shared. Brochures available soon!

Moderator's Address: Proclaiming the Gospel Clearly



Isaiah 42:1-9 (NIV). *"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope." This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."*

Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV). *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

We must believe the Gospel. We must proclaim it. But in our day that's not enough. In a culture of skepticism and mixed messages, we must proclaim it more clearly than ever before.

There is a program on channel 10, 1, and 11 called *Family Feud* where competing families try to get the top responses from a survey of 100 people. If we were to survey 100 people and ask the question 'What is the Church about?'. I wonder what would be their answer; indeed if we were to take the same survey in our churches I wonder what their answers would be.

What is the church about? That's a question we need to keep asking ourselves. Is it about tradition? Is it about helping the poor? Is it about doctrine? Why do we exist? What is the church really about?

When we open up our Bibles one resounding answer comes back. The church exists to glorify God, by proclaiming the Gospel.

In Ephesians 3, we see that the promise of the Messiah (Jesus) is to all people through the Gospel. In verse 10, the intent was that the Church through the wisdom of God proclaim the message of the Gospel. 'The Gospel!', that's what the church

is about; it's the good news of grace, that's found in Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus' first words in the Gospel of Mark are *"Repent and believe the good news"*.

The church is called to repent and believe the Gospel. And then proclaim the Gospel. It's no good simply hearing the Gospel or simply believing it. As a church we must proclaim it. We have to get the Word out.

In Acts 1:8b, Jesus said to his followers *"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* We are witnesses to Jesus as we tell people the good news about him. That's Jesus' mission for the church. That's what the church is about. But in our culture, it's getting harder to get the message across. The message of life and hope that people most need is getting drowned out... The Gospel is getting swamped by scepticism, and consumerism, and busyness. There are more voices telling people what they should value, do and believe. There are messages being sent by the media—about abuse and abuses of power. Our message is being obscured by so many things. We have a message of life and hope. But people can't hear it above all the other noise. They can't see it for all the haze.

What we need more than anything else is to know 'How do we proclaim the Gospel in our day?'

Paul knew he needed to not just believe and proclaim the Gospel, he knew he needed to proclaim it clearly. We can learn from him.

That was Paul's burden here at the end of his letter to the Colossians. He's writing to a pagan city, filled with different philosophies and gods. A place where there were so many

voices and choices. Paul writes to emphasise the importance of the Gospel. And that his readers must not move from it.

He says in Colossians 1:22. *But now God has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.*

Paul writes to make sure they continue in their faith, and not move from the hope that's found in the Gospel, because in a world of choices, it would be easy for them to walk away.

But as Paul brings his letter to a close, he gives them some clues about how the Gospel is to be proclaimed.

If the church is about glorifying God, by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus, then how should it be proclaimed?

I think he shows us three things that can help us in our context to proclaim the Gospel.

1. Proclaiming Prayerfully

First he emphasises the importance of prayer.

Colossians 4:2-3 Paul says *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ."*

People who proclaim the glorious Gospel, do so *prayerfully*. They pray to God. They're watchful. They're thankful. They're mindful. They pray for God to open up specific opportunities for the Gospel to be heard. They pray for open doors. And open hearts. Why? Because the Gospel belongs to God. It's His will that He proclaims through us. So we look to Him to give us the wisdom and the strength to proclaim it.

Paul's saying, "devote yourselves to prayer" because we depend on God's power to move as we share the Gospel.

We are dependent on God. It's He who is at work as we proclaim the Gospel. It's not fancy tricks to get

people into church. It's not a show. It's not big personalities or big budgets. It's God's power, working through his people, as they prayerfully depend on God.

How does that work? One of our greatest hindrances is that we love to be in control of things.

Charles Blondin was a great tightrope walker in the late 1800s when he walked across the Niagara Falls and back, he pushed a wheelbarrow across and back. Then he said to the assembled crowd do you believe I can do this again with a person in the wheelbarrow? When someone yelled out "Yes", he then said "get in". A quick reply came: "No thanks".

