

Easterfest
Faith, fun
and friendship

PAGE 4

Artists unite
Art from the Margins
takes another step

PAGE 6

Side by Side
Study lift-out

PAGE 7-10

Belonging
Dave Andrews explores
the body of Christ

PAGE 11

Chaplains at work
Walking with people
where they are at

PAGE 14

Side by side

Rochelle Nolan

Have you ever heard of the analogy about porcupines being like family? They need to be close to each other because they need to share the body heat each one generates in order to survive. But if they get too close, it becomes a severely limiting factor because their needles would pierce each other's skin.

The Uniting Church is very much a family. And, like a family as it expands and grows, we continue to find new ways of being, new ways of supporting each other and new ways to strike the right balance between being close enough to keep each other warm, but independent enough to allow us to grow.

As our congregations, schools, community services, synods and Assembly continue to change shape, we are supported in our shared journey by the family to which we belong.

We are side by side and in relationship with each other, holding hands and walking slightly different paths but facing and moving in the same direction.

Wesley Mission Brisbane is very much a child of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Borne out of the services Albert Street Methodist Church in Brisbane City offered the community more than 160 years ago, it has evolved into the organisation it is today, offering support and assistance to every age group, working hard to provide the expert support people need.

It is because of the almost 2000 staff and 700 volunteers who tirelessly pursue a vision of a compassionate, just and inclusive society that the missional objectives of Albert Street Uniting Church continue to change the lives of Queenslanders in need.

And it is because of our Uniting Church family – the family we come from and who we walk with side by side – that we are in a position to continue setting audacious goals and meeting such enormous need in our community.



MONTHLY PRAYER

Lord,
Send your Spirit on the body of Christ.
May the spirit enliven, equip and empower
us to work together in worship, witness
and service, through Jesus our Lord.
Amen

May 2012

Greater as a whole

Geoff Batkin, Wesley Mission Brisbane (WMB) Executive Director. WMB are guest editors of this edition.

WHEN I was a child I was fascinated by the kaleidoscope I was given for my fourth birthday – the endless colours, shapes, light and reflections as the scope rolled around. Every time it was turned the patterns were completely different and equally beautiful. I have had the challenge and pleasure of working for and being part of the wider Uniting Church for over 25 years. Our church has so many faces within the community each one seeking to explore its call to mission in its community.

One of my personal calls to mission is described simply by the Prophet Micah when he asks "and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Sometimes our church has a tendency to focus on what we were, where we have come from or what we were like 35 years ago. We need to reflect on the past and plan for the future but also tell the many enriching and life giving stories of who the Uniting Church is in 2012. Our people, our congregations, child care centres, family day care, schools, colleges, UnitingCare with its vast array of caring and compassionate services, Wesley Missions and other congregationally supported mission organisations, our Church leaders who speak into public life for a fairer and compassionate Australia – I have seen so many colourful and creative ways that our church is already living out our Vision 2020.

This edition of *Journey* is based on the theme of working side by side and also on belonging. As you will see in the stories on these pages, both concepts are at the heart of what it means to be part of the Uniting Church.

Something I value about belonging to the Uniting Church is that we are so diverse in how we respond to God's calling as individuals and as a church.

Something that I value even more is when we partner with each other, as we often do, and use our diversity to achieve more together than we ever could alone. This is one of the most special and rewarding parts of belonging to our Uniting Church.

Living as the body of Christ

HAVE you ever competed in a three-legged race?

You won't see it on the program for the Olympic Games but you might get to see it at a church family picnic. I wonder who came up with the idea that one body should be shackled to another racing against a whole lot of other awkward pairs.

Put the stop watch away and get out the laughter meter!

Sometimes the body of Christ looks as awkward as a three-legged race.

What might need to change in our worship, witness and service in the Uniting Church to become a healthy body of Christ as the apostle Paul described it?

Paul used the image of the body to help teach the people of God about the importance of every member being valued as part of the whole.

The contribution of each one is recognised and each is encouraged to play their part according to their giftedness.

An orchestra would not have a rich, full sound if it were just made up of loud brass instruments.

The first violinist may be the best player in strings but that player needs the support of all the strings to bring balance and

mood into the performance.

We recognise that our denomination is only part of the whole body of Christ and so we put energy into building relationships with other denominations and expressions of the church.

Within the Uniting Church we have sought to celebrate that the Holy Spirit has endowed Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts and that there is "no gift without its corresponding service".

That means that lay and clergy, male and female, young and old, those born here and those from overseas have something to offer.

Congregations are like the skeleton of the church with some large strong bones and some tiny fragile ones. Presbyteries are like joints and ligaments on the skeletal frame which help facilitate movement in mission. The Uniting Church Schools, youth networks and Colleges are like strong leg muscles carrying young people forward in life and faith.

Blue Care services are like the blood vessels delivering caring services into the community; some large pulsating arteries of care and some tiny capillaries reaching isolated households on a lonely road.

Our hospitals are like cell repair systems restoring or replacing damaged parts and like the antibodies fighting off disease.

Prison ministries are like the fingertips gently touching damaged lives. UnitingCare Community is like the lymphatic system helping the body to deal with crises and like the parts of the body that need special treatment and protection.

The Synod office is like the lungs that gather the oxygen and send it into the body to enable the body to do its work.

The hair is like the ventures of community engagement that pop up, sometimes in surprising places. And, of course, Christ is our head.

At times it seems that parts of the Uniting Church do things without regard for the rest of the body. How do we support the parts that are suffering or damaged without inhibiting the movement of the whole?

