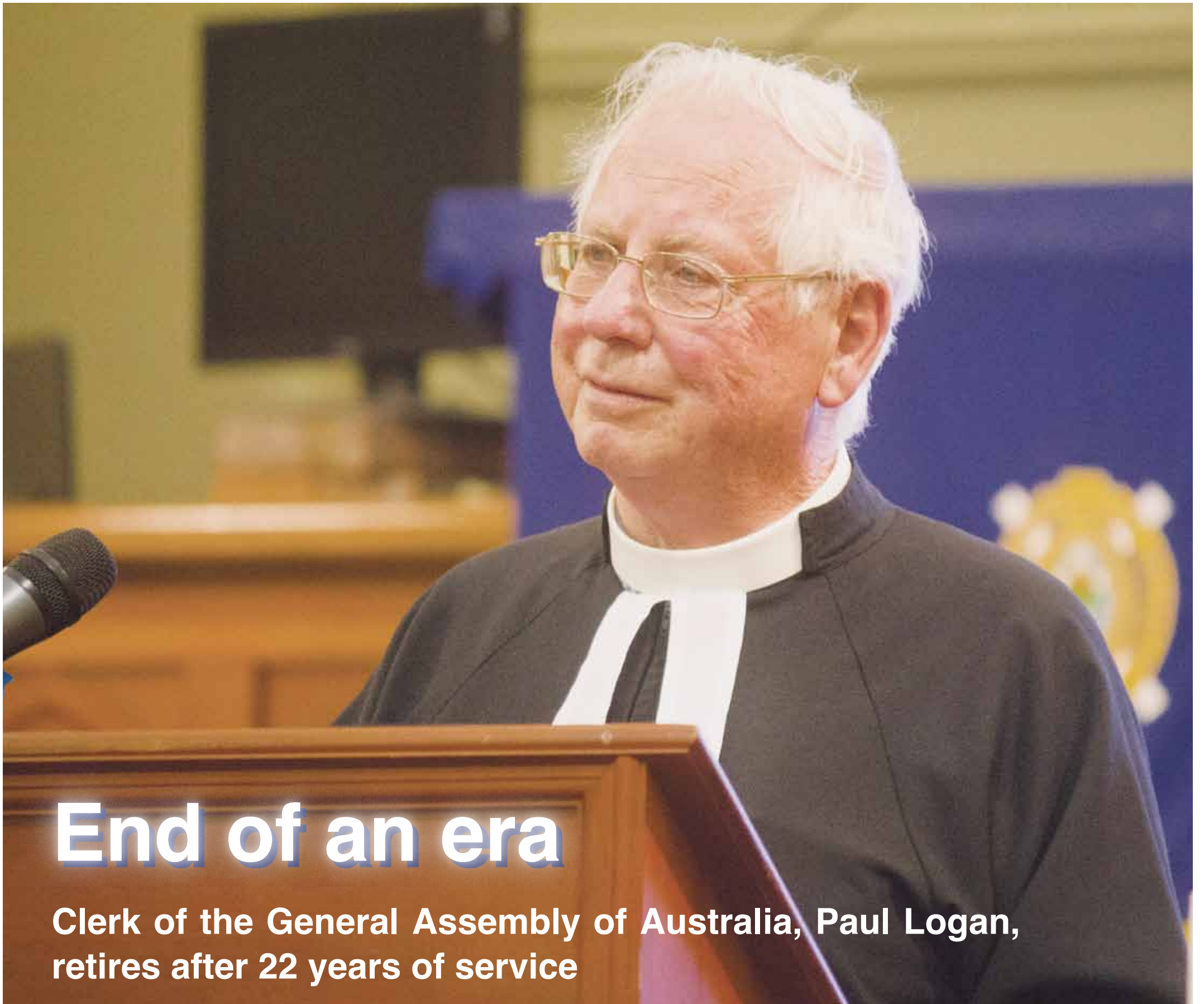




# DIRECTIONS

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland



## End of an era

Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia, Paul Logan, retires after 22 years of service

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**T**HROUGHOUT HIS ministry Rev Dr Paul Logan has stood beside people in both difficult and wonderful circumstances. He has celebrated the marriages of 1079 couples and has kept a record of them all. One memory that stands out concerns a homeless man who had made a temporary home living under the steps of the church hall.

"One day he came to the manse front door at North Sydney and while Margaret went to get him some food and drink he came across to shake hands with one of the guests who had just arrived for the wedding and to whom I was talking. The guest happened to be the then Prime Minister of Australia.

"My thought was, 'where else in the world could a homeless man come up and shake the hand of the leader of the country and no one bat an eye lid?'. I thank God for the freedom of this country and the fact we have just changed governments by the scratch of a pencil and not through a bullet from a gun.

"I thank God for you all. Anything I have been able to do is only because of the grace of God mediated to me through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour and in the gifts He has given me."

[Thanks to the *Presbyterian pulse* for permission to publish this story in *New Directions*.]



# Standing ovation for retiring Assembly Clerk

by Karen Thornton

REV DR Paul Logan's intention to resign from the role of Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia has been known for some months - and won't formally happen until the end of 2014 - but that didn't make his final Assembly any less poignant.

Dr Logan's resignation after 22 years' service was received and accepted at the end of the second day of the week-long event in September. As there will not be another General Assembly for three years, the 2013 meeting was his last in the Clerk's role - and the final opportunity to thank him and his wife Margaret for their many years of work in the Lord for the Church.

The thanks came enthusiastically and loudly - in the form of acclamation and an emotional standing ovation.

Dr Logan has also resigned as Clerk of the PCNSW General Assembly, a position he has held since 1 January 1995, and will Clerk his final meeting in July next year before bowing out of that role on 31 December 2014.

In his letter of resignation tabled at the 2013 State Assembly, Mr Logan said he had been privileged to serve the Church in the role after having been Assistant to the Clerk from 1978-1994 - a total of 36 years.

"In September 2014 I will reach the age of 75 years and know it is time to hand over the reins", he said. "God has given me strength, patience and perseverance and I hope that because of that I have been able to bring sound advice and wisdom in the exercise of my responsibilities in that position."

In moving a motion of thanks to Dr Logan at the GAA, held at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Surry Hills, Rev. Bruce Meller noted that Dr Logan had accepted the Clerkship at a time of 'significant organisational disruption and doctrinal turmoil' and had 'immediately displayed his vast comprehension of the operational and strategic challenges confronting the Assembly'.

"His service has been consistently distinguished by an appreciation of the importance of relationships that had, for some time, fallen out of sight", Mr Meller said.

"With calmness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, impartiality, integrity and an understanding of the procedures and practices of the Church that is rarely paralleled, he set out to forge a harmonious approach to the business of the Assembly. Those emphases have blessed the Church increasingly throughout his period in office.

"Humbly and courteously, Dr Logan made himself available just as much to younger members of the Church as to more established



Paul and Margaret Logan receiving the acclamation of the Assembly after it received Paul's resignation with thankful appreciation

members and he well deserves the respect and honour that are uniformly accorded to him. His administrative efficiency and keen eye for detail have further equipped him to fulfil the technical responsibilities of his office with a degree of excellence that has honoured God and brought blessings to his people."

Dr Logan told the Assembly that he had grown up in a Christian family. His father was an elder of the Church who loyally and faithfully undertook duties of pastoral care to those in his elder's district. His mother was organist at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Ipswich in Queensland and then in Gosford in NSW where the family moved following the death of a son at the age of three-and-a-half years from meningitis.

"There were five boys in my family and my wife often says that even though we might not see each other often, if something goes wrong we stick together", he said.

Dr Logan said he had always been conscious of the presence of God in his life but if he wanted to put a date

to his Christian experience, it would be March 1954 when he stood before the congregation at St James' Church, Burwood NSW, before the minister (the Rev. George Nelson Bensley), his father and the Sunday School Superintendent representing the fifty elders on the session and made his public profession of faith as a communicant member of the Church.

"It was as a junior communicant because, under the rules of the Church, I wasn't able to vote in a congregational meeting until I was 16", he said. "I preached my first sermon at the age of 16 at Pittwood Aged Care facility in Ashfield where the fellowship group (the youth group within the congregation) took the monthly service while our minister was overseas.

"They were a lovely group of old ladies, warm, welcoming, friendly and understanding of young people. I have always been grateful for the warmth and nurture of my home congregation and a few months ago we hosted at our home a barbecue for a group of our old Burwood fellowship friends from fifty-five years ago.

"A few weeks later we attended a musical performance in Strathfield with some of our fellowship from Granville where I was student minister some forty-five years ago. Our friendships in the Gospel remain even after all those years."

Dr Logan paid tribute to his wife Margaret, whom he said had moved with him in the nine parishes and appointments during his ministry.

"In May next year, God willing, we will celebrate our Golden Wedding anniversary. I thank God for my family, our daughter and son, who haven't always understood my commitment to the Church but have still supported me with their love."

The retiring Clerk left those attending the Assembly with a final thought - the need for communication with each other.

"We are good at sending emails, using Facebook and other means of modern communication, but communication is about talking to people and with people, understanding what they are saying and walking with them", he said.

"When there is difficulty and strife in the church I sometimes feel like banging people's heads together and saying 'Talk to each other!'."

"As I come to the end of this task to which God has called me I leave you with this verse of Scripture from 1 Corinthians 15:58 which says, 'Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'

## MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

By leave of the house, the Rev. B. M. Meller moved:

That the Assembly:

- (1) Record its thankfulness to Almighty God for the labours of His servant, the Rev. Dr Paul Gibson Logan, as the Clerk of this Assembly for the past 22 years.
- (2) Note that Dr Logan accepted the Clerkship at a time of significant organisational disruption and doctrinal turmoil and immediately displayed his vast comprehension of the operational and strategic challenges confronting the Assembly. His service has been consistently distinguished by an appreciation of the importance of relationships that had, for some time, fallen out of sight. With calmness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, impartiality, integrity and an understanding of the procedures and practices of the Church that is rarely paralleled, he set out to forge a harmonious approach to the business of the Assembly. Those emphases have blessed the Church increasingly throughout his period in office. Humbly and courteously, Dr Logan made himself available just as much to younger members of the Church as to more established members and he well deserves the respect and honour that are uniformly accorded to him. His administrative efficiency and keen eye for detail have further equipped him to fulfil the technical responsibilities of his office with a degree of excellence that has honoured God and brought blessings to his people.
- (3) Provide a copy of the foregoing minute of appreciation to the Rev. Dr Paul Logan as a mark of the Church's personal esteem for him and as an expression of its gratitude for his love and labour in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ the Church's only King and Head.
- (4) Extend sincere and personal thanks to Mrs Margaret Logan for the generous support that she has provided to Paul during his long and demanding period in office.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. P. Barson, the Business Convener, and carried with acclamation.

The Moderator presented copy of this minute of appreciation and invited Mrs Logan to come forward, the Assembly also recognising her contribution to the Church with a standing ovation.

The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer, thanking God for the work of Paul and Margaret Logan.



Rev. Bruce Meller (Deputy Clerk), Rev. Peter Barson (Business Convener) and Rev. Dr Paul Logan (Clerk)



Rev. Lesleigh Hall appointed as new Deputy Clerk, effective 2015



# Proceedings of the GAA September 2013

Rev. Gary Ware, Chaplain to the Moderator-General and Minister at Mt Gambier Presbyterian Church, wrote a blog during the course of the GAA. This article is compiled from Gary's blogsite to give an understanding of the events of the General Assembly of Australia 2013.



David Cook preaches his keynote sermon to an attentive congregation

ON A balmy spring night in Sydney the Chinese Presbyterian Church, Surry Hills, was comfortably full to witness the commencement of the forty-eighth session of The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

We were encouraged by a brief address from outgoing Moderator-General David Jones and the keynote sermon from incoming Moderator-General David Cook. While the two messages marked a transition in leadership, they also confirmed a continuity of conviction in the power of Bible-centered Gospel proclamation.

It was poignant and telling that when Anglican Bishop Peter Tasker responded on behalf of welcomed church leaders, the Bible verse he said many had commended to him as summarising David Cook's life and ministry was from the very passage in Acts 20 from which David had preached.

Each day, the work of the General Assembly stretches over twelve hours comprising three sessions.

The following morning we began with the Assembly communion service, with Rev. Dr David Burge, pastor of Walcha Presbyterian (and son-in-law of the Moderator-General) preaching and David Cook leading the service.

David preached a very encouraging sermon on *The Christian's Boast And Works* from Galatians 6:11-18.

The report of the outgoing Moderator-General, David Jones, led to the consideration of a proposal to enact a working group called *Mission to Australia*, a cooperative body composed of representatives of the church planting and ministry bodies in the State Churches. Part of *Mission To Australia* will be a continuing Moderator-General's church planting task force. For the first time in our church's history we now have a body tasked with coordinating church planting and revitalisation from a national perspective.

This led to consideration of a communication from the Presbyterian Church of South Australia, which reported the great need in Adelaide for national support lest our works there flounder. *Mission To Australia* will take up Adelaide and South Australia as its first task.

The Finance Committee and Church Trustees submitted their reports for consideration. The denomination's national budget for the next three years was finalised at a later sitting once a matter to do the National Journal was considered.

The Code Committee was directed to continue working on a proposal to update regulations relating to the

composition of GAA committees. Over the next three years they will consult with committees, Presbyteries and State Assemblies to formulate a well-supported proposal.

At the afternoon sitting we received a delegation from the Presbyterian Women's Association who informed us that the Australian Executive will be based in New South Wales for the next three years. We were assured of the prayers of women around Australia for the mission and ministry of our Church, and the Assembly extended its thanks to the PWA for their kingdom service.

Rev. Dr J. Ligon Duncan then preached the first of a series of three sermons over the days of the Assembly.

In addition to the reception of a report overflowing with information, Relations With Other Churches brought Rev. Dr Flip Buys, Associate International Director of the World Reformed Fellowship, and Rev. K. Zylstra representing the Presbyterian Reformed Church to extend greetings to the Assembly.

The Christian Education Committee reported on their progress in producing resources, including an upcoming book, edited by David Cook and featuring eight chapters on essential doctrines written by various Australian Presbyterian authors. The

book will be available in time for a series of three day preaching seminars which David Cook, David Jones and Peter Barnes will be conducting around Australia next year.

At 5.00 pm the Assembly received a communication from Rev. Dr Paul Logan submitting his resignation as Clerk Of Assembly to take effect December 2014. (See story on page 1.)

The evening session saw reports from the Australian Presbyterian World Mission and PresAID.

Rev. Daniel Marcal of East Timor, Rev. Dan Iverson of Japan and Rev. Kalorongo Ova, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu addressed our meeting and brought fraternal greetings and spoke of their hopes for the future.

Part of being a federal church with State and regional levels of oversight is that various bodies can be held accountable for their decisions.

The GAA considered an appeal to bring the decision of one of our State bodies under review, and a petition seeking a recommendation that one of our national committees be placed under review.

Rev. Dr J. Ligon Duncan again preached a most affecting sermon based on 1 Kings 19 after which we continued to receive a number of reports and approve proposed plans by the respective committees for the next three years.

The National Journal Committee, presented by Mr Duncan Parker, spoke of the increased circulation of the now 20 page quarterly magazine, freely available in print or online.

Presbyterian Inland Mission was presented by Rev. Rob Duncanson, Rev. Stuart Bonnington and Padre Chris Woonings who spoke about the great need for biblical preaching in outback towns.

Defence Force Chaplaincy, presented by Rev. Allan Harman, made special mention of the high number of chaplains provided by the Presbyterian denomination, with a special address by Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley.

Rev. Geoff MacPherson, representing Grace Presbyterian Church, New Zealand addressed the House.

Ballots were conducted to fill the various national committee positions for the next three years, with results being announced later in the evening.

Church And Nation was presented by Rev. Stefan Slucki and Rev. David Palmer, who both spoke to a comprehensive report on a variety of ethical matters. Professor Patrick Parkinson of the Sydney Law School addressed the Assembly on the subject of concerns regarding religious liberty.

Reception of Ministers also presented a substantial report. Over a dozen men from other denominations were approved to be received as ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia upon the fulfilment of a variety of conditions.

The final day of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was conducted with the usual sense of purpose to see business through that is commonly apparent on the final day of three day meetings.

The Assembly considered a request from the New South Wales Assembly for a formal declaration on a particular matter, and the General Assembly affirmed that it is vital that pastors and elders affirm the practice of covenant baptism of infants as being biblically grounded, and that they are not free to openly oppose the practice.