There is another story told where a man found himself hanging off a cliff yelling out "Help", a voice came back: "underneath are the everlasting hands—let go". Three times he said this and on the third occasion, he replied, "Is anybody else up there?". We need to make a deliberate decision to let go or to get into the wheelbarrow. We need to let go and get into the wheelbarrow and by prayerful dependence on God.

Prayerful dependence on God is the first thing. The Gospel is to be proclaimed prayerfully.

2. Proclaiming Carefully

Secondly, the Gospel is to be proclaimed carefully.

We pray for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel, and when they come we must be careful how we speak. As ambassadors for Christ, we know the world is watching.

So Paul says in Colossians 4:5-6 *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

We cannot expect that people will cut us much slack. We must be wise in how we speak. Our words must be full of grace. Rudeness, arrogance, dismissiveness from the church, will shut doors, not open them. Think of how you feel about people who are rude or insensitive or judgemental.

It's hard to hear what they have to say.

Someone once said "I cannot hear you as the loudness of your actions are drowning out your words". Paul knows that; he says, 'be wise'. Don't put people off. Put before them a friendly, kind explanation of the truth about Jesus. Season it with salt; in other words, make it tasty.

There's nothing worse than fish and chips with no salt; it's not very nice. We must have the same compassion and sensitivity as Christ did as he hung on that cross when he looked at his mother and said "here is your son", and to John, "here is your Mother".

Paul says, "season it with salt, fill it with grace, be wise".

The Gospel is beautiful, it's radical and it's for everyone. So as we proclaim the Gospel (that's the second point Paul makes) proclaim the Gospel carefully.

3. Proclaiming Clearly

The third point, which is the one I want to leave you with, is that Paul emphasises the importance of clarity. It's no good having a message that people can't understand. Paul says, make it clear to people what the church is about. Make it clear, it's all about Jesus and the new life that's found in Him. The deep, radical change that comes when we repent and believe in Him.

Paul has a prayer request for the Colossians. And it's one we need to hear too. He says, *pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.* Colossians 4:4.

Paul says, I need help with this, I need God's power and I need your prayers. You'd think if anyone didn't need help with this, it would be Paul! Paul knew the Gospel; he believed the Gospel. But in a world of opposition, and different ideas, Paul knew that above everything else, it needed to be clear. It's a bit like trying to speak to someone on a mobile phone when the reception is bad; you can only hear some of what's said because of background noise.

Every industry has its own 'jargon'

and 'abbreviations' in how they communicate, and for an outsider it is hard to follow what they are talking about; the education department is full of it; the aged care industry loves it; but the IT industry flourishes on it; and the Church—sometimes I think we are in a world of our own. Some of my time is spent at Wavell State High School, and male students love to walk around with shirts out—and at this time of the year—jumper on with shirt hanging out. So I said to them tuck your shirt in it looks 'daggy'—to my surprise they did not know what the word 'daggy' meant.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:22. *I have become all things to all people that I might save some for the sake of the Gospel.* We must make sure we're on 'message' every time! We must make sure we're clear that it's about Jesus.

The church has accumulated many traditions over the years. And in their time and place, traditions can serve a function.

Someone once said, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living". And I suppose I should add, "it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name".

This quote I believe is pertinent for us as a church. 'Tradition, which is always old, is at the same time ever new because it is always reviving—born again in each new generation, to be lived and applied in a new and particular way.'

But this is not our main message. Our message is 'Jesus Christ, the loving Lord of all. So repent and believe. Come and receive God's grace that changes people's lives!' That's a message people need to hear. But so often that's not what they hear, in our evangelism, on our websites, in our Sunday services, in our fellowship and in our conversations with the neighbours—we must be clear it's about Jesus Christ and the hope held out in him. Everything in the church must serve the mission Jesus gave the church.