Already some progress is being made to be organised for mission so that we are not so awkward (like in that three-legged race). Already people are bringing their prayerful discernment so that we might not lose the way.



Being 'together on the way' means thinking about how our choices might affect the rest of the Church. It means celebrating the magnificent diversity of the ways that the Uniting Church enriches communities all over Queensland. Together, as the body of Christ, we can achieve so much.

Where's the Moderator?

This month Rev Kaye Ronalds will be at many events including:

4 – 6 May Centenary celebration at Burdekin Uniting Church, Ayr

11 May Installation of the new Catholic Archbishop, the Most Rev Mark Coleridge, Brisbane

12 May Presbytery of South Moreton meeting

17 May Farewell function for Rev Dr Neil Sims, Trinity Theological College

25 May Finance Investment & Property board meeting

27 May Worship at Elanora Uniting Church



Students at the Scots PGC College Anzac Day service where Kaye Ronalds gave the message. Photo by Judi Haidley.

Snap that!

SEND us a photo that captures the *Journey* theme.

This month: *Side by Side*.

The Lowood-Fernvale Uniting Church congregations new craft group works side by side to make Operation Christmas Child gift boxes to be sent overseas this Christmas. Not only are they working with each other, but also with the global church. Thanks to Geoff and Caryn Payne for sending this photo in.

June theme: Stewardship.



journeyonline.com.au

[facebook.com/JourneyOnline](https://www.facebook.com/JourneyOnline)

twitter.com/JourneyOnline

[youtube.com/JourneyTelevision](https://www.youtube.com/JourneyTelevision)

Subscribe to receive *Journey* in your inbox

Synchronise stories to your favourite blog reader

Flooded Fiji prepares to rebuild

Stephanie Dalton

HEAVY rains caused destructive floods throughout Fiji in the lead up to Easter causing the worst damage in a glut of bad weather that has plagued the islands.

The flooding devastated homes, livelihoods and communities just as the region began to recover from the 2009 floods.

Associate General Secretary of the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, Rev Tevita Banivanua, said this most recent event has been the most damaging.

"This was the worst," said Rev Banivanua. "The big reservoir overflowed and the water levels rose so fast.

"We can't even get to Nadi by road."

Rev Banivanua was particularly concerned for students and children, saying that the government had closed all schools and universities.

Fiji was majorly impacted by floods in 2009, which battered infrastructure and the economy. Further heavy rains caused



The recent Fiji floods are worse than the flooding in 2009, pictured above. Photo courtesy of UnitingWorld

havoc as recently as February this year.

Uniting World has pledged to launch relief efforts sharing

equipment and materials with partners and congregations to assist in rebuilding communities and supporting families.

To make a contribution to flood relief efforts in Fiji, call Uniting World on 1800 998 122

Call heard for aged care reform

A poll by Essential Research has found that 80 per cent of respondents believe Australia is not prepared to meet the huge challenges of an ageing population.

In the wake of these results UnitingCare National Director, Lin Hatfield Dodds, said Australians are sick of "Band-Aids being applied to a broken system".

"All around Australia people are calling for lasting improvements which would allow people to age with choice, dignity and quality care," Ms Hatfield Dodds said.

"Already we are struggling to meet the demand for in-home care services, residential accommodation close to family and to provide quality care for the increasing incidence of people living with dementia.

"Older Australians deserve better than what the current system offers and it will only get worse every year [we defer reform]."

Council of The Ageing (COTA) Chief Executive, Ian Yates, said that Australia's "demographic time-bomb" is ticking and the Australian government must outline a table for reform in the 2012 budget.

Ms Hatfield Dodds said the Gillard Government's \$3.7 billion overhaul, announced on 20 April, put older Australians at the

centre of a new aged care system.

Commenting after a briefing from the Prime Minister and the Minister for Ageing, Ms Hatfield Dodds said the blueprint invests in the core components of a fundamentally reshaped aged care system that will deliver better care to older Australians now and as their needs change.

The Government said it will deliver the *Living Longer Living Better* plan over 10 years to deliver more choice, easier access and better care for older Australians and their families.

"More and better support to age at home, and a simpler and fairer financing system are the keystones of the new system," Ms Hatfield Dodds said.

"We know that older Australians want to stay in their own home and community as long as they can.

"\$1 billion of the \$3.7 billion of spend announced will go to care in people's homes. That's a very good thing.

"UnitingCare Australia welcomes new, fair, and flexible financing arrangements. Equity has been missing in action in aged-care financing for too long.

"We are very pleased to see measures that will ensure vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians are protected and supported, while those who can afford to pay a fair share toward the costs of their accommodation

and care, do so.

"The Government's commitment to invest in structural reform is a welcome priority."

Ms Hatfield Dodds said that establishing a single gateway for information and access to care, an independent financing authority, better support of the aged care workforce and an expert implementation council will ensure the Government delivers on the reforms.

"Finally, the focus on alleviating workforce pressures is welcome. \$1.2 B will go a long way to delivering higher wages, better training and professional development, and improved career pathways.

"The reform package invests in the structural transformation required of aged-care that will ensure a better life and better care for older Australians.

"Over the coming days we'll be assessing the detail of the package and we look forward to being part of implementation planning.

"We call on all political parties to support these reforms," she said.

UnitingCare services manage 12 per cent of all residential aged care places in Australia with over 12 000 aged care beds and a network of community care places from metropolitan to remote communities.