The Finance Committee's report was finalised, with the confirmation of our national budget for the next three years.

Another appeal relating to the decision of one of our State Assemblies was heard.

Rev. Dr J. Ligon Duncan preached the third and final Assembly exposition, this time identifying seven points about pastoral life from the concluding verses of 2 Timothy. Dr Duncan was thanked by the Moderator-General David Cook for his ministry to the Assembly.

The report of the Presbyterian Inland Mission was finalised, with much encouragement given to that committee for their initiative in both patrol work and church planting.

Public Worship and Aids to Devotion commended a number of online resources from the wider church, as well as their own productions.

The Assembly authorised a group to investigate and recommend ways to mark the 500th anniversary of the commencement of the Reformation in 2017 to the 2016 General Assembly.

Rev. Bruce Meller was elected Clerk of the General Assembly, and Rev. Lesleigh Hall was elected to serve as Deputy Clerk, their appointments to take effect 1 January, 2015.

David Cook dissolved the Assembly in the context of closing comments that affirmed our denominational commitment to the effective proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks to the GAA and webmaster Michael Wharton the sermons preached through the week are available at the Presbyterian Church of Australia website ([www.presbyterian.org.au](http://www.presbyterian.org.au)) for listening or download.

- \* Three sermons from Rev. Dr J. Ligon Duncan.
- \* One sermon from Moderator-General Rev. David Cook
- \* One sermon from Rev. Dr David Burge
- \* One short address from past Moderator-General Very Rev. David Jones

## NEW DIRECTIONS

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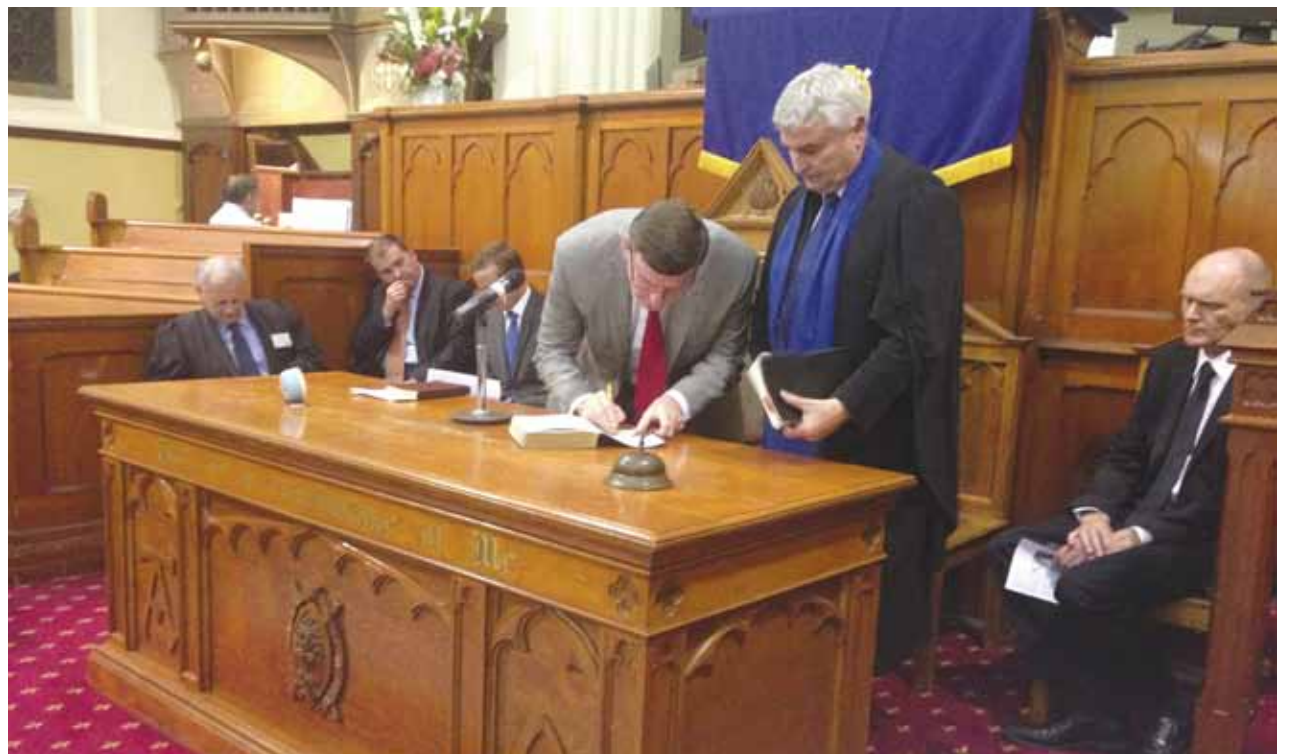


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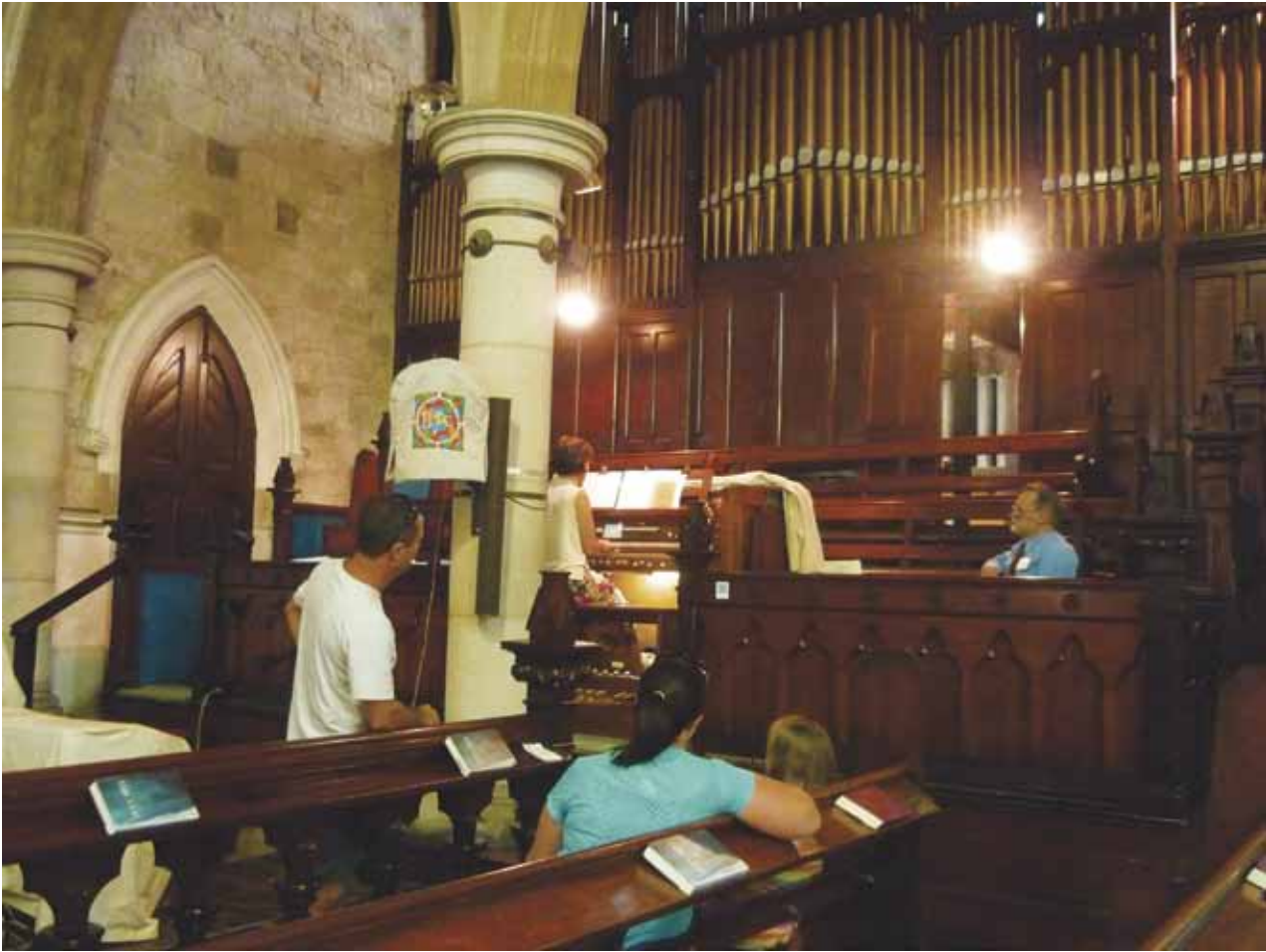
David Cook signs the Assembly Bible as a record of his affirmation



# Open House at St Paul's

## QR codes reveal the full story

by Deaconess Dianne Parker



A group listening to the organ being played by Mrs Donnelle Rouse with one of the elders, Doug Milne, who helps Neil Taylor to maintain the organ, on the right hand side

THE BRISBANE Open House program, operating since 2010, allows city residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the architecture, engineering and history of many of its best buildings. This year, St Paul's was one of the featured churches, opening its door during Saturday and on Sunday afternoon, 12 and 13 October.

In a new development it combined the traditional 19th century National Trust architecture with 21st century

technology by labelling all the points of interest (such as organ, honour board, memorials etc) with 'QR codes'. These codes gave visitors with smart phones the opportunity to go to the church website which presented many extra details and high quality photographs of each particular feature.

Many of the 200 people who visited the church over the weekend could be seen taking advantage of this convenient way of conveying

information. The website received many hits during the weekend. The church pays tribute to the skill and tenacity of one of our members, Mrs Helen Murray, who spent many hours preparing this wonderful guide.

The idea had been seen by one of the church members in a church overseas while travelling earlier in the year. On the special website, Helen used historical material prepared for the 150th celebrations and Dr Russell Cowie's book, *A History of St Paul's*.

On both days, visitors were also able to enjoy listening to the organ. Some budding organists were able to test their skills under the eye of our professional organists. Those interested in the inner-workings of a 130-year-old pipe organ were also able to see some of the 'secret compartments' deep inside the instrument.

Many who came to visit us made the comment, "We've often driven past this building and wondered what it was like inside" – a remark which was gently answered on at least one occasion with the words, "We are open for worship every Sunday".

As an exercise in outreach this was a unique opportunity for the church family members who spent time helping during the open day to meet neighbours, and visitors from further afield.

The nature of inner city life with secure buildings and residents who work long hours makes contacting those who live nearby almost impossible, so this was a good opportunity for them to drop in on us – and some did.

In addition a number had made the journey from Ipswich and other places further away, whilst some were overseas visitors from places like France and Russia.

Although we are a little out of the central city area, we still had quite a number of visitors and those who were involved felt that the time was well spent.

If you would like to explore the church, you are always welcome to Sunday Services at 9.30 am or 6.30 pm.

However, if you'd like to explore our online Guide go to [www.stpaulspcguide.blogspot.com.au](http://www.stpaulspcguide.blogspot.com.au) or use the QR Code found on that website.



Front gate showing the QR codes



## We won't get fooled again?

IN 1971 the English band *The Who* released the song, "Won't Get Fooled Again". The song's author, Peter Townshend, said of the song's controversial meaning, "...revolution, like all action, can have results we cannot predict. Don't expect to see what you expect to see." Interpreted within its original political context, the song suggests that uncritically embraced political regimes, which forcibly supplant prior regimes, may prove themselves to be just as malevolent as the regime supplanted. A sentiment reflected in the song's last line, "...meet the new boss, same as the old boss".

Hitler's National Socialist movement, during the late 1920s, promoted itself as Germany's saviour from the humiliating consequences of The Treaty of Versailles. Yet, by the mid 1930s, the Nazi party's true intentions were revealed, to the dismay of many Germans. The regime that once promised itself as the saviour of the German people, subsequently led them into a conflict that precipitated their most humiliating downfall.

Although this is an extreme example, it illustrates Townshend's point well. Theological systems too, like political regimes, should not simply be accepted uncritically.

The ideology behind Townshend's song also serves as a reminder for the necessity of ongoing critical reflection with respect to our Christian doctrine.

I was recently trolling the pages of Facebook and noticed an interesting "post" on the home page of a friend. I followed the link through and discovered a blog by a zealous Reformed/Evangelical Christian decrying the subtle insurgency of mysticism. The author lamented that this movement, with its claims of direct knowledge of God through spiritual experience, was rapidly spreading.

Now, I don't doubt that this may be a genuine concern in some quarters, however, the solution offered set off my theological alarm bells. Over and against the so-called ubiquitous influence of mysticism, the author inferred that Reformed/Evangelical Christians should rely on the Reformation maxim "*sola scriptura*". He then went on to espouse the virtues of the Reformed faith's view of scripture by quoting, at length, from a revered theologian.

Now, here is the kicker: within the entire text of his argument, I do not recall one single reference from scripture!

Placed in its original Reformation context, the slogan *sola scriptura* (Scripture only/alone) affirmed the Protestant belief regarding the Holy Scriptures' authority, over and against Roman Catholicism's belief in the authority of the Pope and ecclesiastical tradition. It should be remembered that is principally a relative statement (ie scripture alone is sufficient, relative to scripture alongside or beneath ecclesiastical authority). Wrenched out its original context and placed as a stand alone maxim, *sola scriptura* becomes a logical contradiction (ie if scripture is the only authority, then why are we appealing to the extra theological statement *sola scriptura* to verify scripture's authority?) Of course this stand-alone literal interpretation of *sola scriptura* renders all God-talk implausible, because only the bible can speak—nothing or no one else. Thus, logical consistency demands the stand-alone maxim *prima scriptura* more precisely allows for Scripture to claim the place of primary authority, whilst creating space for any theological discussion. However, *sola scriptura* is a theological term that over time has become loaded with meaning, which extends beyond the limits of its literal interpretation, and encompasses the aforementioned suggestion anyway.

However, my concern is this: within the Reformation faith, which established itself on a rejection of the primacy of human tradition, is there now an undiscerning drift back towards a reliance on human tradition? Many new adherents of the Reformed faith may not appreciate the nuanced thinking that went into its theological development. Reformers like Calvin would have never appealed to theological tradition as the primary means of establishing their case for the primacy of scripture; they saw scripture as self-authenticating. Whilst to the uninitiated, saying that the Bible is the primary authority, because the Bible says it is the primary authority is a logical fallacy, it is nevertheless a truly consistent position to hold. The Reformation movement fought to supplant the authority of the Pope and church tradition (the old boss). We must be very careful not to make the same mistake again by appealing principally to the tradition of the *sola scriptura* (the new boss) as the grounds for claiming that scripture is the primary authority.

Now I understand what the well-meaning blogger intended, however uncritical thinking on critical issues like this may subject us, albeit unwittingly, to a new and unexpected form of human authority—our own tradition!

But we won't get fooled again... will we?

Rowland Lowther





**"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means, "God with us".**

**Matthew 1:23**

We wish our readers a happy, holy Christmas season and thank you for your support and contributions during the year.



## The journey from southern Sudan

by Derek Bound



EACH SUNDAY a quiet young Sudanese slips into a pew in the Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church. His name is Angelo Phaltang. Few know his incredible story of deliverance.

Angelo was born in the Sudd Swamp, 40 kilometres west of the Nile in Southern Sudan, when the second Civil War was raging.

Leer, the small town where Angelo grew up, was built around a pioneer Presbyterian Mission Station and Mission Hospital which had been attacked several times. Many civilians died, women were raped, villages and towns burnt to the ground, cattle and other animals stolen. The scorched earth policy of the Khartoum Government was in full swing.

"My life began as a disaster", said Angelo. "I was born at a time of terrible suffering in our land. My family, like many others, was trying to live our lives as normally as possible and serve God as best we could. But life was very difficult."

On a fatal Sunday in 1998, Angelo had gone to support a small Presbyterian church plant at Payak on the outskirts of the town. That

night when the bombs were dropped there were screams and shouts from every direction as the grass-roofed huts caught fire and the light from the flames exposed the terrified townsfolk to the hidden enemy. People ran for their lives. Among them, were 10-year-old Angelo, his 13-year-old sister Maria and his 8-year-old brother Samuel.

Daylight found them deep in the malaria and crocodile infested swamp where they were able to attach themselves to a group with some adult refugees. They ate whatever they could find.

Sometimes they were able to catch fish or villagers gave of their meagre substance. Other days they were able to find some fruit and on lean days they ate leaves. "We recognized we needed God's help, protection and direction along the way. We had no weapons. We were very vulnerable! But God answered our prayers", Angelo recalled.