Kodak was a major player in photography in the twentieth century—everyone used Kodak—and

there was a saying going around, 'that was a Kodak moment'. In 1975 it was the first to develop a digital camera; but that was put on hold, as Kodak Management and the Board could not imagine a world without traditional film. Their core business was doing great with very little competition. There was no need for change, and they were fearful that this new technology would fail or threaten the business and drop the production. They were behind—by 2012 they filed for bankruptcy.

That 'Kodak moment' was no more as we knew it—because of fear of change, fear of the unknown, being comfortable with what they knew and already had.

As our culture changes, we must trust the God of the Gospel, that His Gospel is always powerful to change lives. In order for people to be changed by it, they must hear it proclaimed clearly. We must believe, proclaim and do it clearly.

In our society, people simply don't see how Christianity is relevant. They don't hear what our message is. But in the same way Jesus made God known to the world in his own age, we must make Jesus known to our world today.

In our first reading the prophet Isaiah pointed forward to Jesus and his mission. He says, "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. Isaiah 4:6-7. We have a message for people sitting in the dark; a message that changes lives; a message that releases people from slavery to selfishness and sin—it's the Gospel. And Paul says, here's how you proclaim it—proclaim it prayerfully; proclaim it carefully; and proclaim it clearly.

Our prayer in this day and age of scepticism and consumerism should be the same as that of Paul—*pray*

that we may proclaim it clearly, as we should. Colossians 4:4.

The Church, 'God's powerhouse for the Gospel' or still 'a Kodak moment'.



Induction of Moderator at Wavell Heights Presbyterian Church



Rev Matthew Viney (Minister at Wavell Heights Presbyterian Church and Moderator's Chaplain) and Hon Greg Rodgers (Moderator)



L-R: Julianne Rodgers (daughter), Hon Greg Rodgers (centre), Adrian Onvlee (back), Michelle Onvlee (daughter), Samuel Onvlee (grandson) and Karen Rodgers (wife)



Hon Greg Rodgers (Moderator) and Rev Phil Campbell (Moderator-Elect)

State Assembly 2015

by Roland Lowther

Introduction

The outgoing moderator, Phil Case, began his 2014-15 term stressing the theme 'Hear, Live, and Share' the Gospel. As Phil interacted with the various churches throughout the State, it became clear that for this vision to be adequately fulfilled, the Presbyterian church needs to add to its strength in expository preaching and teaching, a strong discipleship emphasis. As incoming moderator Greg Rodgers took up the leadership of this year's assembly, he challenged the packed Wavell Heights congregation of Assembly Commissioners, backing up the outgoing moderator's assessment by preaching on the theme of 'Proclaiming the Gospel Clearly'. The atmosphere of this opening meeting set the tone for the rest of the Assembly; an assembly characterized with a renewed sense of unity and optimism.

Monday Seminar

The annual ministry seminar addressed one of the most important, and yet oft neglected issues facing our church: the increasing place of the socially isolated elderly in our church life. The challenge of age is often brought into sharp relief by a crisis; whether retirement, loss of a spouse, or deteriorating health; the crisis often results in various forms of social isolation. Regrettably, with the churches' focus on reaching the young, the elderly are often neglected; perceived as having little 'functional' value. With this crucial issue in mind, the seminar sought to redress the concerns raised.

Anneke Bull highlighted the debilitating effect that isolation has on the elderly. Stuart Hoadley set out the Biblical mandate, as the grounds for caring, respecting, and empowering the elderly. John Gilmour brought to our attention that age should not be considered a limiting factor to unbelievers receiving the Gospel, encouraging us to see the elderly as a legitimate mission field.

In the concluding section of the seminar presentations, Ross Pethybridge and Wayne Knapp shared their vision to establish pilot programs in Dalby and Townsville, and the setting in place of real solutions to this growing challenge. Like it or not, this issue cannot be ignored by the church as we move into the future.

Assembly Highlights

As you can appreciate, the Presbyterian Church is an organisation with diverse ministry interests; interests which were only briefly covered at Assembly. All of them are valid and well deserving of credit. However, due to the constraints of brevity I have chosen to outline only a few.