UnitingCare National Director, Lin Hatfield Dodds. Photo courtesy of UnitingCare Australia



SCHOOL FOR DISCERNING PARENTS

Sunshine Coast Grammar School

Co-educational day school Prep to Year 12
(07) 5445 4444 www.scgs.qld.edu.au

Clayfield College

Girls: Prep to Year 12 Boarding: Girls from Year 5
Boys: Prep to Year 5
(07) 3262 0262 www.clayfield.qld.edu.au

Brisbane Boys' College

Boys: Prep to Year 12
Boarding: Years 5 to 12
(07) 3309 3500 www.bbc.qld.edu.au

Somerville House

Day and boarding school for girls Prep to Year 12
Boarding: Years 7 to 12
(07) 3248 9200 www.somerville.qld.edu.au

Easterfest hits back in 2012

Tara Burton

TENS of thousands of people visited Toowoomba over the Easter long weekend to celebrate Easterfest, the largest Christian event and largest drug and alcohol-free festival in Australia.

Festival director David Schenk said that after shock floods at Easterfest in 2011, this year the event ran smoothly and was a complete success.

"All the challenges that we had with the weather caused last year's event to end in ways that we certainly hadn't anticipated," he said. "This year however it was just an amazing atmosphere."

"I think that anyone who was at the festival this year would have gone home raving about the overall experience."

In his first year as festival director, Mr Schenk said he has his team to thank for the success of this year's event.

"I actually had one of the most enjoyable and almost relaxing festival weekends that I've had since I first came to work here back in 2005."

"When you've got a team as amazing as what I've got it's not

as hard as what you might think."

The majority of the key team are volunteers from Toowoomba, Brisbane and South-East Queensland.

"They just did such a tremendous job that I really didn't have too much to worry about."

"I was able to take a step back and really breathe in the festival."

Mr Schenk said many attendees noted that this year felt notably different.

"The spiritual atmosphere was really quite different this year," he said.

"There was just an incredible atmosphere and presence of God there over the weekend."

"Our prayer all along as a team was that the tents, lights and famous people, all the infrastructure and all the exciting things would not be a distraction from the message of Easter and what Jesus has done for us."

"They would be a platform to be shared."

"I think we're excited to say that it really seemed like that was the case," said Mr Schenk.

Matt Gees from Wellers Hill Tarragindi Uniting Church



Christian band Hawk Nelson perform at Easterfest 2012. Photo by Taylor Perren

couldn't agree more. He was particularly moved by an Easter Sunday service hosted by the Bremer Brisbane Presbytery in the camping ground.

"The genuineness of the worshippers was obvious and the connection to each other and to God was done with simplicity."

"It was the best Easter Sunday service of worship that I had been to in a long time," he said.

Mr Gees was particularly impressed by Trinity Theological College student Fa Ngaluafefe's testimonial about the importance of Easter to her.

"Fa's moving testimony had the rest of the camp in silence."

"Fa had shared how it was an Easter Sunday not much different to this one that she heard God really speak to her."

"It changed her life and her faith," said Mr Gees.

Luke Reynoldson from Forest Lake Uniting Church said that his highlights at Easterfest were listening to his favourite Christian bands perform live, creating new friendships and the fellowship of thousands of other Christians.

"My favourite parts of Easterfest would definitely be the variety of music, from big band jazz to rock, and the number of speakers."

"The festival is a place where Christians from around the country can come and remember what God did for us."

"There's definitely something for everyone."

Mr Reynoldson is looking forward to what Easterfest might bring in 2013.

Mr Schenk said despite last year's festival having to end early because of flooding, this year had the highest number of pre-sold tickets.

"We're just really excited that there is that experience of being at Easterfest that seems to draw people back again and again," he said.

Calling Easter people

Tara Burton

ONE hundred and fifty Uniting Church members gathered in Mt Louisa House of Praise in Townsville for worship over the Easter weekend.

Congregation minister, Rev Anne Harley, said this year's Easter Call was a success and attendees were changed, inspired, healed, and more equipped to serve.

"We believe God has far more for us in the Uniting Church in North Queensland than we are

demonstrating."

"The Call was an exciting two days of worship, teaching, electives, food, fun and fellowship," said Ms Harley.

This year's theme was refreshed, redeemed and released.

"The event was born from a vision of Ezekiel 37 and the need to call the dry bones of the church to rise up and live."

"We were so fortunate to have speakers of the calibre of Sandra Sellmer from Elijah House ministries, David Sylvester from

YWAM and Maria Moriconi who organises Ignite NQ."

"At one of the sessions Sandra shared on healing trauma. It was so powerful and healing for many of us in the north," she said.

"There were many healings over the weekend."

Ms Harley said the highlight of the weekend was Easter Saturday where local band Elevate led worship.

"Many young people gave their hearts to Jesus and made commitments of their lives."

"Over the weekend adults, youth and children all got a renewed sense of God's call in their lives."



Tom Frankling, Jenn Rombeek Burnett, Paul Lemcke, and Janine Rigano at The Call. Photo by Kristy Warner

2 leadership positions at Kippax - a vibrant community

Congregational Development Minister

Executive Officer

Kippax Uniting Church is a lively congregation in the ACT with a strong sense of call and a growing community services ministry - "UnitingCare Kippax". It is an exciting and innovative place to be in ministry.

We are seeking 2 new members for our leadership team who, along with our Executive Minister, will share responsibility for implementing the call, vision and values at Kippax Uniting Church. Both positions are open to ordained and lay people.

The **Congregational Development Minister (full time)** will work primarily with the congregation as we live out our ministry and spiritual development. You will have core responsibility for the education, formation, pastoral care and spiritual wellbeing of the congregation including specific attention to people in the first third of their life.