After walking nearly 500 kilometres, they were picked up by a UN relief convoy, registered and sent on to the UN Kakuma Refugee Camp in Northern Kenya where they remained from 1998 to 2004.

While in Kakuma, the potential of Angelo and Maria was recognized by some of the foreign aid workers and so they were personally sponsored to boarding schools around Kitale.

In the meantime Angelo's elder brother had made it to Australia in 2002 and started the process to get his brothers and sister into the country. He was finally successful and they moved to Australia in 2007.

Angelo graduated with a Master's degree in Commerce from Queensland University this year; Maria is studying for a Bachelor of Nursing at the Australian Catholic University; and Samuel is studying for a Bachelor of Engineering at Queensland University of Technology.

Today they are part of a Sudanese Nuer congregation which meets each Sunday afternoon at Coopers Plains. Angelo also regularly attends Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church. He captains a Nuer Sudanese soccer team, which is in a local competition.

Angelo asks, "Where do you put your trust?" Most people in Australia, he says, put their trust in themselves. They rely on their own resources. "But", says Angelo, "it is better to rely on God! For sooner or later your own resources will not be sufficient."

"I have learnt that there is a purpose in whatever happens in life. Sometimes we don't know what that purpose is, but if we trust in God He will see us through."

Staying in close fellowship with a Christian church is also important, Angelo believes. "I saw little of my parents while I was growing up. Sharing in the fellowship of the church shaped my life for the better."

"There are many problems Sudanese face in adjusting to Australian life. Being part of a good church can really make a difference. Sudanese should not only attend a service in their own language but should become active in an Australian church so the young people can adjust more easily to the secular culture."



The theme was *Mr Chef* and every day the children cooked something to take home

## Stand back and watch God work

by Rob Johnson, Session Clerk

HERE AT Charleville we have been running a holiday kids' club for the past few years in the September school holidays with the substantial help of Wes and Di Fittel.

And by substantial, I mean they turn up here the day before with the program all sorted out, with plays and puppets, stories, music, crafts and numerous other bits and pieces. Pretty much all we have to do is provide some leaders and a tribe of kids.

Though at the end of the week we are all pretty worn out, realistically we've had it pretty easy thanks to Wes and Di.

Well, the easy life came to a screaming halt on Thursday, 19 September, this year, Wes rang me to say that Di was too sick to come and he didn't think we could run the program without her, and could we call it off.

I talked with the other elders. We decided it was too late to call it off as we would have kids turning up because we had no way of contacting them. So with much prayer, and a fair amount of trepidation, we set about putting something together.

Now this is where the difference comes in. The non-Christian would say it was all our effort or we were just lucky. But as Christians, we know luck has nothing to do with it. It is God providing good things for His church and His people.

Les [chappy] was at a meeting in Brisbane and was able to meet with a colleague from Scripture Union who gave him 30 work books and a quick lesson in how to use them.

So we combined these with some DVDs, kids' songs by Colin Buchanan, craft from different sources; and God gave us the most wonderful group of children who were a joy to work with.

We had 12 children the first day. By Wednesday we were up to 23. Then on Friday night about two-thirds of the children came along to a barbecue and brought their parents and siblings to hear them sing, receive awards and taste the desserts the children had prepared under the supervision of our two 80-year-old young cooks.

Some of the parents and grandparents tell us the kids are still singing the songs they learnt.

And another mother told me that she had enjoyed eating chocolate crackles. I said I was surprised that any of them made it home for her to taste. "No", she said, "they didn't - the kids wanted to make them again at home".

You see the theme for the week with Wes and Di's program was *Mr Chef* and that appeared on all our posters and enrolment forms. So thanks to our two young 80-year-old cooks, each day the children cooked something different and got to take it home [except as a rule nothing ever made it home].

Looking back now, it is uplifting to see how God has worked here to turn a catastrophe into a raging success as He so often does.

From the resources and the wonderful group of children He gave us, to the training, knowledge and skills we gained from working with Wes and Di over the past few years, it truly was a joy to watch a generous God provide for His people.

It just goes to show, the kids don't need to be running around everywhere madly to have fun; and you don't have to be young or fit [our leaders ranged from a fat 55-year-old to an 80-year-old] to have a good relationship and work with children. You just have to be willing to put God in control.

## Pray, Live, Serve .... but do you want to be great?

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

A COUPLE of years ago, I spoke at Missions Convention in Perth. The theme of the convention was 'Cross-cultural relationships and teamwork', so I chose as my text, "... Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant..." (Mark 10: 43).

It's a hard verse. It's hard to read and it's hard to do.

As soon as I wrote it down, I began to wonder. Do I want to be great? Do I want to be a great writer or speaker or missionary or team member or wife or parent or witness? Do I want my work to be great and my ministry to be fruitful? I wonder...

And then I think about teams and relationships and the way it all works out in practice, especially when our interactions reflect our inner desires.

James and John must have wanted to be great. That's why they came to Jesus with the question. Or maybe they just wanted to know how they were doing in comparison to everyone else. Were they doing okay as disciples?

Back then, they wouldn't have had any work reviews or reward points or pay rises, so maybe they were just fishing for some reassurance from Jesus.

And Jesus said to them, 'if you want to be great, be the servant of all'.

One of the reasons that verse strikes me is that in Nepal, the concept of servanthood is common.

Most families have younger members serving in the household, and offices have lower caste staff members taking on that role.

And the thing that strikes me about the servants is their attitude, far more than their actual work.

It's not just that they clean up the crumbs, it's the way they do it. They're thankful and humble and considerate. They're grateful that they have work and they can buy rice. They're teachable and respectful. They know who they are, and that without that work, they'd be on the streets, starving. That's why they're grateful. That's why they serve.

It reminds me that it doesn't matter what work we're involved in - whether we're writing the next 5-year plan for the biggest mission organization in Australia or wiping up the crumbs, we're to have the attitude of a servant.

We're to remember who we are in Christ and who we would have been today if Jesus hadn't died in our place - we would have been on the streets, perishing.

And it's only in remembering God's mercy to us that we're thankful and grateful and considerate ... and we get

out of bed, wanting to serve.

*Lord, help us this week to desire Your honour, rather than our own. And in desiring Your honour, help us to serve, genuinely. Amen*

[Naomi Reed is a returned missionary, author and speaker. Her five popular books and an audio book (*The Promise*) are available at good bookshops. For more information, go to [www.NaomiReed.info](http://www.NaomiReed.info) or join 'My Seventh Monsoon' on Facebook.]



Children enjoying the activities



# God is in control

**God is good ... I am anchored in Him.  
When the storms of life come, I am anchored in Him.**



Joy (Andrew's mother) and Andrew in ICU at the PA Hospital two days after the accident

SOMETIMES I wish I had a crystal ball so that I could be prepared for all of life's surprises.

On the other hand, I think it is best that I don't know. If I saw all the challenges life had in store for me I wouldn't have married, completed a degree, made friends, joined a church, entered the work force or had children.

I don't know anyone who hasn't been scarred from life, who hasn't made sacrifices, been betrayed, been judged, felt misunderstood or felt shame, heartache, pain and despair. Who would want to approach life aware of all the difficulties they will face? Life is painful!

However, I believe that pain also enhances life. If I never experience life's pain, then how can I understand forgiveness, love, gratitude, perseverance, humility, faith and hope? These are the treasures of life that really matter.

These treasures are not acquired from our own efforts; it cannot be fulfilled with a new house, the latest model car, good clothes, a large number of friends, qualifications, wealth or prestige. Such things do not last and can be changed in an instant, such as when you are run over by a car!

Suffering reminds us of how NOT in control we are, how powerless we are, how we ultimately need a Saviour in our life. The good news is God sent His Son for the merciful purpose of saving us. There is nothing that we can face that He hasn't faced and overcome. Life happens, but God gives us His strength to overcome. God is in control.

-o-o-o-

29 August 2011 started like any other week day.

Andrew woke early to go for his morning walk before work while the kids and I got ready for work and school. We weren't aware that 'normal' ended for us within minutes of Andrew starting his walk.

Heaviness settled on me when Andrew was late, when he didn't reply to his text messages, and when the paramedic finally answered my phone calls.

As I answered the paramedic's questions, it was surreal - to say the least - and the phone call ended with her saying, 'Call a friend to drive you to the hospital. It's not good.'

I didn't know whether Andrew would be recognisable, if he would be in pain, or if he would still be alive when I got to the hospital, so I decided to send the kids to school and face the unknown with my friend. It was a daunting drive.

When I got there the nurses were finishing connecting him to machines. I had called family and they were on their way. Andrew looked so peaceful - no blood, no obvious breakages, just sleeping deeply. It wasn't long before family arrived and I was looking at scans and x-rays while listening to doctors explain the injuries and the action plan.

Andrew's injuries consisted of multiple bleeds to the brain, two spinal fractures, pelvic fractures and a shattered lower left leg.

The waiting game began - will he pull through ICU? Will he respond to stimuli? Will he have significant brain damage? It seemed every step forward was followed by two steps backward.

Operations and procedures on his leg interrupted the progress. The swelling in his lower leg required his calf to be cut each side to relieve the pressure. His shin required a metal rod to be inserted from his knee to his ankle. Family and friends faithfully rallied around - sharing, helping, praying and hoping all would be well.

ICU became a safe place where you knew that someone was watching over the person you love every minute of the day and night. You trusted the doctors and admired the nurses, volunteers, social workers and therapists for their care, compassion and dedication.

During Andrew's last day in ICU it was decided a tracheotomy was required until Andrew could breathe well enough on his own. The procedure was done and Andrew progressed to the next ward, 2C.

This stage of recovery was difficult as it was becoming evident that the brain injury was severe.

I remember feeling overwhelmed and frustrated as I tried to make sense

of his scrambled brain and jumbled words. I had to learn to read his body language to know when he was in pain, wanting to go to the toilet or just feeling frustrated.

He didn't know how to use the nurse call button and couldn't string words together to make a sentence, resulting in communication breakdown between himself and the nurses.

Family took turns to sit by his bed, engage him in conversation, practise therapy exercises and advocate for him.

It was a long three weeks before he was eventually able to be moved to the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit (BIRU).

Another step forward, another adjustment required. At the beginning of Andrew's stay in BIRU there were obvious gaps with his language, processing speed and memory. All up Andrew was in Post Traumatic Amnesia (PTA) for 71 days.

His days consisted of physio, OT and speech therapy. BIRU was a place where the patients displayed their visual injuries such as operative scars, disfigurements and physical disabilities, as well as their psychological and emotional injuries.

There were confused people who wandered the ward looking for their room and their elusive bed. They would mistake people who they didn't know for someone they were married to, or friendly with. Some were aggressive, physically lashing out at others, arguing, refusing to follow set routine; while others were overcome with emotions, regularly crying and feeling grieved by the whole situation.

This was the place that we had to leave Andrew, with locked doors, emphasising the separation and reinforcing the heartache we all felt every time we left him.

Andrew's nursing knowledge and positive disposition helped him make peace with being in such a place, knowing that this was a time for healing and rehabilitation.

With the help of dedicated and compassionate staff, in conjunction with Andrew's hard work, he made progress in his cognitive functions and physical abilities. It was a joy to see him progress from wheel chair, to walker, to walking stick and eventually to walking un-aided.

Nine months after leaving the hospital, Andrew still receives regular therapy at home.

He is able to use strategies to help him to remember appointments, tasks and errands.

He doesn't remember who he was before the accident and this has impacted on his relationship with myself and the kids.

Every day Andrew has to come to terms with the fact that he has a brain injury, just as the rest of us have to come to terms with the fact that the old Andrew we knew hasn't returned yet.

Andrew is still waiting for operations to fix extra bone growth on his knee as a result of the leg injury. In December 2012, he had an eye operation which has made a huge difference to his double vision. The

saying in our house is 'one day at a time'.

At the very start of this journey, while Andrew was in the accident and emergency ward, I was informed that the person who hit Andrew was a 19-year-old male driver on a provisional licence. It was six months before the boy's licence was suspended.

A year after the accident, I attended his sentencing where it was confirmed that the boy was driving under the influence of marijuana and meth at the time of the accident.

He was charged with dangerous operation of a vehicle causing grievous bodily harm, while adversely affected by an intoxicating substance. He was given a four year sentence suspended after serving twelve months in custody.

**THIS IS A LETTER THAT STACY AND ANDREW WROTE TO THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCIDENT:**

*I need to tell you that I'm sad that I haven't received a letter of apology from you as the judge instructed. It is the right thing to do - to say sorry to someone you've hurt - so I wondered why you haven't done this yet. I'm hoping it's because you feel overwhelmed by the whole situation and just don't know how 'sorry' could ever make things right ... like it's meaningless.*

*Well if that's the case, I just want to let you know that it isn't meaningless but will benefit both of us. It will mean something to us personally while at the same time help you to come to own the consequences of your actions ... being brave enough to face the reality. I hope that you find the courage.*

*My husband and I know that we may never hear from you but we need to tell you something very important. We often think of you and pray for you. We pray that you have the strength to change your ways in order to live a purposeful life. Regardless of your gaol time, you are young and still have a wealth of opportunity and experiences ahead of you. Don't waste them. If you can sort yourself out - and we believe that you can - you have the potential to positively influence so many young boys like yourself and turn this whole thing into a win.*

*We want you to win. We want to release you to be free. We choose not to hold any grievances against you, and ask you not to use what has happened to us as an excuse to pull yourself down and give up on life. That would be the worst thing you could do.*

*We hope to hear from you, but if we don't, we wish you all the best.*

**Strengthened in Christ  
Stacy and Andrew**



Andrew, Dianne Parker and Sjoerd Hesling at work in the Presbyterian archives



# ICU Hope Bags



ON THE second anniversary of my husband's accident, 29 August 2013, our family delivered 200 hope bags to the ICU at The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Our car was crammed with packing boxes, buckets and crates - all containing hope bags bulging with all sorts of goodies.

It was a challenge to get all the boxes, buckets and crates from the car to ICU and I am sure that even the ICU volunteers, social workers and nurses were wondering where everything would be stored.

Our family sat in the familiar waiting room and we chatted excitedly, laughed and hugged our guests as they arrived. Not the behaviour you would expect to find in the waiting room of ICU!

Our family, my parents, Andrew's family, friends and work colleagues joined the hospital staff on the balcony in celebration of the launch of the hope bags.

Speeches were given, stories were told and tears were shed.

It was the most beautiful morning.

-o-o-o-

This project has given me purpose and direction at a time when I became a stranger to my own life.

At a time when nothing made sense, time had no relevance and days had no boundaries, such a project gave me purpose, a spark, a voice.

The project itself has empowered me to be bold, humble, grateful and to feel truly blessed.

The idea of the hope bags came about through a friend of mine who gave me a gift bag while Andrew was in ICU.

This gift bag contained a magazine, lip balm (organic certified!), a beautiful hard-covered note book, a pen and mints.

I took this bag to the hospital every day and felt so thankful to have it. This seemingly small gift became invaluable to me. I hope you feel as blessed by the bag as I felt.

The brochure was in response to the path we had to take (ICU, 2C, BIRU, QCAT, lawyers, rehabilitation) which left me feeling like a pinball in a pinball machine. I know I can't change your path but I hope to shine a light on it so that you do not feel like you are lost in the dark.

It has been such a wonderful experience constructing this project. I personally wouldn't have been able to finance all the items in the hope bags and needed to think creatively how to pull it off.

Although there are obviously ulterior motives, the solicitors that contributed to the hope bags have been so supportive and easy to deal

with. Discounts and vouchers were provided by McDonalds, Subway, Red Rock Noodle Bar and local coffee shops who didn't hesitate to provide practical support.

On one hand, I am experiencing the consequences of one person's selfish and reckless actions; while on the other hand, I see the generosity and support of community.

By nature I am an independent task-orientated person and have been guilty of not allowing others to help me in my life.

Maybe it is because I struggle when people do not see things as I do, or I don't want to be let down by others and shield myself from being disappointed or hurt.

It is amazing how we see things so differently when outside of our comfort zones.

I got so far. I had all the items in the hope bags covered. Although they were provided by other people, I could organise it myself. When it came to making the hope bags, I quickly realised that, due to financial restraints, I would not be able to make 200 bags or print the brochures. I knew that I would have to ask for help. This would leave me vulnerable.

I called our pastor and asked him if I could ask the congregation for help and half expected him to say no. Funny enough, he said 'yes!' I stood before the church and shared my vision and passion for this project and humbly asked people to contribute material or money towards it.