Notwithstanding the ordinary ministry conducted in congregations on a weekly basis, the Presbyterian Church has organisations that augment parish ministry. Organisations such as PresCare, which focus on ministering to the elderly, meeting the practical and pastoral needs of our ageing population.

Then there is the educational arm of the Presbyterian Church with quality institutions such as, Emmanuel College (UQ), Fairholme College, Clayfield College, Brisbane Boys' College, Sommerville House and Sunshine Coast Grammar School, not only offering excellence in education, but also providing vital Christian development as young and enquiring minds gain an appreciation of life in the modern world from a Christian perspective.

At the pointy end of education, is the ministry of the Queensland Theological College, providing world-class theological training for both candidates for Presbyterian pastoral ministry, and others called to various kinds of ministry and mission work across the broader scope of Evangelical Protestantism. It is encouraging to report that all of these ministries are not only achieving their stated goals, but are expanding their operating base, increasing both

the quality and the quantity of their services.

There are also a number of initiatives enacted at this assembly that addressed the needs of our church as we move into the 21st century. In a bold initiative the Presbyterian Church of Queensland has entered into a joint venture with the Presbyterian Church in South Australia to assist in the revitalisation of the Presbyterian ministry within that state.

The Church in South Australia has struggled to gain traction for the Gospel since union, and is at the point where there are only a small number of congregations functioning. It is hoped that the involvement of our church can advance the cause of the Gospel in that State.

Also in an attempt to streamline the operations of our church at a congregational level, initiatives have been introduced to potentially assist ministers and ministry workers in transitioning out of the ministry with funds provided to assist their reintegration back into the regular workforce.

As well as this, a proposed change has been made in regards to the status of ministers emeriti to that of retired ministers, where their active involvement in the church life, as administered through the Presbytery structure, is not simply automatic, but commensurate with their willingness and effectiveness in the service of Presbytery based endeavours.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there are foundational principles for church life and practice that are unchanging, there is also a general recognition that, for the Presbyterian Church to be effective in the 21st Century it must be prepared to rise to the challenges before it; the church must review the practices, which although suiting a by-gone era, may impede the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ when not adapted to a changing context. The actions of the



Assembly indicate the willingness and courage to change.

Moderator-General's Devotional Expositions

In his opening address, David Cook reminded us that God's enactment of salvation through Jesus Christ, is not more significant than the application of that enactment through the missionary extension of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Commensurate with God's initial work, the power to spread the Good News of salvation did not [and does not] reside in the individual apostle, evangelist, or Christian worker; it resides in the power that God supplies through the Holy Spirit. This is clearly shown in the Acts account where God chooses, not the educated elite, but ordinary unschooled people, albeit transformed by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the Gospel.

In the second talk we were confronted by the simple, yet profound, challenge to keep the 'main thing', the main thing! Whilst the apostles' *waiting on tables* may have been a good thing, teaching the Word was considered of greater importance. Although the Apostles' ministry was accompanied by all kinds of powerful works, they weren't the 'main thing'; they merely gave the main message a good hearing.

Consistently then, the main focus of the Apostles was the proclamation of the Word, and principally the declaration of the Gospel of Salvation through Christ and the associated call to repentance and faith. As such, the servant of the Gospel must be careful never to allow 'good' things to impede the 'best' thing!

In the third exposition, we were

thoughtfully encouraged to see God at work in the 'intersections' of life. At a crucial intersection in time God brought Philip in contact with the Ethiopian eunuch (just as this man happened to be reading from Isaiah 53); Philip came alongside his chariot, provided the interpretation, which facilitated his divine conversion and subsequent baptism.

God places us too, at crucial intersections. As Philip was open to the Spirit's leading and he was powerfully used by God, so must we be. We were also reminded to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's prompting when it comes. Of the 22 times God speaks directly in Acts, 16 are challenges to 'go'.