Initial inquiries may be directed to Gordon Ramsay, Executive Minister, Kippax Uniting Church: gordon@kippax.org.au or 02 6254 1733. Documentation for both positions is available at www.kippax.org.au

Applications: Applications addressing the selection criteria are to be forwarded to

Ms Meg Herbert, Synod Associate Secretary (Ministry), PO Box A2178 Sydney South NSW 1235 or megh@nsw.uca.org.au

Applications close 31 May 2012

The **Executive Officer (part-time - 0.6-0.8)** will work primarily with the services of UnitingCare Kippax, ensuring that those services are lived out as an expression of Kippax Uniting Church's call, vision and values. Working to the UnitingCare Kippax Board, you will have core responsibility for the organisation's sound management and ensuring the development of the community services ministry.

We are seeking, for both positions, people who are strong leaders and who work constructively in a team. They will have a sense of energy with high level relationship skills and capacity for complex thinking. They will be passionate about living out God's call and to building community in caring and creative ways.



The Uniting Church in Australia
Queensland Synod

MINISTER OF THE WORD

Graceville, Brisbane

We are a resourceful congregation in the midst of a district subject to urban renewal. We are seeking a Minister who has an aptitude for congregational renewal and community outreach.

Our web site <http://www.gracevilleunitingchurch.com.au/>, provides details of our heritage listed church that attracts many weddings and baptisms.

To register interest, contact Synod Ministries Coordinator, Rev. John Cox, at john.cox@ucaqld.com.au, or phone (07) 3377 9705

General inquiries to Rev. David Baker on (07) 3201 0750 or presmin@bremerbrisbane.org.au

50 Days of Prayer creates connections

Emma Tucker

THE Albert Street Uniting Church congregation in Brisbane will engage in 50 Days of Prayer to coincide with the 50 days of the Easter season.

Beginning on 8 April, Superintendent Minister, Rev Lyn Burden, said the initiative strives to create relationships between the congregation and the staff, volunteers and individuals involved with Wesley Mission Brisbane programs and services.

“I like to imagine Wesley Mission Brisbane as a spider’s

web,” said Ms Burden. “There is such a sheer diversity of services and locations that it’s easy for some people and places to feel isolated. The idea of 50 Days of Prayer is to grow connections between the Albert Street congregation and the people who make up Wesley Mission Brisbane.”

The ministry team believes it is important to let people know that the congregation is thinking of the work which staff and volunteers are doing, and praying for them is a first step in doing so.

“Just picking up the phone and



Lyn Burden. Photo courtesy of Wesley Mission Brisbane

having that initial conversation creates a tenuous link – it may not be strong, but it’s a start. So 50 Days of Prayer builds on those connections and also helps people to understand the breadth of services within Wesley Mission Brisbane, create personal links and acknowledge God’s blessing upon them,” said Ms Burden.

“Each day after Easter, a different story will be shared and there will be an opportunity given to pray for the situation. We hope that by being informed more fully about the great work of Wesley Mission Brisbane, and by upholding our people before God, the links within our organisation will be strengthened.”

The church will release a booklet each week with that week’s stories and prayers. At the end of the 50 days they will release the whole collection of stories, prayers and photographs.

Together update

Lyndelle Gunton

IT is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we share with you the *Side by Side* study resource this month. A product stemming from *Together on the way, enriching community*, the resource has been developed by a team from the Uniting Church in Queensland to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is based on the Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 12: 12-28, the theme of the Church as the body of Christ, and hopes to help people in congregations, Presbyteries and agencies across Queensland to consider the importance of relationships and trust in the Church. Using stories from our own congregations, it demonstrates the value of building strong partnerships between different parts of the Church to work towards mission.

We hope and pray that Bible study groups, ministry agents, worship leaders, community services staff and church members will use the printed study guide as well as the online accompanying study resources available at the *Together on the way, enriching community* website at www.together.ucaqld.com.au

Thank you to those congregations who have welcomed me to their worship services and responded to the invitation to participate in *Together on the way, enriching community*. It is exciting to hear about the ways that different parts of the Church across Queensland are interpreting the Vision 2020 and activating their strategic plans for mission. If your congregation would like to hear more about the *Together on the way, enriching community* journey and give consideration to how you can contribute to it, please contact me at Lyndelle.Gunton@ucaqld.com.au

Lyndelle Gunton is the *Together on the way, enriching community* Project Officer

Building begins in Carina

COCKRAM Construction will build Blue Care’s new Azure Blue Lifestyle Community at Carina after winning a sought-after tender.

Moderator, Rev Kaye Ronalds, was at the turning of the sod ceremony in March. Blue Care executive director

Robyn Batten said Azure Blue Carina will comprise a care precinct and a luxury retirement living precinct where residents’ amenities include a swimming pool, cafe, library, function room and media room.

Residents will have access to a range of hotel services including meals, laundry and cleaning as well as the option of in-home care, provided by Blue Care’s Community Care services.



Turning of the sod at Azure Blue Carina in March. Photo courtesy of Blue Care

Art finds a place

Marion McConaghy

THE Vera Wade Gallery at St Andrew’s Uniting Church in Brisbane City has had an exciting line up of exhibitions in the first half of this year.

In February, Rev Dr Geraldine Wheeler exhibited her series of thoughtful gouache paintings on black Stonehenge paper entitled Biblical Women.

In her work, she invites the viewer to enter the worlds of influential women acknowledged in Biblical text.