I fear that I will not do justice in explaining the enormity of people's generosity.

The same morning I shared, I had to leave early to take my daughter to work. I came back to pick up the rest of the family to go to a lunch date. When I arrived back at church my husband had \$200 cash in his pocket. Another lady came and gave me \$50. Three women were waiting to meet with me to offer their assistance in making the bags; all up I added seven names to my phone that morning. As I was walking to the car, another member of our church spoke about a friend's company possibly printing a logo on the bags.

During the week our pastor had decided to open an account just for the hope bags because the response was so strong and people still wanted to contribute. Through people's own experiences, they see the value in uniting to make a difference in the lives of others.

I hope that you know people are praying for you. I hope that you know that you are not alone. I hope you will be vulnerable enough to allow people to help you. I hope you will know a comfort beyond understanding. I hope....I hope....I hope.



ICU Nurse Braddon Cummins and Social Worker Angela Tonge receive the delivery of hope from former patient Andrew Lewis and his wife Stacy

I recently heard a sermon by Tullian Tchividjian from the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church. His message is one that strengthens me when I feel like no one else understands the magnitude of our family's struggles as a result of the accident.

I mean to say, how many people really understand the following:

- \* Losing a husband that is still with us;
- \* Feeling like a single parent;
- \* Seeing the children struggle to adjust;
- \* Waiting for a breakthrough in finances as we continue to wait for the CTP claim;
- \* Knowing the perpetrator has been released from gaol while we are still in this mess;
- \* Being handed over to the debt collectors because you can't pay your taxes;
- \* Reporting to QCAT!!!!

Tullian's message is one that I will continue to reflect on throughout my life.

One of the disciples said to Nathanael, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph". Nathanael's reply was, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Nazareth was the Tennant Creek of Australia! Would you expect anything of great significance to come from Tennant Creek?

It is a question we can ask in every part of our life that is unpromising. Can anything good come from this situation? Can any good come from loss? Can any good come from loneliness? Can anything good come from this accident?

The answer is 'yes!'

Jesus knows I am overwhelmed,

exhausted, struggling, because He comes from there. He is from Nazareth. Our sin and pain is God's home town. God Himself is from there and can be found in insignificant, meaningless, fruitless places. He knows the valley.

Throughout the whole New Testament we see Jesus in the midst of people's mess, pain, suffering and hopelessness. He identifies with us because He has been there and made a way through.

My hope is in a God who identifies and comes beside us in our pain and leads us through.

Regardless of our situation, I walk in His blessing and peace. I am blessed by such wonderful and supportive family, a few good friends, a good church and great teaching.

Let us approach His throne with confidence so that we may receive mercy and grace.

[Stacy, Andrew and family attend Impact Church, Slacks Creek. The information for this story was taken from Stacy's blog which can be found at [www.2bhere4u.wordpress.com](http://www.2bhere4u.wordpress.com)]



The Lewis family - Samuel (15), Haley (17), Andrew, Stacy, Sophie (13)

## An update ...

TWO YEARS on, Andrew said, "God is trying to teach me who is in control. I have found great comfort in reading the books of Job and Ecclesiastes.

"Special verses have been Ecclesiastes 9:4, *Anyone who is among the living has hope - even a live dog is better off than a dead lion* and Job 2:4-6, *"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."*

"I understand what Job was experiencing when everything was

taken from him. But I also know that God can come in and perform an immediate about face and in the end Job had far more than he started with. I'm not expecting it, but know that God is able to do it."

Andrew's daughter Haley said, "Through this whole experience, I have never once heard a negative word out of Dad. After all he had to go through, all the pain, the treatments, being left at the hospital while we went home, he never once asked, 'why did this happen to me?'. He always said, 'God is good'."

Andrew continues to have 1-1/2 hours a fortnight of both occupational therapy and speech therapy. The bone

around his knee continues to grow and until such time as that stops, he is unable to have the necessary operation which will relieve the pain.

Andrew works in the Presbyterian Church Archives every Thursday and for PresCare at Helenvale on Tuesdays. He enjoys playing chess on the internet with people from all over the world and is back walking around the neighbourhood.

"It's all about attitude" is something you hear Andrew say often ... and his attitude, and that of his wife and children, is an inspiration to all who meet them.

God is good.



Lyn and John Kimbel (Stacy's mother and father) with Andrew and Stacy



# Three generations of authors



Three generations - David Bennett, Kaden Stringer, Lynne Stringer

David Bennett and his family are living proof that skills can be passed from generation to generation.

David, who attends Creek Road Presbyterian Church, began writing professionally in 1985 when his first book, *William Booth and the Salvation Army*, was released. Since then, he has had fifteen books published, with sales of nearly 60,000 copies. Earlier this year his *William Booth* book was republished, and he has just signed a contract on a book about test cricketer and Christian missionary, CT Studd.

While David's books are usually biographies or theological books, his

daughter, Lynne Stringer, had her debut novel published in June this year. Called *The Heir*, it is a young adult, science fiction romance and is the first book in the Verindon Trilogy. The second book in the series, *The Crown*, is due out in November.

If that wasn't enough of an indication that the writing gene had been passed on, Lynne's son, seven-year-old Kaden, recently won a class award for creative writing.

"Writing, to me, is a passion," said David. "Whenever I think about retiring, I write something else. Lynne seems to have inherited this love of writing from me."

"I write because something inside me says I have to," said Lynne. "There's a real drive to do it. I believe it's God's gift to our family, and one that has been passed on. I can tell my son enjoys it as much as we do."

"I think it's a common thing with authors. The passion is there and it's obviously being passed on, in our family at least!"

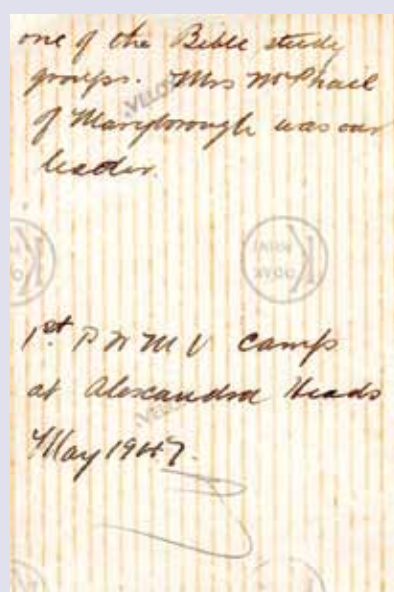
For more information on David's books visit [www.williamandcatherinebooth.com](http://www.williamandcatherinebooth.com) or visit [www.verindon.com](http://www.verindon.com) to find out about Lynne's books.



## CAN ANYONE HELP?

This photograph was recently sent to Archives and we are hoping that someone will be able to identify the ladies. It was taken at the first PWMU camp at Alexandra Headland in 1947. If you are able to help, please email [archives@pcq.org.au](mailto:archives@pcq.org.au) or contact Dianne or Lynda on 3251 4100.

If anyone has significant old photographs relating to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, the Archives would be happy to receive them (or copies of them) for its records. Any names and dates which would help identify them would also be appreciated. Copies can also be sent to Archives. These will be scanned and returned immediately.



Graeme Goldsworthy talks about Biblical Theology to students and guests at QTC

## QTC welcomes back Graeme Goldsworthy

QTC STUDENTS and guests had the privilege of hearing from respected theologian Graeme Goldsworthy on 28 October about his life's work in the field of Biblical Theology.

A former part-time member of Faculty at QTC (then the 'Presbyterian Theological Hall'), Graeme is the author of such books as *According to Plan* and *Gospel and Kingdom* and has had a significant impact on the way the Bible is taught in Australia and around the world.

He did a great job of emphasising his Presbyterian 'roots' and 'credentials' (as a former locum at St John's Annerley!)

In the first session, Graeme outlined the development of 'Biblical Theology' in Australia in particular, focusing on the influence of Donald Robinson, a teacher at Moore Theological College and subsequently Archbishop of Sydney.

Graeme also gave the background to his own 'journey' in Biblical Theology, including the development of courses for local church members during his 14 years on staff at St Stephen's

Coorparoo.

In the second main session, Graeme offered a range of 'reflections on Biblical Theology'. His passion for the gospel and commitment to reading all of Scripture as pointing to and fulfilled in Christ came across clearly, not only in his teaching, but also in a wealth of illustrations from his wide-ranging and significant ministry experience.

It was also in this session that he revealed (much to the Principal's delight), that his mother was Irish! In the final session, Gary Millar then joined his new-found Irish brother on stage for an extended conversation which focused on the importance of teaching the Old Testament, the legitimacy of making moral application from the Old Testament as long as it is set in a 'gospel framework' and a range of Biblical Theological issues raised by the audience.

All at QTC were delighted to welcome back one of its most famous 'sons' for what was a rich and highly engaging day.



Graeme Goldsworthy (centre) chatting to Andrew Bain (left) and Gary Millar (right)

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# FEATURE TRACKS

An update from the PIM

## PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

### DIRT, DUST AND DROUGHT ... BUT NOT DESPERATION

#### Roger and Margaret Crane amongst cattle stations and cattle people

We all know the general rule that you don't kick a man when he is down. It is generally accepted among pastoralists in this part of the world that the live cattle export ban (they would call it a debacle), knocked them down. It was not just anti-Canberra sentiment in the bush. It was genuine deep down righteous anger at what, to them, was a totally ill-considered decision made by those who were a long way away from the realities of the situation. Many of those same pastoralists would claim that the drought, on top of all that, is just too much. When you think of the situation, things just don't seem to sit right. This opens the door to a discussion on "...How can a loving, caring God...?" and so it goes. Everybody seems to want to blame God for the bad. To ask if they ever thank God for the good things is to tread into dangerous territory and it is sure to evoke some animated responses! Gently we take the opportunity to point out that God often uses the bad, to cause us to appreciate the good.

Into this situation PIM seeks to bring fresh air. The extra storage space on the vehicle means we can bring all sorts of little gifts and books (including His Word) to those who have little about which to smile in the current circumstances. We are looking forward to functions in Townsville when we will be given Christmas cooking and gifts to distribute as we travel. It is a pity that those in Townsville cannot see the faces of the recipients as the gifts are delivered!

What are some of the practical realities out here in the North Patrol? There are many times when the camera is just not adequate to convey the scenes of hectare after hectare of dust. It is easy to blame the lack of rain and think that that is all

there is to it. Sadly some of the damage is self inflicted where there has been overstocking in the good years.

Consider the man who fences off his dams in the dry times and installs a pump to run the water into a trough. The other option is to run the risk of weak cattle walking out towards the water, breaking through the fragile crust, and getting bogged. The bore runner, whose job it is to check these troughs and dams two or three times a week, carries a rifle for such occasions. That is quicker and kinder than the crows

A dam is dry so you send the young ringer out with the digger, the value of which would be measured in six figures, to clean out the dam, and he approaches the job with enthusiasm. All goes well until, with minimal warning the right hand front wheel disappears from view below the apparently firm surface. Six hours later, with the grader attached to the dozer attached to the digger it is extricated. Back at the shed the owner demonstrates the use of the high pressure sprayer to blast off the mud, hands' the sprayer to the young bloke and says "See you tonight!"

Most properties have a small patch of green grass around the house. It is much like an oasis in the desert when you come home at night. It can be debilitating for the wife to live in dust and dirt all day long and the grass does help to keep the dust down just a little bit. You also soon discover that it is discreet to slow to a walking pace about 200+ metres from the house. Perhaps the most concise sign we have seen - "Dust Sux!" - makes things very clear.

Many people are feeding hay, protein lick, cotton seed and molasses to keep the stock alive. The law of supply and demand however means that the prices

of such items are going through the roof but what is the alternative. To take animals off such things in a hurry can have detrimental consequences but with supplies running low, those same people find themselves between a rock and a hard place! The financial problems don't just stop there. There is really little option to boarding School, especially in the secondary years and the fees are a huge cost. In the towns the storekeepers are helping as much as they can but lines of credit do have their limits. Sadly, in several instances the banks have stepped in and have foreclosed on some properties. Welcome to life in the bush!

Despite it all, the overall the attitude out here is positive - if you hang in there for long enough the rain will come and every day brings it one day closer! People are learning to watch out for



their neighbours and are always ready to help when and where they can. For us this can often mean the discernment to know when an invitation to stay the night is, in reality, a request to stay. When times are hard and visitors are few a night's company can be so appreciated, and we need Godly wisdom as to when and how to speak out His Word on such occasions.

Please pray for the Christians on the properties. Few and far between they may be, but they are there, they are

faithful in their witness, and they are much in prayer for those around them. Right now the physical fields are certainly not ripe for harvest but the people surely are - and there is a major lack of ministers in the area! We are thankful for the privilege of being His messengers in these trying times.



### GETTING READY TO GO

#### Latest PIM workers, the Alsop's prepare in earnest



shared experiences and found that we had gone through similar ups and downs in our Christian walks.

We rejoice to have definitely experienced the power of God in the way events have transpired while in England on holiday, on our return here to Australia as we prepare for our first patrol in November. Pray with us: for guidance as we take up PIM work for the first time; for the ability to cope with Summer heat; and for rain in the huge area of central Queensland we cover.

On return from holidays in England, David flew to Dubbo (NSW) and collected the PIM Land Cruiser and Camper Trailer which we will be using for the time being in the Central Patrol. He drove back to the Brisbane area where Kathy was staying with family.

We broke our journey from Brisbane to Biloela at Dalby and spent some worthwhile time with Greg and Janet Cripps of the South Patrol. They have only been in the work for just over 6 months but are "experienced" compared with us! We picked up many useful ideas from Greg and Janet that we may be able to use in our ministry. We valued our time of sharing, relating many





## LAURIE AND GWEN PEAKE

### Faithfully sharing God's love over the years in the Leichhardt Patrol

We aim to be on patrol 8 times a year, (over 2-3 days at a time), which enables us to visit each property in our area, twice a year. We are fairly flexible as to when we go, to fit in our farm work and local congregational ministry.

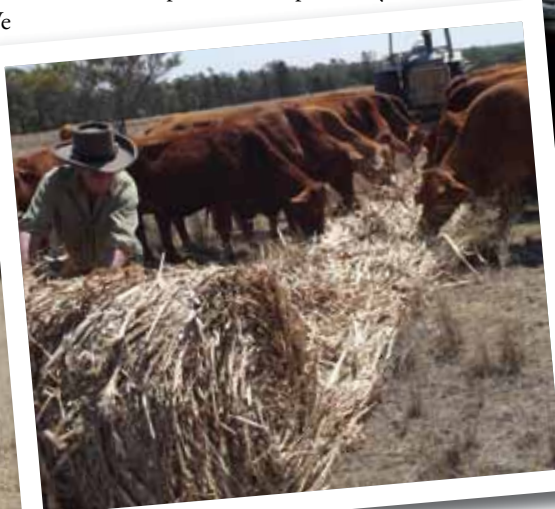
As we set out, we were again made conscious that within our patrol was a rapidly developing Coal Seam Gas field. A very large new power line quickly brought this home to us. All along the way, we saw men at work digging trenches and laying huge gas pipes to complete the line that will carry this gas to Gladstone for liquification and export by 2015. Accommodation camps are springing up everywhere to house workers numbered in the thousands that are putting it all together. Unfortunately these men are working up to 12 hours a day for 28 days straight before having 10 days off. In our view of the 10

Commandments this is immoral. Sadly, this CSG project is rightly nicked named "the Marriage Breaker". Because of the hours the miners are working, there is no opportunity for us to make contact with them. This whole project is a big worry for graziers who fear the serious possibility of the ruination of our Great Artesian Basin leaving us without this vital natural water resource for our cattle. Much of our talk on Patrol with those we visited was around this issue and also having to deal with gas companies which they find extremely tedious.

We wended our way through stops signs and mining works, travelling 300 kms in our two days and visiting 19 properties with 5 owners absent. We found several opportunities to lend a helping hand as drought takes hold of our area. We helped

one lady take a tilly load of cotton seed to feed drought affected stock, helping her to shovel it into all manner of containers including hollow logs, old bath tubs and ½ 44 gal drums. It gave us an opportunity to extend love and support to her in these difficult times. On another property we helped a couple feed heifers which have been selected as future breeders a gourmet meal of hay, straw, cotton seed meal and molasses. Then we loaded a round bale of hay onto the tractor and took it up the paddock and rolled it out to feed the rest of the herd as they came running for their hay.