In the final devotional exposition, David offered a sobering challenge not to allow 'religion' to hinder the work of God. Peter reminded the disciples at the Jerusalem council of God's favour to the Gentiles and the necessity not to burden them with laws that even Jews couldn't keep. To burden believers with the Law is an open door to a 'works religion' that will invariably bully people into a life of fear. If the law-free ministry to the Gentiles has been accredited by God, then why add 'religion' to it? The Gospel that has been freely given, and leads to freedom in Christ, must remain free. If faith gets us right with God, then surely it keeps us right with Him! Such faith, then, is of the Spirit, not the Law.

Missions Buffet

This year the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) held a missions buffet dinner in the Clayfield College dining hall. This setting provided a great atmosphere for fellowship; little wonder attendance

was up over previous years. We heard from the Ramsay's Church Missionary Society (CMS) and the Stewarts (APWM), who are preparing to work full time with the Presbyterian Church of Japan.

We also heard Lauren Crase (APWM) talk about her work, which is scheduled to commence early next year with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste. Lauren will be teaching English as a second language, discipling believers, and providing medical aid.

Also joining the umbrella organisation of APWM this year, as a 'partner agency' is International China Concern. Janet Conroy, ICC Board Chair, introduced us to this vital work with orphans in China. APWM expresses its appreciation to all those who attended, and especially to those who helped make the evening so special.

Conclusion

At this year's Assembly there was a tangible sense the Presbyterian church is 'generally' moving in a positive direction, with the 'vibe' of the meetings conveying a more celebratory atmosphere than the 'heavy' atmosphere of meeting procedure in years past. Yet, with the cultural dismantling of Christendom and the rapidity with which the Christian faith is being marginalized, the Protestant church (generally) is entering uncharted waters. Yes, we will need clarity in proclaiming the Gospel, but in traversing the shifting sands of contemporary culture, we will need to keep an even clearer focus on the heart of the Gospel—Jesus Christ and a vital, living devotion to him!

Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Qld Unit): Assembly 2015 Activities

by Heather Burton



The PWA of A (Qld Unit) Assembly Week Activities commenced with our Annual State AGM and Conference on Monday 22 June at Ann Street Presbyterian Church at 10am. 81 ladies joined together to praise God and thank him for the grace He has shown us over the previous year. Our theme was 'Grace' with a scripture reading from Hebrews 4:16 *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Our Moderator, the Hon Greg Rodgers inducted the office bearers for the coming year and gave a message to all the ladies. We were pleased to have our Federal President, Mrs Evelyn Mill with us from Sydney. She gave words of encouragement and presented our new office bearers with their badges.

The guest speakers were Miss Pixie Annat, speaking on the work of the Lady Musgrave Trust; Army Chaplain Rev Neil McKinlay, speaking on the joys and trials of his work at Enoggera Barracks; and The Very Rev Robert Benn and Lauren Crase speaking on the work of Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) in Timor-Leste.

We ask for prayers for all our speakers, but especially, for Lauren who prepares to travel back to Timor

in 2016, and is in need of further support.

The Sunshine Coast Presbyterian Ladies Choir sang a beautiful Introit and Anthem, and we all rejoiced in singing praise to our God. Warm fellowship was enjoyed over lunch and much talk was had about the new year ahead—looking forward to what God has planned for PWA.

On Tuesday, at Clayfield College our President Mrs Heather Ross, our Executive and other PWA ladies joined the Assembly for morning tea. It is always a warm time catching up with ministers and elders from across the State. Our Executive was then presented to the Assembly with Mrs Heather Ross giving her PWA of A (Qld Unit) President's Report; highlighting the activities and service of us to our God as women reaching out to others in the Lord's name. The Annual Report for 2014 was presented to the Moderator.

Wednesday was a time of relaxing and fun. This year we took a bus, driven by Rev Les Percy, down to the Kingston Butter Factory, which now houses a museum, theatre, and arts and craft shop.



On arriving we had a delicious Devonshire morning tea; then we wandered the museum and enjoyed purchasing some things from the craft shop.