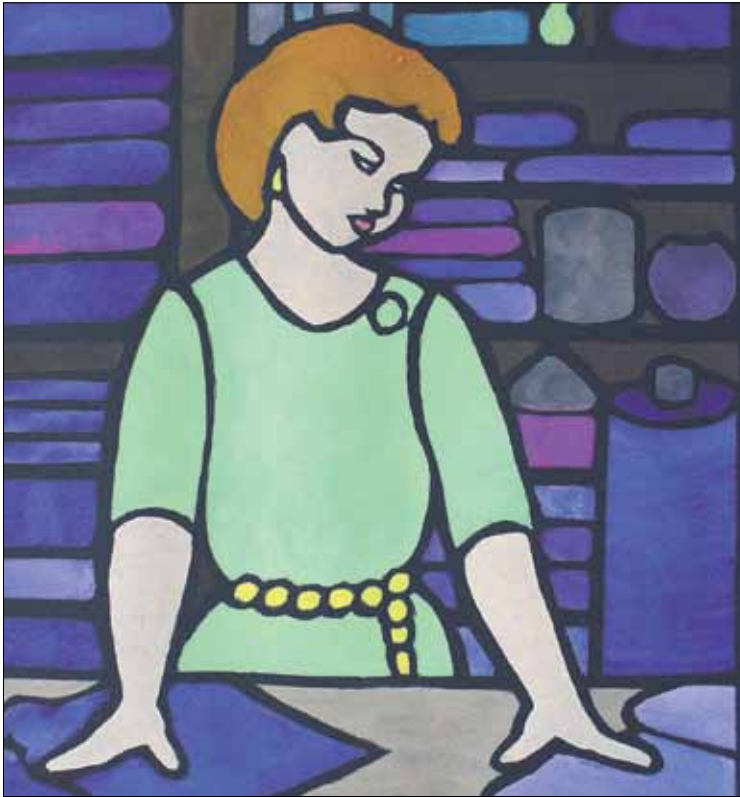
The annual Visionaries Exhibition entitled Through Lent to the Cross and Beyond during March and April filled the gallery space with a diverse display of artists whose works expressed their faith as they explored the Easter theme.

Contributing artists were Lindsay Farrell, Victoria Fitzpatrick, Kerry Holland, Marion McConaghy, Dianne Minnaar, Mel Perkins, Kerry Reece, Rita Ringma, Cees Sliedrecht and Geraldine Wheeler.


The official opening was combined with a special service held at St Andrew’s Uniting Church.

The World Vision Photographic Collection runs through May while a selection of works from Ian and Maxine Chaseling’s Indigenous art collection will be exhibited in June.

For more information email saintandrews@saintandrews.org.au




Lydia by Geraldine Wheeler, Biblical Women Series



The SCOTS PGC College

CO EDUCATIONAL DAY & BOARDING
Oxenham St Warwick Queensland



LIMITED VACANCIES 2013
TO ARRANGE A PERSONAL TOUR
T. 07 4666 9808

space to learn

Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (Q) Registered CRICOS Provider No. 00537M



The Australian Research Theology Foundation Inc.

is inviting applications for grants for 2012-2013.

The purpose of these grants is to support theological research and education for formal academic research, new projects or other related concepts.

Further information regarding the Foundation and detail of the application process can be obtained directly from our website www.artfinc.org.au

Applications and all inquiries should be emailed to artfinc@gmail.com

Applications must be received by the 31st of May. Notification of Grants will be made from the end of July.

Mentoring program engages local artists

Rochelle Nolan

IN 2011, Heiser Gallery founder and director Bruce Heiser selected six artists from Wesley Mission Brisbane's Art From The Margins program to participate in a mentoring program.

Many months of dreaming, creating and hard work later, the mentorship has culminated in the Heiser Gallery Emerging Artists Exhibition.

According to Mr Heiser, there was no formal structure in the mentoring program, giving it the freedom to mould to each individual artist and their creative style.

"From my perspective it was about supporting the artists and giving them a feeling of confidence," he said.

"That was the most important thing for me, to empower them and give them positive feedback so they would feel they were able to make a positive contribution."

In addition to providing support and feedback from an artistic perspective, the mentoring program allowed Mr Heiser to build more personal connections with the artists.

"It was great getting to know those individual people further, not just as artists, but as individuals, and that was really

rewarding. I just wanted to bring out the very best in their work that I could, and I think we've succeeded in doing that," said Mr Heiser.

The Heiser Gallery Emerging Artists Exhibition, held at New Farm's Graydon Gallery in March, featured the best work of each artist.

Mr Heiser said the work presented illustrated that all the artists had developed creatively.

Over the years Mr Heiser has seen the artists grow in confidence, which translates through to their work.

Art from the Margins Director (and Queensland Synod 2012 Calendar judge), Anthony Anderton, said the Heiser Emerging Artist Award will continue to be a regular part of the Brisbane Festival Exhibition.

"This year Bruce will take another look at the work shown at the festival and identify up to six artists he sees as having the potential to take their work to the next level for inclusion in the mentoring program."

Art from the Margins is built on a belief in the transformative power of art – a belief Mr Heiser also holds to be true.

"Art gives us the ability to move into other spaces and places," said Mr Heiser.



WMB Superintendent Minister Lyn Burden, artist Troy Cowley, Anthony Anderton, artists Magda Labuda, Paul Munroe, Cathy Chui, Trent Quinlan, and Nicky Carey, and Dr Ian Airey. Photo by Junia Wolfe

"Art enriches society; it's such an important thing. Without art – what are we? Art in any number of genres enriches our lives tremendously."