On a few occasions we were able to read the Scriptures accompanied by Our



Daily bread which we left with the folk, inviting them to follow the practice of daily readings. This is an important aim of our patrol work. A grandfather and mother were most appreciative of my gospel presentation to their grandson



who was visiting them, helping them out through the school holidays. A great lad, a willing worker and willing to give serious thought to the weighty matters of life. Along the way we discussed the venue and program for a Christmas service which are planning to hold in this outside veranda situation at the start of December. We are also

planning 3 other Christmas services in our patrol area.

Join us as we pray: that many people we visit will attend the Christmas and other services held from time to time; for much needed rain; for harmony between farmers and mine workers; for spiritual fruit for our labours to give us the will to keep on going on.

## MALLINSON MISSION ACCOMPLISHED...

### At the Mt. Isa Church...

We have concluded of our three months with the Mount Isa Church and the North Australia Patrol. It has been a fruitful time with the folk in Mount Isa as we have encouraged, and been encouraged in the Lord.

We have participated in the regular Bible Study and commenced a Young Adults Study on Friday evenings. A Church member has taken leadership on our departure. The men met for a scrumptious breakfast and talk, while the ladies were encouraged at a morning tea. Our 4 wheel drives were thoroughly tested on a church adventure barbecue day around some of the old mine areas. Before we left, we held a PIM partnership night, showing the PIM

Centenary DVD and praying for the ministry to those in isolated areas of our vast continent. We have also been able to meet with many of the Church folk in their homes and attended to the requirements of Session and Committee. Living in the Caravan Park for the period has enabled us to 'speak a word in season' to the many enquirers including Park staff. We had some interesting talks with one young couple travelling round 'OZ' and they joined us for worship before they went on their way. As with last year when we were in the Kimberley, the PIM signs on our car and van have attracted many comments and questions. Two new young families have attended worship and showed

interest in joining the fellowship through these contacts.

### ...and in the North Australia Patrol

Our Patrol involvement has been on days not spent with the ministry to the Church. Building on previous work by Roger and Margaret Crane, we have had successful visits to some properties and called on many others. Our travels took us to west to Camooweal, south to Boulia, south west to Urundangie and north to Adels Grove. The properties visited are located in the third of the North Australia Patrol which lies within Queensland.

## 2013 PATROLS COMPLETED

**Thank you Greg and Janet** PIM workers Greg and Janet Cripps have returned to their other 'job' – working on their property near Dalby after completing their first set of patrols.

## PATROL IN CAPE YORK?

**Call for prayer** Prayer is requested for wisdom concerning the revival of Patrol work in Cape York. Please join the PIM in asking the Lord for his direction, guidance and will in this matter and the future potential of conducting a fifth PIM Patrol in remote and outback Queensland.

## PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

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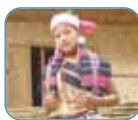
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## APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2013

THIS CHRISTMAS WHY NOT GIVE GIFTS TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND AT THE SAME TIME HELP SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE BASICS THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED? THE ITEMS BELOW CAN PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF CHRISTIANS AND OTHERS IN OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN MYANMAR AND EAST TIMOR. ALL GIFTS WILL BE CHANNELLED THROUGH OUR PARTNER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.



### MOSQUITO NET (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$6 will enable a child to sleep safely from mosquitoes which can cause malaria or dengue fever.



### BLANKET (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$6 will provide a blanket for a child in a rural school.



### UMBRELLA (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$6 will provide an umbrella for a child in a rural school.



### BAG OF RICE (MYANMAR OR EAST TIMOR)

A gift of \$20 will provide a bag of rice for a family in East Timor. A gift of \$25 will provide a bag of rice for a family in Myanmar.



### BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$30 will provide book resources for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.



### STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$30 will provide stationery for one rural child in Chin State, Myanmar.



### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ONE CHILD (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$40 will provide educational assistance for one year for a child.



### MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$50 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.



### VITAMINS AND MEDICINES FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$50 will provide vitamins and medicines for a rural village in Chin State.



### GUITAR (EAST TIMOR)

A gift of \$60 will provide a guitar for a rural congregation.



### GOAT OR PIG (EAST TIMOR)

A gift of \$60 will provide a goat or pig for a pastor's family to help them economically.



### GENERATOR FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$300 will provide a generator for use in a rural village in Chin State, Myanmar.



### COMPUTER FOR A BIBLE COLLEGE (MYANMAR)

A gift of \$700 will provide a computer for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.

Please note that while the prices above are correct at the time of printing there are some variations due to inflation overseas and fluctuations in the exchange rate.

[WWW.APWM.ORG.AU](http://WWW.APWM.ORG.AU)

## APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2013 ORDER FORM

### HOW IT WORKS

1. You choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family. Please note that these gifts are **not tax deductible**.
2. Send us your order, including payment. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in East Timor or Myanmar. The card does not state the monetary value of the gift.
3. APWM then sends the money to our partners in East Timor or Myanmar. They will then purchase the gifts locally and distribute them to those in need.

### ORDER FORM / PAYMENTS

Please fill out your details and enclose your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please DO NOT send cash.

If you would like to pay by Direct Deposit the details are:

**Bank:** Westpac

**Account Name:** Australian Presbyterian World Mission

**BSB:** 032 260

**Account #:** 151207

Write your name in the description box and email [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au) informing us of your deposit.

Please mail your order form to:

APWM Christmas Catalogue  
8 Sylvan Grove, Picnic Point NSW 2213 and we will send you the cards you have ordered.

ITEM	QTY	COST
MOSQUITO NET (M) \$6		
BLANKET (M) \$6		
UMBRELLA (M) \$6		
RICE FOR RURAL FAMILY (ET) \$20		
BAG OF RICE (M) \$25		
BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (M) \$30		
STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (M) \$30		
EDUCATION FOR ONE CHILD (M) \$40		
VITAMINS & MEDICINES RURAL VILLAGE (M) \$50		
MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (M) \$50		
GUITAR (ET) \$60		
GOAT OR PIG (ET) \$60		
GENERATOR FOR A RURAL VILLAGE (M) \$300		
COMPUTER FOR A BIBLE COLLEGE (M) \$700		
GENERAL DONATION FOR MYANMAR		
GENERAL DONATION FOR EAST TIMOR		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

☐ I enclose a cheque / money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ or

☐ I have made a Direct Deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please tick here if you do not wish to receive cards and simply want to make a donation for these items

Please note that if any item is over-subscribed then the money will be allocated to a similar need.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## APWM is moving!

God-willing, from January 2014, the APWM National Office will be located within the grounds of the

Presbyterian Theological Centre, Burwood in Sydney. This will enable the Director and office staff to have greater contact with theological students, ministers, elders and church members who visit the PTC. Burwood is a centrally located and so will be very convenient for meetings. Details regarding the phone number and postal addresss will be available later this year. Our web and email details will stay the same. We'll be in the very top of the older building on the corner.



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# Moderator Update

by Hon Greg Rodgers



Hon. Greg Rodgers with his home congregation at Wavell Heights

THE FIRST few months as Moderator have been both a blessing and a challenge. Apart from the monthly Board meetings of Prescare and Fairholme College, I have had the honour of representing the Church at the Annual Law Service, the 150th anniversary of the St Paul's Congregation and the Police Remembrance Day Service. I have also had the opportunity of having lunch with the Principal of

Emmanuel College and morning tea with the staff of Prescare. I have also attended the Speech Nights of Clayfield and Brisbane Boys' College. I have had the privilege of preaching at Ann Street, Wavell Heights and Eatons Hill and I thank the Ministers and Congregations for giving me that honour. Please pray for the continued ministries of these congregations.

In particular

- Ann Street with the pending arrival of the Very Rev. David Jones as their new minister;
- St Paul's as Rev. Andrew Gardiner retires at the end of the year;
- Eatons Hill and Wavell Heights as they serve and minister to their community.

Please pray that the Lord will bless us all as we, as a Church, seek to serve the Lord and 'Go share the Gospel'.



Caloundra PC Session members and wives with Allan and Mairi Harman

## Reformation Weekend Events at Caloundra PC

DR ALLAN and Mrs Mairi Harman were welcome visitors to the Caloundra Presbyterian Church for its Reformation celebrations during the last weekend in October. The Harmans live in retirement in Geelong and Allan is a former Principal of PTC Melbourne and a former Moderator-General of the PCA. Dr Harman was the after-dinner speaker for a Congregational dinner on Saturday evening and spoke of the on-going importance of the rediscovery of the Gospel truth of justification by faith for 21st century Australia. Indeed, our circumstances are very similar to those the Apostolic Church faced in the 1st century AD – we too live in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic society as did the first century Christians. In what may seem to be an increasingly threatening social context, we too should embrace our day as an opportunity for the Gospel and for the Church to

reach out into the market place of 21st century Australia. On Reformation Sunday Dr. Harman preached from Romans 8:1-17 at both morning services, and began by reminding us of the importance of the Book of Romans for Martin Luther's conversion. In particular he spoke of what Luther sometimes referred to as the "Pauline" psalms [Psalms 32, 51, 103, 130 and 143] that find their Gospel fulfilment in Paul's letter to the Romans. But reformation must not only be viewed as an historic event; it must also be viewed as a present and on-going reality for the Church, so Dr Harman underlined for us again the grace of God for our salvation in Christ, and for our Christian walk as the Holy Spirit fulfils His ministry in our lives. We were very grateful for the Harmans' visit and pray the Lord's blessing for their on-going ministries in their retirement years.

## Caloundra PC Mission to Kenya 2014

by Rev. Ian McIver



Rachel Cran, Kirra Shanahan, Josh Shanahan and James Cran fund raising for the Kenya Mission 2014

ONCE AGAIN, in January 2014, a team will be going to Kenya from Caloundra PC. This will be their first visit to Kenya and Africa for five of our team members; the other four are now "old hands" for whom Africa has worked its magic into their hearts. Our team will be led by Ian and Norma McIver and also consists of Margaret Kennedy and Erin Higgins from our 2013 team, along with Erin's mother Irene, Joshua and Kirralee Shanahan, who have had considerable experience on APWM Youth Work Parties in Vanuatu, and James and Rachel Cran. Once again we will be going to the Agape Hope Orphanage in Nairobi, and then to church planting ministries on the western side of the Rift Valley. Our last two days will be spent enjoying a visit to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve before returning

to Nairobi for the flight home. Our team leaves on Monday 20 January and returns on Saturday 15 February. Some readers may be concerned about anyone going to Kenya in the wake of the terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. However, the reality is that there is far more frequent news of violence and gun related massacres in the United States than there ever is in Kenya. Kenya has a history as an ally of the west and the recent attack was related to Kenya's determination to help stamp out terrorism in the horn of Africa by stationing some 5000 troops in Somalia. For that alone Kenya deserves our support. We must count ourselves blessed that, unlike the United States or the United Kingdom or Kenya, so far we have not borne the brunt of terrorism. Long may that continue.

But then the "bottom line" question that we must ask ourselves when we follow the Lord Jesus, Who has promised to be with us "always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20) is, What motivates us as we seek to fulfil His Great Commission? Is it faith in a sovereign God? Or is it fear of a defeated satan? The answer should not be hard to find. As we go to Kenya our team places itself in the hands of a sovereign God. Having said all that, your prayers will be much appreciated. In 2013 we had a strong sense of being surrounded by the Lord's protective love and by the prayers of His people. We pray that we will experience that same protective love as we go in 2014.



Congregational Anniversary Dinner



LtoR: Beryl Ferguson, Laura Scott, Anne McCubben, Carolyn Sturiale, Jacque Davies, Rose Bailey, Ruth Stockdale, Heather Wood (Rene Barton, absent)

This small group of ladies from Burdekin had pleasure in presenting the local SU chaplains with \$750 as a contribution to supporting their valuable work in Burdekin schools. The money was raised by holding a 'Bookfest' on a Saturday in July under the enthusiastic leadership of Ruth Stockdale. Books of all sorts were donated by many folk from Ayr and Home Hill and many from both towns came to look and buy. A small *Friendship Cookery Book* containing recipes that friends delight to share is printed as needed and copies are given to PIM padres, Margaret and Roger Crane based in Charters Towers, to give to women they meet on their outback patrols.





## WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH LORRAINE EASTWELL ABOUT NURTURING OTHERS AND BEING NURTURED HERSELF

**Wendy:** *Welcome Lorraine! It's been a long time since you began your ministry of nurturing other women in their walk with the Lord. How did the idea of "Be Nurtured" start and what were the circumstances that led to its beginning?*

Lorraine: Yes, Wendy. It was in 2000 that the Women's Ministry work was put in place by the State Assembly of our church. Some years before that, women of the church were given the opportunity to spend a weekend away together at the end of Assembly and the first of these PWA Bible study camps was held at Caloundra. This was a reinvention of something that had happened many years previously, but disappeared following church union in 1977. During the year following that first camp, I was invited to be on the committee that arranged such gatherings and I'm still around! I'm not sure when "Be Nurtured" became the catchword for this retreat, but "nurturing" each other was quickly identified as a great need.

**W:** *What have you experienced through this ministry over the years? What are the highs and lows that stand out for you as you reflect on it all?*

L: Over the years many things have changed. We spent a lot of years, from Thursday evening to Sunday lunch, at Dakabin – a great camp site, with great speakers and activities that allowed us to care for one another and form great friendships with other Christian women. We had a lot of fun together, cried a lot, and were enormously blessed by the teaching from God's Word. When self-catering was no longer possible at any camp site, and the double bunks at Dakabin were becoming inaccessible for many participants, we found a new site at Brookfield that catered for our needs better. It's a lovely site, in the bush on the edge of the city, but sadly, costs have risen and numbers have dropped. But we are grateful to God for his increased blessings in recent years. The highs for me have been many terrific speakers, including Lesley Ramsay, Jenny Salt, Claire



Lorraine Eastwell and Jennifer Strong

Smith and Christine Jensen – to name a few. The greatest impact on me was in 2008, when I was at an all-time low and Jenny Richardson came on board at the last minute with studies on "Hope"!

**W:** *So, let's talk about the present. Where is "Be Nurtured" right now? How has it grown, changed or developed over the years?*

L: So, right now, "Be Nurtured" is in a stage of growth and change. We now meet from Friday night to Sunday afternoon – more convenient for many, but a sad loss for some. We've left some fun stuff behind to allow us to concentrate on great Bible study, as well as building meaningful relationships and networking. We hope to make each session appealing in its own right, so that those who can't come for the whole weekend, can still take part in a meaningful way. I'd like to recommend the 2014 "Ladies Bible Study Retreat" to all women who long for an opportunity to study God's Word for a couple of days, just one day, or maybe even half a day! Beate Teale is coming to share God's Word and we are excited about how God will work in us.

**W:** *How do you see this new look retreat fitting in to the overall ministry women have to one another?*

L: Overall, I see this opportunity as just one way for women to meet together. It's a great way to escape from whatever stops us from spending time with God. We talk a lot, pray together, sing praises to God, share personal stories with one another and listen as God's Word speaks to us. This is an opportunity we say we want – to spend real time in God's Word – but rarely get to do!

**W:** *Now just recently Lorraine, you've had an opportunity to be encouraged and nurtured in your own growth, through a new course for women at QTC. What was that like for you, both personally (to be on the receiving end!) ... and also in thinking about how God speaks through His Word about women ministering to one another?*

L: This year I was blessed to attend the M2W (Ministry to Women) course at Queensland Theological College. I loved being back in the classroom, receiving great Bible teaching and sharing in the lives and experiences of many women. The course certainly refreshed the idea that the Bible places importance on our relationships and consequently the encouragement and nurture that develops between women. The concept of older women teaching younger women is certainly Biblical, so it is our responsibility and privilege to become theologically sound in our living and our words, remembering

that words are an important tool for spreading the Gospel, which is our most important job!

**W:** *On a personal note, can you share with us the most nurturing experience of your own life?*

L: Personally, I am grateful that my parents, who became Christians when I was just a wee girl, nurtured me in my own Christian faith from a young age. I was privileged to receive great Bible teaching in my teens, and then nurtured both professionally and spiritually by fine Christian nursing sisters during my nursing training.