The weather was a little rainy and cloudy so our idea of utilising Australia's first solar BBQ was in vain. Although Les valiantly cooked one lot of sausages in a very cool breeze. We finished the cook-up of sausages and rissoles on Cathy's grill in the factory canteen and enjoyed a BBQ lunch followed by homemade bread and butter pudding, apple crumble, caramel tart and custard. 'Yum' was the word mostly used to describe it all. If we were lizards and the sun had been shining, I'm sure we would have been lying out in it feeling very content.

We thank God for His travelling mercies throughout the week and for the fellowship our PWA ladies enjoyed, one with another.

Women's Ministries Presbyterian Church of Queensland at Assembly 2015

by Wendy Henry



'Celebration and Vision' was the topic at the Assembly women's event on Tuesday June 23, when about 20 women met together. Jan Langbridge shared insights from Carolyn Custis James' book *Lost Women of the Bible*, emphasising the Genesis account of God creating the woman to be an 'ezer' for the man, and that together, as the 'Blessed Alliance', they were to subdue and rule the world.

Then Wendy Henry spoke about changes to WMPCQ, its future, and the proposals that would be made to Assembly later in the day.

Discussion followed and the visiting Federal President of PWA, Evelyn Mill, assured us that other states were also considering the future direction of women's ministries. Another guest, Maxine Cook from New South Wales, spoke about the effective use of the Titus 2 model. It was agreed that all women's ministries should be centred around God's Word but that each local congregation has its unique approach.

Later at Assembly, Wendy recommended that a new model of women's ministries be explored

with the possibility of a paid worker to assist in networking among local churches.

The Assembly members then agreed that WMPCQ be thanked for their work and that the Committee on Outreach and Nurture be asked to explore how the Presbyterian Church of Queensland can best support and foster women's ministries in the future. Meanwhile, Cecelia Orford and Wendy Henry will continue networking with Queensland women in a caretaking role.



White as Snow

by Greg Fraser

'Knock, knock'... "Dad, are you awake?"

"I am now!" My bleary eyes opened to the bedside clock; 1am.

"Dad, its snowing!"

We all got up and dressed. I turned on two flood lights in the back yard and we watched the snow fall, had snow ball fights and built a snowman which the dog growled at.

At nearly 2am my youngest daughter Abigail and I decided to walk through the park beside the local 'Quart Pot' Creek (I prefer to call it Quart Pot Lock!) and into town. The powder snow was about four inches deep. When we arrived in the main area of the central park there was already a five foot high snowman—complete with a carrot nose. And we were not alone, as many people were out driving and visiting the well lit park.

After another snow fight we 'crunched' our way home to bed by 3am but up again at 7am to more fun and photos. First to the golf course and the 'beleaguered' kangaroos (photo) and then some photos of the church before the 'melt' set in. At one memorable moment the sun came out and the snow was a brilliant white—so pure—so bright.



My opening words the next morning at church were from Isaiah 1:18, *Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as SNOW.*



Stanthorpe Presbyterian Church (first snow fall)

Vacancy

Camp Bunya Mountains

REQUIRES A CARETAKER/MANAGER

For its 80 bed facility situated on the picturesque Bunya Mountains, 45 minutes from either Kingaroy or Dalby.

The Management Committee is looking for a person or persons who are committed Christians, active, with some handyman skills and motivated to provide a quality experience for our Clients.

The Caretakers will be supported by a small active Management Committee.

Terms and Conditions will include (but not limited to and are negotiable):-

- Rent free two bedroom cottage situated within the campsite (full or partly furnished)
- Performance based Honorarium (**Note:** this is not a fully remunerated position)
- Part payments of electricity costs, telephone and internet
- Full or part time, long or short term tenures will be considered

For further information or to submit an expression of interest contact:-

Secretary, Vicki Whittle on 0427 590 519 or email tiganne@bigpond.com

Chairman, Mr Keith Bartley on 0429 622 225

Director of Ministry Resourcing and Christian Education, Rev Peter Barson on (07) 3716 2851

This is an EXCITING OPPORTUNITY to be involved in revitalising the Camping Ministry at Camp Bunya Mountains!