The very nature of dealing with the creative process can be challenging at times, but Mr Heiser said he found his involvement to be a very positive experience.

"What Wesley does for these people is so wonderful. A lot of them would just slip through the cracks – and that's a very sad thing to contemplate. So it was an honour to be involved. I think if you can empower somebody and help them in their life in any way you can, it's a good thing. That was the joy of doing it."

Mr Anderton said Art from

the Margins is continuing to expand to support artists.

"We've commenced offering art workshops in print making and drawing. It's a great way to give a small group of artists the opportunity to engage with us in new ways, to expand their skills, network with other artists and find new opportunities to present their work to audiences."

Blue Care launches multicultural service

Samantha Marsh

BLUE Care officially launched a new multicultural service at Springwood Community Care in March.

The service aims to assist people with cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds in accessing aged care in the Logan, Ipswich, Gold Coast and Tweed areas.

Blue Care Multicultural Service Manager, Mercedes Sepulveda, said they are very excited to launch the vital service in Queensland's most culturally diverse region.

"If you look at Logan alone,

25.3 per cent of residents were born overseas and 12 per cent speak a language other than English at home," said Ms Sepulveda.

"It's important that there are bridging services in place so that everyone has the opportunity to access community care regardless of cultural and linguistic backgrounds."

Ms Sepulveda said that Blue Care will work with Home and Community Care (HACC) service providers to be more culturally responsive and help community members make well-informed decisions about what services are available.



Blue Care Community Services Director Tracey Silvester, Aboriginal elder Peggy Tidyman, Blue Care Logan/Ipswich Community Care Manager Jan Skinner and Mercedes Sepulveda. Photo Courtesy of Blue Care

Childcare centre fosters friendships across the ages

Emma Tucker

THE Little Marchant's Child Care Centre has arrived in a very special and unique environment – an aged-care community.

Little Marchant's was named after the historic Marchant cottages in which it is housed and is a child care service looking after just 20 children per day.

The Centre can be found within Wesley Mission Brisbane's Wheller Gardens, the first aged-care community in Queensland when it was opened in 1936.

Child Care Manager Dianne Holman said Little Marchant's was also a groundbreaking concept.

"We are the first child care centre to be located within an aged-care community, so there's a huge range of potential here," she said.

"We are in the process of developing a variety of programs that will provide opportunities for [aged-care] residents and children to interact and develop relationships."

Little Marchant's Director Danielle Shearer said the



Little Marchants will introduce intergenerational programs this year.

Photo by Emma Tucker

presence of children brings joy to the aged-care residents.

"Older people enjoy the merriment and warmth that children can bring into their day – it could be especially beneficial for those who maybe have grandchildren far away or don't have children in their lives at all. This affords them the chance to engage with kids via storytelling, music, drama, or just simply playing."

"Things like gardening, creative experiences and music will be some of the things to explore. It's very healthy for

adults – particularly older adults – to engage with children. It's a process of teaching and learning that's beneficial to both parties."

One child who regularly visits the centre has a grandparent living in the aged-care community on-site.

"It's a great opportunity for her to spend more time with him than she might normally," said Ms Shearer.

For more information on Little Marchant's drop by the centre at 930 Gympie Road, Chermide or phone Danielle on 3621 2098



ANTON BROWN FUNERALS
100% QUEENSLAND FAMILY OWNED

*We can help with all your funeral needs
in Brisbane and Surrounding Areas*

www.antonbrownfunerals.com.au



57 BALACLAVA STREET
WOOLLOONGABBA

3217 3088

1285 GYMPIE ROAD ASPLEY

3863 4000



A study resource for the journey to the 35th Anniversary
of the Uniting Church in Australia

side aprs by

 together on the way
enriching community

Welcome

In the New Testament the phrase “the body of Christ” refers to many things.

We first hear about the body of Christ when Mary discovers that she is pregnant. We meet Jesus as flesh and blood in the nativity at Bethlehem and on the cross outside Jerusalem.

The transformed body of Christ is encountered by another Mary in the garden beside the empty tomb and by Thomas in the upper room. One was asked not to hold onto him while the other was invited to touch the wounds with his own hands.

Then the work begun by the incarnate Jesus was handed over to the body of Christ, the church, empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry on God’s mission in the world. That body of Christ is nourished for its journey by partaking of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

This series of studies explores how the image of the body of Christ was used to teach the early Christians to live and serve as part of the whole. As the Uniting Church prepares to celebrate 35 years since union, you are invited to gather with other members of the body to explore meeting the challenges of being the many incarnations of Christ in our community today.

The Queensland Synod has embraced the call and vision statement and the values that underpin our work. As I move about our church I can see many expressions of the body of Christ. As you explore the teaching of the church about the body of Christ, think about the church in Queensland. Which parts are rejoicing or suffering or in need of special care and protection? We can achieve so much more for God when we worship, witness and serve together. I commend the studies to you.

Kaye Ronalds

Rev Kaye Ronalds
Moderator, The Uniting Church in Australia,
Queensland Synod

Preparing for the journey

Before each session, ask God for guidance and inspiration. Open your heart and mind to new insights and challenges. Savour the words and phrases in your heart noticing that which evokes a response.

Follow the reading with a time of silent reflection.

There are many accompanying resources at together.ucaqld.com.au. Log on to explore and prepare for the journey.



WEB

together.ucaqld.com.au



READ

The *Side by Side* leaders’ manual on the website



LISTEN

Song: *A Heart for You* by Rev David Macgregor



WATCH

Four short video clips exploring collaboration

study 1

Reflection on the *Statement to the Nation*: Introducing ourselves

People of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches have united. A new church has been born.