**W:** *What about when life presented its challenges and you needed nurturing yourself to hold it all together?*

L: Graham and I had been married less than three years, when our baby boy became acutely ill and died. This was a tragedy like no other, and sadly we were left to our own devices for healing and restoration. I thank God that He loved us and that we loved each other. Church continued as though nothing had happened to us. There were no small groups or gender-based groups ... just church on Sundays and the admonition from those older and wiser that we "needed to get on with life and get over Alistair's death". I recognised that we needed compassion and empathy and so when my Mum invited me to go to a CWC Gospel-centred convention with her, I gladly accepted. I found a large group of women who loved me without even knowing me (and who loved my Mum as well), who wiped away my tears, who sang like angels and who shared the message of the Gospel. It was here that my healing began, and through me, Graham could heal too. Later that year we were transferred to Townsville, and found an extension of that love and compassion in the church there.

**W:** *But that's not the end of your story ... is it? What happened next?*

L: God gave us four more lovely babies (one at a time!) and we made it

to 2006 in a variety of ways. That year in October, Graham was unexpectedly diagnosed with cancer and God released him from this life and took him home in early June of 2007. This separation by death was catastrophic for all of us, and we really struggled for a long time, and still do ... often. At that time I was cared for and nurtured by my Christian boss, non-Christian work colleagues, teachers from schools where we had taught RE for lots of years, men from Graham's local Minister's Circle at Helensvale and many friends.

**W:** *And so, with those experiences behind you (and yet always with you), can you tell us what it has been like for you to open up and share your home with a young woman in need of nurturing?*

L: Now I am living in my own wonderful home (clearly organised by God) and am kept busy in ways I never imagined! I very happily attend Creek Road church and am involved in a small way there with the women's growth groups. Since coming here I have been able to fulfil a desire in ministering to a young single mum and her little one, while she continued her studies for a year. I loved that, though of course the experience brought its limitations. But with all of that, I see God's hand at work in my life – nurturing, caring, loving, protecting, being my ever-present company, my strength and my courage. The Good Shepherd has indeed walked with me through the valley of the shadow of death, where no evil will befall me, and I have great hope that I too will one day sit at His banqueting table.

**W:** *Thanks Lorraine, for being so transparent as you've shared your story with us. We pray that God Himself, through His Holy Spirit and His Word, will always be your source of nourishment and strength as you continue to serve Him, just as faithfully as you have done in the past!*



Lorraine Eastwell

## WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear!.....Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" Luke 1: 41- 42, 45*

- Praise God for the natural inclination of many women to want to meet together and share their life journeys. Give thanks for the opportunity this offers us to talk about spiritual matters and particularly to share the gospel of Jesus and our personal stories of what He has done for us.
- Praise God for the provision of His Word and how it ministers to us generally and also specifically, as we find ourselves in challenging life situations.
- Praise God for the model given to us in Titus 2, of women teaching one another in all aspects of Christian living
- Pray for women who have made sacrifices to undertake training in order to present God's Word faithfully and accurately to other women. Pray that many young (and perhaps not-so-young) women will be encouraged to study at Bible Colleges so that they too might be equipped to nurture other women in the Word.
- Pray that we might all keep our eyes wide open for opportunities to encourage others and to be ready at all times to explain the hope that is in us because of Jesus.
- Pray for discernment and sensitivity with one another as we deal with the tragedies and challenges of life – equipped with the Word and the Holy Spirit – so that women can encourage one another through their relationships and conversations.
- Praise God for His gifts of singleness and marriage, and thank Him that both provide us with opportunities to reflect His truths and mysteries in the world in which we live.
- Pray that we would be generous with our time, our homes, our gifts, resources and whatever blessings God has poured out on us.
- As the Christmas season approaches once more, praise God for the Christ Child – a baby boy born to the young woman Mary so long ago - who grew up to become the Saviour of the world, by suffering and dying on a cross for our sins.



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**Display Suite**  
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**Kingsford Terrace**  
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Landscaping at Kingsford Terrace

## Stunning retirement living Display Suite opens at Corinda

Construction of PresCare's Kingsford Terrace retirement living development is charging ahead. PresCare Project Manager Ken Howatson says that during October earth works were in full swing, with the site turned into a revolving door for 13 B-double trucks operating over 20 days.

"The result was the removal of an estimated mountainous 25,000 cubic metres of soil from the site", Ken says. "This is the equivalent of 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools."

Favourable weather conditions have also allowed for almost non-stop progress on the impressive new Display Suite, on-track for its December grand opening. With the Cliveden Avenue entry road finished, a row of mature poinciana trees now adorns one side of the driveway.

The Display Suite's stunning bathroom and kitchen tiling and cabinetry were among the finishing touches last month. From the comfortable and plush Display Suite interiors, visitors will enjoy an enormous apartment window enabling magnificent vistas of the Kingsford Terrace site.

In keeping with the Kingsford Terrace development, a welcoming entrance to the Display Suite has been achieved through lush landscaping.

"A selection of mature trees has been transplanted along the Morecom Avenue fence line", Ken says. "It was important to PresCare to have established gardens and landscaping for potential residents to see right from the start. That way they can really visualise what their new home will look like."

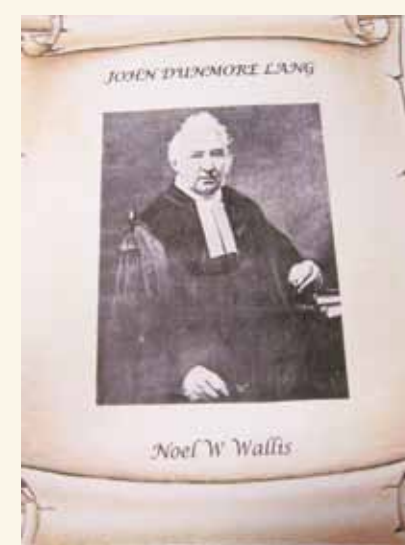
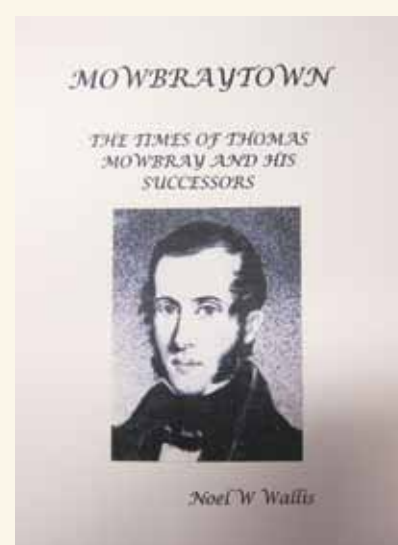
Early November saw the launch of a Circle of Friends event at the Milton Display Suite. Guests, including couples who have already committed to the Kingsford Terrace community and lifestyle, enjoyed a glass of champagne and freshly prepared canapés while hearing from the architect and others involved in the project.

The Kingsford Terrace Sales Team is thrilled to be moving to the Corinda site where they welcome visitors for inspection of the new Display Suite.

"The new Display Suite demonstrates just how spectacular these apartments will be", says Sales Manager Matt Rowe.

To make an appointment to view the brand new Kingsford Terrace Display Suite, contact Matt and the team on 1300 287 672.

## Two new books for archives ...



PAST MINISTER of the PCQ, Rev. Dr Noel Wallis, continues to write on his favourite topics, Biography and History. Dr Wallis began writing and publishing titles in 1986 with the biography of Rev. Dr Harold Whitney, "The Warhorse", and he has continued his writing under four main headings - family history, biography, historical events and national service. Just over two dozen titles are secured in State and National Libraries for present

readers and for posterity. Some have been gifted to the University's Fryer Library as well as the PCQ archives. As those who put pen on paper, and have the result printed and bound, know, the exercise is both labour and finance taxing, but rewarding.

Noel has given copies of his two most recent publications, *John Dunmore Lang* and *Mowbraytown* to PCQ archivist, Deaconess Dianne Parker, for inclusion in the archives.



# Country comes to City Sunday service

by Angela Hamilton



*from the Moderator General*

## Separation Anxiety

I HAVE just read an article on the “10 worst things you can say to your children/grandchildren”.

One of the worst is, “Do that again and I will leave you here!”

Such a saying apparently builds the worst fear we have as children: the fear of being left, abandoned.

It is called separation anxiety, such as experienced by a young child being left behind by Mum at the school gate.

Do we ever grow out of our separation anxiety?

Dame Cicely Saunders, the founder of the hospice movement, used to refer to the needs of the dying: hold me, talk to me, don’t leave me.

Little wonder the Lord Jesus, the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4), urges us

to come to Him (Matthew 11:28) and assures us that He will never leave us (Matthew 28:20).

King David tells us that even though we walk through the valley of death (surely the loneliest of all journeys), God the Shepherd will never leave us, “your rod and your staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Therefore let us cast off every vestige of separation anxiety, knowing that absolutely nothing in the world God created can separate us from “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” (Romans 8:39).

The Christian is never alone, never abandoned. What a privilege it is to be in the flock of a Shepherd Who knows and cares for sheep so well.

This is why the ministry of the Holy Spirit is so precious to the believer.

The Lord Jesus assured His disciples that His leaving them was to their advantage for His ascension meant the coming of the Lord Jesus (John 16:7).

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes, not just to be with the disciples, but to be within them (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is the counselor within the believer. He leads us in the battle against the flesh (Romans 8:12-14); He reminds us that all believers are adopted into God’s family and can call God, Father (Romans 8:15); He helps us when we don’t know what to pray (Romans 8:26).

God cannot be more with us than by being within us and He is within us, in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Believer, you are never alone. There will never be any sound reason for you to suffer from separation anxiety.

An American country music group, Lady Antebellum, sings a song called “Never Alone”. It is a lover’s promise never to leave his loved one – it is a nice, but uncertain sentiment.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is certain, since He comes to us from God, given to us because of the work of the Lord Jesus and that work is eternally effective and certain (Acts 2:32-33).

IT IS fair to say that Graceville Presbyterian Church has undergone some radical changes of late. We have been pushed to think more seriously about how to reach our community.

But, no one could have predicted we’d be exchanging pews for hay bales on a Sunday morning and singing hymns with a country feel.

However that is exactly what happened at our Bush Service on Sunday 20 October 2013.

We said goodbye to our traditional accompaniments too – so rather than a keyboard (or organ) we had an acoustic guitar and a Cajón. The Bush Service was a follow-up to the previous evening’s Bush Dance.

It has been many years since I’ve been to a bush dance – and certainly not in the city – but we went all out, opening up the church doors to the local community.

We promoted it as a free event – with great food, a jumping castle and

of course, many of the ol’ favourites, like the Heel & Toe and the Waves of Bondi.

You know how it goes. I bet you’re already singing to yourself, “heel & toe, heel & toe, slide, two, three four”... and if you weren’t, then you are now!

Yes, it was certainly a fabulous, all ages event. You should have been there.

And if you weren’t, you should definitely set aside a spot in your calendar for our Christmas event. Check our website for details <http://www.gracevillepresbyterian.org.au>

Graceville now has three services each Sunday. Early Church at 9 am, morning tea at 10 am, Family Church at 10:30 am and Late Church at 5 pm.

So if you are over our way, pop in for a visit. We won’t make you sit on bales of hay though. We promise.



## Biblical counselling course opens at QTC

IN 2014 QTC will, for the first time, offer a course in Biblical Counselling.

They will be partnering with Christian Counselling & Educational Foundation (CCEF) in Philadelphia to run the course which will be delivered via a combination of online subjects and intensives.

CCEF have created an in-depth counselling educational program that provides equipping and training for everyone in all life and ministry contexts.

Students will engage with the majority of the coursework online, and while there are deadlines there is flexibility to watch classes at a time that suits you.

Intensives will be run by Dr Carolyn Russell, a General Practitioner and Counsellor, who has significant experience helping clients manage

their life challenges. Dr Russell has a particular interest in a ‘whole of life’ approach to working with people and wellness.

QTC Principal Gary Millar said he was excited to be offering such a top-quality course here in Australia.

“We are delighted to be working with CCEF who, through the work of David Powlinson, Paul Tripp and others, have been so helpful in equipping the church across the world in this area. Our prayer is that this initiative will bear fruit in churches across Queensland and beyond for years to come”, said Gary.

Places are limited for the first intake so if you are interested contact the registrar ([registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au)) to find out about course prerequisites.

More information about the course can be found at [www.ccef.org](http://www.ccef.org).





Queensland ladies Bev Horgan, Heather Burton, Beth Knowles, Betty Gadsby, Ailsa Kelly and Barbara Wixted at The Gap, Sydney

## GAA PWA of A Federal Conference and Assembly Activities



Federal President Miss Evelyn Mill with the NSW Federal Executive

ON FRIDAY 6 September, four delegates and two observers from PWA of A (Qld Unit) travelled to Sydney for the Federal PWA of A Conference and activities of the General Assembly of Australia. We stayed at the Country Women's Association Residential at Pott's Point.

Our first official meeting was the business meeting for PWA held on the Saturday afternoon at NSW Church Offices. Here, reports were passed and the future and changes to the way we run our organization were discussed.

On Sunday morning we worshipped at Bondi Presbyterian Church, listening to a sermon by the Rev. John Graham, entitled "Highway to Heaven".

After a morning tea and a warm time of fellowship we walked down to Bondi Beach where the annual Kite Flying Festival was under way. We enjoyed lunch at one of Bondi's cafes and then travelled to Watson's Bay by bus and then back to Circular Quay by ferry.

Monday was a busy day with the PWA of Australia Federal Conference

held at Scot's Church. Ladies from around Australia gathered and saw the outgoing Executive from Western Australia welcome the incoming Executive from New South Wales.

Guest speakers included Dorcas Denness who works in Pakistan, Rev. Stuart Bonnington from PIM, Rev. Daniel Vancar from Timor, and ladies from PWMUV. Mrs Chilia, Mrs Banuiri, and Mrs Opa sang and spoke on their roles in Vanuatu.

The Moderator General Rt Rev. David Jones and the Moderator Elect Rev. David Cook addressed our conference as did Mrs Maxine Cook. They encouraged the PWA to walk closely to God using His Word as our guide. The Conference was a wonderful time of encouragement and joy.

That night we enjoyed a time of praise in the Chinese Presbyterian Church as we celebrated the induction of the Moderator General of Australia, Rt. Rev David Cook. The singing of hymns and the reading and expounding of God's Word made the night very uplifting.

On Tuesday we once again visited the Chinese Presbyterian Church for the Communion Service. We enjoyed a time of fellowship over lunch with the PWA ladies, held in one of the meeting rooms, and then returned to the church to hear our outgoing Federal President Mrs Margaret Thatcher address the Assembly. We were encouraged by her address as she asked for our ministers and elders to support the work of PWA as PWA has supported them over the years. She reminded us all to search the scriptures and be obedient to our God.

It was time for a relaxing day out. On Wednesday a busload of PWA ladies and one or two brave men, ventured through the George's National Parks to Sydney's south, past Botany Bay and along the marvellous Cliff's Edge Bridge that extends partially over the sea.

We arrived in Wollongong for lunch provided by the City Central Presbyterian Church ladies. On our way home we stopped at Sublime Point which looked over Wollongong. On a rock, right on the edge of the cliff top, was a plaque on which were written the words from Psalm 93:4, "Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea - the LORD on high is mighty". It also read, "God is always greater than all of our troubles".

Then it was back to Church Offices where we had to say our goodbyes to all our friends from the other States.

A fitting end to the five days of our Federal Conference in 2013.

## The Street-Preacher's Guide to Fruit Picking

By Ian Hodge, PhD

TWICE EACH year, as a child living on orchards, we had fruit picking season - oranges towards the end of winter, and grapes at the end of summer, southern hemisphere time. So I never experienced a genuine white Christmas until I relocated to the heartland of the USA, the mid-west.

Picking fruit, especially the grapes, was an art. These grapes were for eating, so they should be picked carefully so as not to bruise or damage. The bad ones were removed, and the good fruit gently packed in a box which was sealed and made ready to go to the big city.

Sometimes it was necessary to throw a whole bunch out. Once you get one rotten grape it spreads and contaminates the remainder. And you had to be very careful that a bad grape did not get packed, because it could very easily spread its rottenness through every bunch in the packing box.

Now many preachers - and street-preachers are just one section of a much larger group - approach their preaching like we used to approach fruit picking. They not only present the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, but they also remind people of their sins.

When I was a child, the list was usually confined to the seventh commandment (adultery), dancing and alcohol. Preachers may add more to this list - lying, stealing, violating the Sabbath.

But there is a big difference between picking grapes and trying to cut out the bad ones on one hand, and selecting a list of sins and then trying to excise them out of the way on the other. Here's why.