We, who are members of the first Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia, address the people of Australia in this historic moment. The path to unity has been long and at times difficult, but we believe this unity is a sign of the reconciliation we seek for the whole human race.

We acknowledge with gratitude that the churches from which we have come have contributed in various ways to the life and development of this nation. A Christian responsibility to society has always been regarded as fundamental to the mission of the Church. In the Uniting Church our response to the Christian gospel will continue to involve us in social and national affairs.

We are conscious of our responsibilities within and beyond this country. We particularly acknowledge our responsibilities as one branch of the Christian church within the region of South-East Asia and the Pacific. In these contexts we make certain affirmations at the time of our inauguration.

This statement was made to the nation at the inauguration of The Uniting Church in Australia on 22 June, 1977. Here, we introduced ourselves as a church. We’re new; we’re three churches who have decided to become one. It was exciting.

We let people know how we got to the beginning, the historic nature of the moment, and we acknowledged that the journey towards union wasn’t easy. Our union is a sign “of the reconciliation we seek for the whole human race”. This union makes sense of our heritage, tradition and understanding of the church working in the world. And we want our unity to declare our commitment to the reconciliation of the whole human race.

What a way to begin! We told the nation where we’ve come from; held up our union as a sign of reconciliation; and committed ourselves to our responsibilities as the Uniting Church both in Australia and within our region.

All this is like the trailer for the sequel: now you understand the context, we’ve got a few things to say.



The enthusiasm shared by the communities of Crossway Korean Uniting Church, Brisbane, and Mapoon Uniting Church, Cape York, has generated a partnership focused on learning about the different ways each other experiences God and participates as members of the wider Uniting Church in Queensland. Photo courtesy of Michelle Cook

A people of God on the way

Opening prayer or song (see accompanying resources at together.ucaqld.com.au)

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Biblical Reflection: Re-read verse 27

The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth, three or four decades after Jesus' crucifixion, in an attempt to address the terrible conflicts and imperfections that he has heard about. This church is trying to be faithful in a city located on a strategic trade route between West Asia and Europe. The population of Corinth is a multicultural, multi-faith, and hard-living group who show little respect for much other than earning a living. Even within the church we find Paul helping them to confront divisions, the continuing influence of previous beliefs, disciplining members, sexual immorality, legalism, and a spiritual arrogance that had arisen (see chapters 5, 6, 8 and 10).

The behaviour of the Corinthian church contrasts with the account of the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21. At Pentecost, two decades prior, we have the inspiring story of the birth of the church. The presence of God's Spirit enables the infant church to speak to those gathered in Jerusalem of God's salvation for all humanity. Life for the believers in this church (Acts 2:43-47), was shared—addressing needs, worshipping together, breaking bread, and “having the goodwill of all the people”.

This story of community inspires and challenges us. We yearn for something more than just membership of an organisation to which we feel an obligation to contribute our time.

Paul reminds us that the church is not an organisation but a body, a strange spiritual organism of all believers – “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”.

The church needs to be free of the shackles of the spirit of individualism that infests our age; to break free of the localism that limits our focus to what is happening only in our backyard. This leads to a preoccupation with personal religion and a blinkered mission not unlike the problems that occurred in the Corinthian church. To be a part of the body of Christ is to engage in an open and committed relationship with the church in its local, regional, state and worldwide expressions.

Together on the way

In the Queensland Synod, the Uniting Church's vision is to look more deeply at the essence and future of our church. Individuals, congregations, Uniting Church health and community services and schools are asked to join the *Together on the way, enriching community* journey to lead us into fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world.

In response to the call of Christ, in the light of Holy Scripture and the Basis of Union, the Uniting Church in Queensland is committed to: Uniting in Christ: acting with love; living with hope; witnessing in faith; working for justice.

Discussion points:

- The church in Corinth reflected some of the same issues as broader society. What are the influences we confront today in our own church or faith life?
- Reflect on the similarities between the church in Corinth, Jerusalem, and the Uniting Church in Queensland. What are the most important things your community could do to address these and how could your community collaborate with another part of the Uniting Church community to enable mission?
- What might we change or continue to affirm in this section of the *Statement to the Nation* we read today?

Closing prayer or song

Further reading:

Living as Community by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (www.theworkofthepeople.com)

Statement to the Nation and the *Basis of Union* both available on the Assembly website (<http://assembly.uca.org.au>)

Reflection on the *Statement to the Nation*: Here we go!

We affirm our eagerness to uphold basic Christian values and principles, such as the importance of every human being, the need for integrity in public life, the proclamation of truth and justice, the rights for each citizen to participate in decision-making in the community, religious liberty and personal dignity, and a concern for the welfare of the whole human race.

We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will work for the eradication of poverty and racism within our society and beyond. We affirm the rights of all people to equal educational opportunities, adequate health care, freedom of speech, employment or dignity in unemployment if work is not available. We will oppose all forms of discrimination which infringe basic rights and freedoms.

We will challenge values which emphasise acquisitiveness and greed in disregard of the needs of others and which encourage a higher standard of living for the privileged in the face of the daily widening gap between the rich and poor.

Every time I [Colleen Geyer] read these words, I feel proud that, as a church, we had the guts to say these things, were courageous enough to set the bar high, and wanted there to be no doubt about what Australia could expect of us. Read these words and you will know how we're intending to be true to who we are. Our unity, which is a sign of the reconciliation we seek for the whole human race, will look like this.