In biblical theology, sin is described very clearly in the first three chapters of Genesis. It records God's creation, the placement of Adam and Eve in the Garden, and a single prohibition. When the temptation came to Eve, it was suggested that by eating the fruit she would be "like" God.

Now Eve was already made in God's image in some fashion. In what other possible way could she be more God-like? It is certain that she could not become like God in his ontology. He was infinite, and she was finite. He had always existed, she had just been created. He had created everything out of nothing just by speaking it into existence. Is there anything else?

There was one other possibility. Since it was God who created all things, it was also God who made up the "rules of the game" so to speak. In other words, it was His prerogative to determine what rules, if any, should apply in the universe he had just created.

Now He had obviously created a lot of rules that allow the sun, the moon, the stars etc to remain in their places. These are referred to as the "laws of nature" but they are really laws that God brought into existence, because they did not create themselves. Which is why, by scientific endeavour, man can discover these rules and understand how they operate.

But when it came to Adam and Eve, it was not just rules of anatomy and physiology that God created, he created Adam and Eve as creatures with a will, an ability to choose. "Don't eat of a certain fruit" was thus a test of the ability to choose that God had put within man. It was a test of trust and a willingness to obey God's instruction.

Thus, when Eve was confronted with the option "to be like God" she knew very well what it meant. It meant that she would now become just like God, making up her own rules. She would be the one who no longer simply obeys God but would dismiss Him as the rule-maker and take it upon herself to test everything that God says.

Now she would assert that until she has somehow proven the veracity or usefulness of God's instructions, then she will not accept it. If she does accept it, it will be on her authority, not on God's authority. It will be her ultimate choice to determine good and evil, truth and error, right and wrong.

Now the original Hebrew makes it clear that to "know" good and evil (Gen. 3:5) is "to make, or determine". Thus, to be like God means that Eve, and through her to Adam and the human race, would now replace God as the one who makes the rules. God is sidelined out of the game.

Thus you see that the real "tree of sin" is this one issue from which flows everything else. It is the rotten tree of human autonomy when it comes to morality, and it leads to lying, cheating, stealing, adultery, fornication, drunkenness, wife-beating, and a myriad of other things.

So when the Street-Preacher begins to list the "sins" of the people as lying, cheating etc he is merely attacking the rotten fruit. Instead, he should cut down the rotten tree which is producing rotten fruit. And too many preachers on the street or elsewhere fail to do this. They leave the rotten tree intact.

And then they wonder why there is little good fruit among the people. It's because they didn't see that the rotten fruit is the product of a rotten tree, the tree named autonomy - self-law.

This is the fundamental difference between farming and evangelism. On an orchard, a piece of fruit can go rotten, but the tree remains healthy. But when it comes to human sin, rotten fruit comes from a rotten tree.

Thus the Street-Preacher should not preach as if he is a farmer, for he will miss the core problem.

Street-Preachers should give up fruit picking and instead take an axe to the rotten tree called human autonomy, and replant with the tree of God's righteousness in its place. They should abandon fruit-picking and instead take up the task of human horticulture, planting and developing human "trees" that can produce good fruit.

"So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:17-20).

Biographical Note:  
Ian Hodge, AMusA, B.Th., M.Th., Ph.D. is former professional musician and business consultant. He is currently Manager of Ministry/Marketing for Creation Ministries International in Australia. Ian is the author of several books and over 500 published articles on applied Christianity. On many Saturday nights, he can be found in the Queen Street Mall with other Christians, as they share the Gospel with those in the streets and debate with atheists who come to mock Christianity.

Presbyterian Women's Association  
of Australia (Qld Unit)

### Annual Dedication and Communion Service

Tuesday 4 February 2014  
at 10.30am

Ann Street Presbyterian Church

BYO Lunch - Tea & Coffee provided

\*\*\* All welcome \*\*\*

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# Two great camps at Moogerah Dam

## Fun and Adventure

LET ME sum up Fun and Adventure Camp in the following way.

#fna #awesome #dannyyandryan #wildwildwest #waterslide #stackeditonhetubes #wheninrome #shani #selfies #formal #disco #amazingtalks #greatleaders #theashes #isthatkirstyjohnson #fun #instafashion

The End

What? Not familiar with the 'language of hashtag'? Ok, well let me revert to the traditional method of camp reviewing - an article.

On the second week of the school holidays 144 campers headed out to beautiful Lake Moogerah for a week of Fun and Adventure (#fna #awesome). You see, these were the 144 campers who filled the camp up in just two weeks on our online registration page. They had been counting down the days for camp for a whole school term. We asked Danny Mitchell and Ryan Holmes (#dannyyandryan) to come and talk to us on the book of Romans, and this is exactly what they did. Mixed in with a whole bunch of great activities, the week was an absolute blast.

On the Wednesday night, everyone dressed up as a Cowboy or an Indian (or a horse), and we battled it out for the West (#wildwildwest). This was a fantastic night of fun, frivolity and Wild Wild West action. The day time activities were great as well. We pulled out the massive plastic water slide (#waterslide), and sent campers slip/sliding their way to the bottom of the hill. We also went tubing.

Unfortunately Moogerah Dam was closed so we transported the campers by coach out to Maroon Dam where we had five boats and a jet ski tow us around the lake for three days (#stackeditonhetubes). This is always a great highlight of camp, and this year was no different as we also had a 24 seater dragon boat canoe to use as well. Now that was a challenge!

During the talk times we got to see Robert the Roman and his friend Jimbo muddle their way through an Ancient Roman sitcom called #wheninRome, and everything was going well, until Shani Feldon (#shani) decided to gatecrash the play by upstaging Robert and photographing herself (#selfies). But that's ok, we got our revenge...

The week always concludes with our traditional formal dinner, and this year, the leaders worked extremely hard to put it on outdoors. Yep, the formal dinner was the first ever held under the stars (#formal) and it was



beautiful. We then concluded our camp with an amazing disco (#disco) proving that you can have plenty of

fun without the need for drugs or alcohol. What a great way to end the week!

But back to the talks (#amazingtalks). Over the course of the week, both campers and leaders alike were challenged in our understanding of sin, and just how big a problem it is. We were left pondering this for 24 hours before being shown just how amazing God's grace is. This was quite a profound series of talks, and it challenged everyone. We spent nearly 40 minutes in small groups after each of the talks, with our leaders asking questions and sharing their lives with the campers (#greatleaders). The response was amazing. God was quite clearly at work in the hearts of both campers and leaders alike over the course of the week. PTL!

Oh did I mention the cricket (#theashes)? England won... and by England, I mean Ben Baker's team. And of course, we all enjoyed posting our photos on instagram during the week - you can check out the hashtag #keenforfna to see over 200 photos of camp (#isthatkirstyjohnson #fun #instafashion)

We can't wait for next year. But I'm telling you now... spots will fill like wildfire. This year it took two weeks for camp to fill up. Next year will be even quicker. Make sure you 'Like' Fun and Adventure Camp on Facebook so you get information regarding the online registration.

## Kids' Weekender II

OVER 85 campers attended the most recent Kids' Weekender Two Camp at Lake Moogerah.

Coming hot on the heels of Fun and Adventure Camp, KW2 was quick to get into its stride with the Cowboys and Indians theme utilized well to create and run fun and engaging activities; and more importantly, allowing the narrative of Scripture to be presented within the illustration of 'The Wild Wild West'.

Steve Hay and Dave Bigg from Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church took the campers through the story of Creation, the Fall and the New Creation, as the campers spent their group times researching and thinking about Genesis 1, Genesis 3 and Revelation!

The memory verse from 2 Corinthians 5:17 was the glue that held the picture together as the campers sang about how God loves the Cowboys and the Indians, and rapped to 'Everything Old will be New Again'.

It was a fantastic time of fellowship as we sang and studied our way through a whirlwind tour of scripture.

A massive thanks to all the leaders who spent the weeks leading up to camp doing their own scriptural studies, having been asked challenging questions by Steve Hay, and being encouraged to up the ante in their own walk with the Lord.

The leaders, as well as the campers,



were keen to think these things through and it was awesome to see the creative ways the small group leaders went about sharing their lives with the campers.

We had a lot of fun away from the Bible talks as well, as we had five boats tow the campers around the lake for three hours on Saturday afternoon and a fantastic Wild Wild West Fest was held on Sunday morning, including Knock 'em Downs and a Jumping Castle generously donated to KW2.

Of course, camp is not camp without a dress-up night and we had Cowboys, Cowgirls, Indians, Cacti, Cows, Horses and even Jesse and Woody from *Toy Story* turning up for some fun.

A big thanks to our new camp caterer, Troy Wilkins (Creek Road Springfield), for committing to our camps as our new CHEF, and he even makes ESKIMO PIE! What a legend!

With our Kids Weekender Camps concluded for another year, we look forward to going 'Under the Sea' in



2014, and creatively presenting the gospel to a whole new set of campers, and many who will return again. Thank you to the many churches and individuals who continue to

support this ministry in prayer and in other ways.

We look forward to more great memories next year.





## A day without laughter is a day wasted



Resident Heather McDonald with Petrina Enchelmaier, Sam and Felicity

EVERY THURSDAY at 10am you can find a group of 10-20 residents, their families and some staff or volunteers sharing prayers, stories and morning tea at a Friendship Group meeting at PresCare's Vela facility in Carina. The group alternates each week between Bass and Wills residential blocks.

In October, the Friendship Group in Wills was blessed by a visit from Petrina Enchelmaier and her children Sam (four) and Felicity (nearly two), who brought along a collection of bookmarks that the children of Petrina's Sunday School class had made for the residents.

"Petrina was kind enough to have me at one of her Sunday School classes", Vela volunteer Ruth Gavarotto says. "I spoke to the children, who are mostly three or four years old, about what I do as a volunteer at Vela. They were all very excited to make these lovely bookmarks, which they wanted me to present to the residents on their behalf."

Ruth says that Sam was keen to hand the bookmarks out personally, which delighted the residents.

Glenda Booker, Chaplain at Vela, says they base the meetings on her grandfather's philosophy of "a day

without laughter is a day wasted" so consequently the meetings are always very lively!

"This meeting was no exception, lots of jokes and sharing of childhood stories went on, and we were so happy to see that the gospel is being handed on to the next generation", Glenda says. "We were also pleased to see that respect is being shown to older people in accordance to God's direction."

Psalm 71:17-18 was the text on the back of the beautifully handmade bookmarks - *O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grey headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.* (NKJV)

It was also discovered that there was a connection between one of the residents, Heather McDonald and Petrina - as Heather was one of the first borders at Clayfield College and Petrina was the music captain in her senior year.

It just goes to show, we are all connected one way or another!

## The Contented Chef is cooking up a storm

PRESCARE'S NEW catering and frozen meals business, *The Contented Chef*, is growing in leaps and bounds.

With over 28,000 pieces of food prepared every week, the team in the kitchen, which is located at PresCare's Vela aged care facility in Carina, is always busy!

Those 28,000 pieces of food involve, among other things, 300kg of meat, 260kg of potatoes and one staff member spending eight hours a day, five days a week just washing the pots and pans used to cook it all up.

Managing Chef Scott Fraser says that catering directly for 260 people for three meals a day, keeps the team busy, but that's not all they do.

"We have a pastry chef making cakes, slices and her famous macarons that are sold to businesses and also used for event catering", Scott says. "We also prepare around 350 Contented Chef frozen meals each week, which are distributed to various facilities and sites including some independent facilities. Our catering truck travels 600 km, three times a week to deliver those frozen meals and other catering orders."

From November, a new catering truck was added to the fleet and they have both been driving the streets of Queensland with new livery. The Contented Chef branding has been applied and is impressing people wherever the trucks travel.

"Our drivers feel proud of the brand they are representing as they drive around Brisbane and up the coast to Maryborough or down to Redland Bay", Scott says. "It's exciting to be part of a growing and vibrant business."

If you are interested in hearing more about *The Contented Chef*, or perhaps you are thinking of holding an event at which you require high quality, nutritious catering, head to [www.contentedchef.com.au](http://www.contentedchef.com.au) or call the kitchen on 07 3338 6142.



Scott Fraser

## New friends and old at Yaralla Place

RESIDENTS OF Maryborough's Yaralla Place aged care facility have been making new friends in the weeks since PresCare added the facility to their suite of residential aged care homes.

Barbara Germon, Hazel Maitland and Ruth Hamilton have been meeting up at meal times in the Banksia House Dining Room, enjoying the meals now provided by PresCare's head chef Scott Fraser and his team and having a good old chat!

PresCare Chief Operating Officer Lee Martin, who has been based on site in Maryborough since the start of October, says the ladies have bonded and become good friends.

"I asked them the other day if they were ever going back to their rooms, and they replied 'why leave the dining room when we are having so much fun'", Mr Martin said.

"Social isolation is an increasing concern for seniors", Mr Martin says. "PresCare runs various programs at each of our sites, from singing groups to arts and crafts, Men's Sheds and specialised therapies. We find out what our residents like to do, and encourage groups or activities around those things."

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service announced the sale of Maryborough's Yaralla Place Aged Care Facility to PresCare on 3 September, following a rigorous selection process.

PresCare CEO Greg Skelton says that with 30 years' experience running Maryborough's Groundwater Lodge Aged Care Facility, the purchase of Yaralla Place from the State Government will only enhance the bond PresCare has with the city.

"Our selection by the State Government as the preferred operator



for the facility is an important recognition of the high standard of care our PresCare staff help provide every day", Mr Skelton says.

More than \$1 million worth of work at Yaralla Place is almost complete, including installing new IT systems and building certification works, to ensure the facility meets national and State compliance guidelines as well as PresCare's high standards.

PresCare is also undertaking works at Groundwater Lodge, including the construction of a new maintenance facility and an expanded laundry, which will be able to manage laundry from both Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge.

Mr Skelton said that PresCare was pleased to extend PresCare's commitment to the Maryborough and Fraser Coast communities.

"Yaralla Place's 96-bed facility will add to our existing 60-bed facility at Granville, our \$3.8 million affordable housing program under the National Rental Affordability Scheme and the community care packages we already offer locally."



## PresCare is deserving of donations and bequests



Thelma Jean Young and Lorraine Nothling

PHILANTHROPY AT PresCare is being reinvigorated with the appointment of Lorraine Nothling as Philanthropy Manager in September.

One of Lorraine's first tasks, and she says so far her most enjoyable, was to meet with Vela resident Thelma Jean Young to present the new Donations and Bequests Program brochure.

Music teacher, WRAN (Women's Royal Australian Navy), wife and honorary grandmother - Thelma Jean Young has led an interesting life and Lorraine spent a fascinating morning hearing all about it.

"I was privileged to share a cup of tea and a chat with Thelma recently", Lorraine says. "I heard all about

Thelma's life in Townsville during World War II as a young WRAN, followed by a stint in Canberra where she worked as part of the decoding team for the Navy. Thelma told me how she met her husband Robert through her local Presbyterian Church, St Andrew's in Wynnum in Brisbane's eastern suburbs."

Two years shy of her 100th birthday, Thelma remembers well the generosity of philanthropist Mr W. R. Black who donated the first two homes in Brisbane to start PresCare. "It was at the height of the Great Depression in 1929. The two homes were Hopetoun for aged men and Stonehaven for aged women",

Thelma advised Lorraine. "Mr Black also donated the land on which St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Wynnum now stands."

Lorraine says that thoughtful donations and bequest gifts help PresCare expand the comprehensive range of domestic, health, accommodation, lifestyle, social and spiritual services provided to more than 5,000 people like Mrs Young in PresCare's care.

Lorraine comes to PresCare with a wealth of knowledge of providing leadership to charities, hospitals, universities, the arts, local government authorities and aged care organisations. She is excited about her new work at PresCare.

"PresCare is really in its infancy in terms of philanthropic development", Lorraine says. "So many kind people have contributed donations over the years to our appeals, events and campaigns. I am looking forward to consolidating all of that good work and bringing it to a whole new level. PresCare has always cared for the elderly and is so deserving of donations and bequest gifts."

"Our 2013 Christmas Appeal has a goal of \$50,000. We're excited about receiving donations to help enhance the quality of care services we provide to lovely people like Thelma. All donations are warmly welcomed."

If you are interested in hearing more about the Donations and Bequests Program at PresCare, you can contact Lorraine on 07 3223 4444 or via email at [lnothling@prescare.org.au](mailto:lnothling@prescare.org.au). Alternately, head to PresCare's website and find out about how you can make a donation or leave a bequest gift in your will. <http://www.prescare.org.au/support-us>

## Facebook is not just for kids!

DID YOU know that over 65s are the fastest growing group on social media? Or that 72% of online adults are social networking site users (like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube)?

More than 12% of Facebook users in Australia are over 55 and research shows that senior citizens are turning towards Facebook for more or less the same reasons as any other group, to connect with others.

- 40% to connect with family and old friends
- 30% to share photos
- 20% for social gaming
- 10% for contests and games

As an organisation, PresCare is at the high end of the "senior" demographic - as they celebrate their 85th birthday in 2014.

So PresCare figured it's time they got on board with the rest of their generation and start communicating more via social media.

General Manager External Relations James Woods says that he is excited about the additional opportunities to spread the word about PresCare via online channels.

"We have so many dedicated, caring and expert people working at our sites and facilities across the State", James says. "I am looking forward to reading their stories and sharing them with you via Facebook and our new blog."

"There will also be plenty of pictures of the work we're doing, and I hope our customers and supporters find it interesting to see what goes on at PresCare day-to-day."

To accompany the launch of the PresCare Queensland Facebook page, PresCare has started a blog, which you can find on their website at [www.prescare.org.au/newsroom/blog](http://www.prescare.org.au/newsroom/blog).

They'll be calling on experts from across the organisation to talk about the subjects dear to their hearts, from men's health to affordable housing to new directions for in-home care.

James says PresCare looks forward to hearing your stories and comments and to sharing their experience and expertise as well as some of the fun stuff they get up to at their sites across Queensland!

You can find PresCare's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/prescare](http://www.facebook.com/prescare).



Facebook and LinkedIn banner



# What's on ...

## Ladies Bible Study Retreat 2014

### The Unexpected Jesus

Guest speaker Beate Teale



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

QCCC Brookfield 179 Gold Creek Rd, Brookfield

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

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

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

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

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

*Looking forward to seeing you there, Lorraine*



## What's on in 2014

### March 11-13: Preaching Week

*"That everyone might know his name"*

QTC's 3rd annual Preaching Week promises to be the best yet! A great line-up of speakers headed by Ray Galea (Multicultural Bible Ministry, Sydney) and Doug Green (Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) will explore the challenge of preaching in Australia today so 'That everyone might know his name'. In addition, the 8 seminar streams will ensure that everyone has the chance to get set up for a fresh teaching series in church in 2014. See the website for more details

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



**Kathleen Nielson : Date TBC**

Kathleen Nielson serves as director of women's initiatives for The Gospel Coalition. Author of the Living Word Bible studies, she speaks often at women's conferences and loves working with women in studying the Bible.



**Dr Michael Horton : August 23 : Talking Theology**

Dr. Horton has taught apologetics and theology at Westminster Seminary California since 1998. He has written many books, including *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way*.



**Matt Chandler : August 25**

Matt Chandler is the lead pastor for teaching at The Village Church in Dallas, Texas. Chandler is involved in church planting around Dallas and across the world through The Village Church and other partnerships such as Acts 29.

### October 18: Children's Ministry Conference



It's anticipated that Colin Buchanan will join us at the Children's Ministry Conference next year. Colin has years of experience making God's word understandable and memorable for kids. He is, without a doubt, Australia's best-loved Christian children's artist. Colin began his working career as a teacher and has a proven track record for helping kids engage with ideas in the Bible, so this is sure to be a valuable conference to attend.

### 2015 Don Carson returns

Don Carson will be returning to QTC in July 2015 to conduct a series of lectures and speak at a citywide event.



Web: [qtc.edu.au](http://qtc.edu.au)  
Email: [events@qtc.edu.au](mailto:events@qtc.edu.au)

## briefly

### UNIT TO LET

CALOUNDRA, beachside units, from \$300/week. For details contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or [rayandjean@hotmail.com](mailto:rayandjean@hotmail.com).

### TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Any charges wishing to make changes to their entry in the White Pages should contact Church Office on 3251 4100 or email [churchoffice@pcq.org.au](mailto:churchoffice@pcq.org.au)

### PREPARE - CUSTOMIZED VERSION

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 4 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple. Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday 12th December. For registration details, contact the trainer, Graham Cole, on 3309 3558 or at [gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au](mailto:gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au).

### WANTED

Large organ copy of the Revised Church Hymnary. Comprises 2 volumes - one Psalms and Paraphrases; one Hymns  
Contact Keith Black  
Mobile 0428 460 436 or phone 3459 0580

### BOOK OF FAMILY WORSHIP 2014

The Book of Family Worship is running late this year but should be printed in late November and be available mid December. Orders can be placed by emailing [lynda@pcq.org.au](mailto:lynda@pcq.org.au) or phone (07) 3251 4100.

# MINISTRY to WOMEN

## A 12-week course for women serving in local churches

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

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

For more information and a course outline visit [www.qtc.edu.au/ministry2women](http://www.qtc.edu.au/ministry2women)

To get an application form email [registrar@qtc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@qtc.edu.au)



QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

## Margaret Wetherall

Children's Author

Margaret Wetherall (as featured in *The Perfect Surprise for Mrs Sunshine*, ND June/July 2011) is an independent, self-published author with several christian picture books designed for children aged 4-8.

Great for gifts or the Sunday School library, books currently on offer include the Easter story, the Creation story, and a third introducing children to the positive traits of mothers, mothers-in-law and grandmothers featured throughout the bible.

Locally published and produced in Brisbane, each book is beautiful illustrated with full-colour illustrations on every page. For sales and more information, including other picture books and junior chapter books, visit [www.margaretwetherall.com.au](http://www.margaretwetherall.com.au).



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE

on Sunday, 15 December 2013

CALOUNDRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Cnr Ormuz Avenue and Kalinga Streets, Caloundra  
commencing at 7.00 pm

*Singing of favourite Christmas Carols  
Special Guests: The Amen Choir  
Delicious supper  
Christmas light display  
View our nativity scene during supper*



# Chair Craftsman and Soldier

## John Albert Mackenzie (1898?-1965)

by Geoff Wharton

### Albert's Chair

As described in the last issue of *New Directions* (*The missionary chair*, page 5), a century ago, Presidents of the Queensland Presbyterian Womens Missionary Union (PWMU) started using a timber arm chair made by a young man named Albert Mackenzie at the Weipa Presbyterian Mission.

Although details of his early life are limited, it appears that Albert and his sister Annie were removed from their family near Burketown and sent to the Weipa Mission to be raised in the dormitory system.

In 1913, he made the chair for a display by the Chief Protector of Aborigines Office at the National Agricultural and Industrial Association Exhibition (the Ekka) in Brisbane.

After display, the chair was presented to the PWMU at the Missionary Offering Service at St Andrews Church on 6 August 1913. It remained in use by many PWMU presidents at the Church

John Albert Mackenzie probably was born at Burketown. Albert's date of birth remains uncertain. He gave the date as 15 March 1906 on his Australian Military Forces attestation paper in 1940, yet in a Commonwealth statutory declaration in 1964, he cited his birth date as 15 March 1895. Alternatively, he may have been born about 1898, because his age was given as 15 in a Queensland Presbyterian Church publication in 1913.

Albert was of mixed descent and according to details provided by his widow in 1965, Albert's parents were John Mackenzie, a farmer, and Nelly (surname unknown).

Albert probably was removed from his family by Queensland Government officials in the early 1900s and sent with his sister, Annie (whose language name was Tintema), to live at the Weipa Mission. This was during the time of the founding missionaries, Edwin and Thekla Brown (see right).

The author has not been able to find a birth registration for Albert in Queensland Registrar-General records.

### Albert's Army Service 1940-1943

Albert Mackenzie enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) of the Australian Military Forces at Ayr, Queensland on 2 April 1940 for overseas service.

He embarked for the Middle East at Sydney on 30 August 1940 and arrived in Palestine, Middle East on 12 October 1940.

Nine days later he was graded a Group III Nursing Orderly. Private Mackenzie marched out to the Camp Reception Station (C.R.S.) at Kilo 89 Camp on 17 November. Kilo 89 Camp was located to the north-east of Gaza in Palestine.

On 14 April 1941, Albert was posted to Base Company, Australian Army Medical Corps, AIF Base Area, Gaza in Palestine.

He continued to serve in that unit until 2 July 1942, when he was posted to 2nd/4th Australian Convalescent Depot (2/4 ACD), 9th Division, AIF. Albert's unit was raised at Nusierat, Southern Palestine in June 1942.



Reverend Edwin Brown, Zoe Brown and Thekla Brown, c. 1907.  
Brown Family Album, Cape York Collection, Hibberd Library, Weipa.

### Acknowledgements

The author gratefully acknowledges advice received from Albert's great-niece, Mrs Mary Ann Coconut and earlier advice from Mary Ann's late mother, Mrs Ina Hall, at Napranum community, which assisted so much in finding details about Albert's family and his Army service. Deaconess Dianne Parker and Lynda Rackley have kindly assisted with the history of the chair during its time with the PWMU and St Paul's Church. The author also thanks Garth O'Connell, Assistant Curator, Military Heraldry and Technology, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, for his excellent support with research about Indigenous servicemen. Historian Bob Piper very kindly inspected the records of 2nd/1st and 2nd/4th Australian Convalescent Depots at the Australian War Memorial to determine the locations of these units at particular times. The resources of the Australian War Memorial; the Cape York Collection, Hibberd Library, Weipa; Community and Personal Histories, DATSIMA; the National Archives of Australia; the National Museum of Australia; Queensland Presbyterian Archives and the State Library of Queensland have all helped to develop the story of John Albert Mackenzie.

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Weipa Brass Band 1913. Photograph taken by Reverend Edwin Brown near the church at the original Weipa Presbyterian Mission, Spring Creek.

Brown Family Album, Cape York Collection, Hibberd Library, Weipa. Most of the caption details are derived from information written by Rev Brown on an original postcard photograph held by his descendants and copied for the Cape York Collection. The late Mrs Ina Hall of Napranum also assisted the author with identification. Standing from left: Bosun (later changed his name to Robert Hall), David Endoyn, Albert Mackenzie, Jimmy Yongthiavon, Harry Ballarat. Seated from left: Peter Wokmata, Andrew Scott Quaingy, Daniel [Kwintiggan], George Brodie, Willie Stewart, Bertie [Paul].

headquarters in Ann Street, until it was transferred to St Paul's Church.

Finally the chair was donated by the PWMU to the National Museum of Australia, Canberra in November 2010.

### Family History

The author is an historian with many years' association with the Napranum (formerly Weipa Mission) community.

He first heard about Albert from the late Mrs Ina Hall, Albert's niece, during the 1980s.

Through contact with the descendants of Reverend Edwin and Mrs Thekla Brown, the founding missionaries of Weipa, copies of photographs were obtained for the Cape York Collection at Weipa. Among the photos were several of Albert, whom Mrs Hall identified as her uncle.

Albert was a member of the mission brass band in the same year that he made the chair (see photo above).

Little information about his later life was recalled at the time, but in connection with a new project by the Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council to develop a war memorial for Napranum, the author was recently given significant leads by Mrs Hall's daughter, Napranum Elder Mrs Mary Ann Coconut.

She recalled that Albert may have served in the Australian Army during the Second World War and this led to the discovery of his service record.

Annie married Monty Motton at Weipa Mission on 10 June 1912 and lived there for the rest of her life, passing away on 3 September 1948.

Although Albert Mackenzie was only referred to by his second Christian name in church records and only gave the name Albert in his Second World War enlistment papers, his official marriage and death records show that his full name was John Albert Mackenzie.

It appears that Albert left Weipa when he reached adulthood, probably in 1918, when the founding missionaries departed.

The Browns were transferred to the Ayr Presbyterian Church in North Queensland, where they served from about August 1918 to April 1920.

At the Ayr Methodist Parsonage, Albert married Emma Nicol, daughter of William Nicol and Rosie Nicol (née Wake) on 15 December 1922 and they had two children: Edwin Albert and Zoey Edna. Edwin probably was named after Reverend Edwin Brown and Zoey's first name was probably after the Browns' only daughter, Zoe Brown (1897-1982).

It is interesting to note that Edwin also served during the Second World War. Edwin joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on 5 August 1943 and at the time of his discharge in 1946 held the rank of Leading Aircraftman with Headquarters Northern Area, RAAF.

During Albert's service with the unit, his Commanding Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Dr Gordon Fitz Hill.

On 15 August 1942, 2/4 ACD was transferred to Tolumbat near Aboukir, east of Alexandria in the Nile Delta of Egypt, where it was operational by 26 August. The unit accommodated 575 Australian Military Forces patients by 3 September 1942. No doubt Albert would have had a busy time as a member of the medical rehabilitation teams caring for the patients.

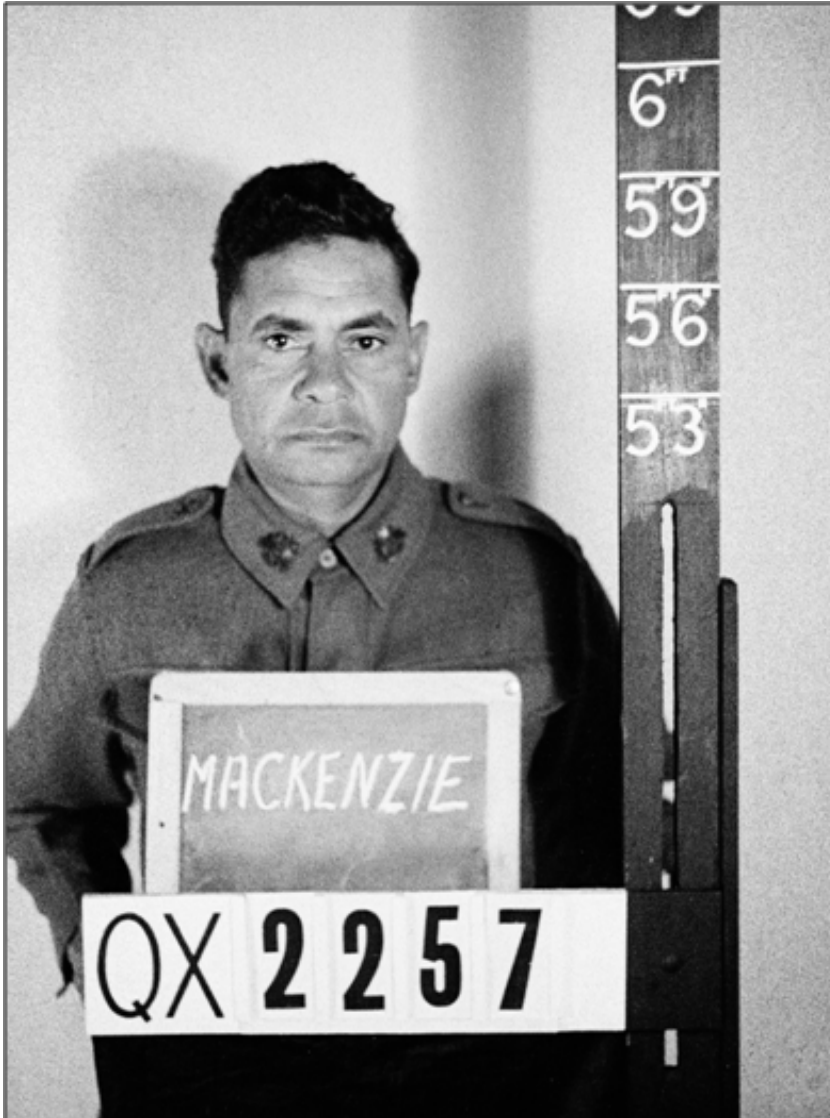
Albert's service record and 2/4 ACD Routine Orders show that on 24 January 1943, he embarked in Egypt on His Majesty's Transport ship L1 for return to Australia.

The Australian 9th Division embarked at Port Tewfik and El Shatt between 24 and 31 January 1943 and the convoy of five troopships departed from the assembly point at Massawa on 4 February.

Albert disembarked at Sydney on 27 February and it is probable that he would have been granted some home leave.

2/4 ACD was based at Wallgrove Army Base near Sydney upon arrival in Australia and later moved to Rocky Creek near Tolga on the Atherton Tablelands, until it was disbanded in April 1943.

On 1 May 1943 Albert was posted to 2nd/1st Australian Convalescent Depot, AIF which also was based at Rocky Creek on the Atherton Tablelands.



Private Albert Mackenzie, QX2257 soon after his enlistment in the AIF.  
Photo digitally reproduced by the National Archives of Australia from his Army service record.