Our concern was for everyone and we affirmed that we upheld “basic Christian values and principles”. Some might say that the injustices we pledged ourselves to address are what everyone should strive for, and they're right. But as the church, we can't shy away from our responsibilities as part of the society in which we live and serve.

Whether as a church we understood the enormity of what we were saying, is not clear. The courage it took to write those words is small compared to the courage it has taken in the 35 years since union to be activists for change in Australia and to stand with the vulnerable, marginalised and dispossessed. Have we been brave enough?

If you look back over the statements that the Assembly and the synods have made about these issues, if you read the press releases or proposals from the councils of the church, it is clear we've been in amongst it! As the Uniting Church, we can't make these commitments and then be silent. Our voice has had to be loud and strong. At times our voice has had to be a lone voice, a voice that isn't popular, even amongst our own members. Remind you of anyone?

The journey begins

Opening prayer or song

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and Romans 12:3-16 **Biblical Reflection:** Re-read verse 12

Here we go!

Uniting Church theologian and author Bill Loader writes that in this passage, “The theme is unity. Claims to spiritual prowess and the focus on gifts instead of the giver (see 12:1-11) led to disunity. Corinth's Christians seem to have developed a range of kinds of disunity and here, in Chapter 12, a failure to live out the unity of the Spirit. Paul goes on to develop a common illustration: communities need to work together as our body's parts need to work together (12:12-27). For Paul, the body is more than just a community; it is a participation in the ongoing life of the risen Christ which extends to encompass us in a realm of power and transforming love. The one Spirit brings the one presence of Christ to us. We drink it together (12:13). Or to change the image, as Paul often does, we have been incorporated into this body which is Christ (12:12). For Paul, in this letter, Christ is the whole body with many parts (12:12) and we have found our place in it and take on its various roles.” (Adapted from Bill Loader's *First Thoughts on Year A* epistle passage from the lectionary)

Paul has chosen the metaphor of the body to help us understand the nature of the Church and our relationship with God and one another. There are also other metaphors that may help unpack this imagery, e.g. a soccer team or orchestra. Just like in the church, each member of the team has an important part to play, has to develop their own skills and focus on their performance rather than criticise others, and listen to the experienced and trained coach. They all need to work together for the group to achieve its goals.

The *Together on the way* journey begins

The Priority Direction A Report to the 29th Synod in 2011 identified the following challenges to a shared Call and Vision:

- There is a widespread lack of confidence in home grown models of mission and church life.
- There is an individualism that permeates all parts of our church so there is little willingness to engage beyond the immediate or look at ways in which various parts of the church can partner with one another.
- There is a deep-seated suspicion and cynicism among clergy and many lay leaders in our church. Just as the Corinthian church was challenged by Paul to confront its disunity, suspicion, mistrust, jealousy and partisanship, we too as individuals, congregations, faith communities and Uniting Church organisations need to free ourselves to fully participate as Christ's body serving the world (Romans 12:3-16).

We achieve this freedom not just by our own action but in the confession that we are all children of God (Romans 8:12-17).

Discussion points:

- What are the most important aspects of the body metaphor for your situation?
- Do you agree with the points raised in the Priority Direction report above? What are the barriers to being the body of Christ and how could you work to overcome them?
- Consider the three paragraphs from the Statement to the Nation for this session. How might you partner with others to be the body of Christ responding to these issues in local, state and national contexts?

Closing prayer or song

Further reading: *The body* (www.worshiphousemedia.com)

study 3



The congregation of The Gap Uniting Church brought back plenty of awareness, craft to fundraise with and enthusiasm for sharing in God's mission following collaboration with UnitingWorld on a visit to our church partners in East Timor. The congregation are excited about continuing that collaboration as a way of learning about different ways of being church in less developed parts of the world. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

study 3

What does a latte have to do with God's purpose for our church? A lot if you are Rev Marius Kruger and the Highlands Faith Community. Established with help from the Queensland Synod Support Services and The Downs Presbytery, Highlands Faith Community is exploring different ways of ministering to the community including at the Kruger's family-run café, the Forest Hill Coffee House. Photo by Mardi Lumsden



study 3

Reflection on the *Statement to the Nation*: It's not just for us

We are concerned with the basic human rights of future generations and will urge the wise use of energy, the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth's resources for their use and enjoyment.

This one small paragraph let Australia know that as a church we weren't just interested in the here and now but that we would also be a future-focused church. We wouldn't just strive to make a difference for the generations surrounding us, but also we would be "concerned with the basic human rights of future generations". God's love and commitment to humanity is not limited by time, space or matter.

Sometimes it's difficult to be committed to actions for people we won't know, for years in which we won't live. Don't we have enough things to be worried about now? And yet, this whole statement calls us to look outwards: to identify injustices and how we can influence change, to see what's happening in our communities and how we can help in the future. It also acknowledges the impact of our actions for the future, in particular, on the environment; God's creation of which we are stewards. Isn't it amazing that this statement was made 35 years ago?

Taking our part in the bigger picture

Opening prayer or song

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:15-24 and Ephesians 4: 1-6

Biblical Reflection: Re-read verse 15

It's not about us

When we read this, we can see the absurdity of the idea that all the parts of the body should be the same. However, this is often one of the major sources of conflict within the church. We find it hard to share with those who think, believe or act differently.

Our reality is that there are very many expressions of the body of Christ today. As a uniting church, seeking wider unity, we need to be aware of both the pain and the indifference that exists towards ecumenical relationships.

Verses 21-24 challenge us to discern not only the gifts and callings that each one of us has to offer as a member of that body, but also how we live in relation to every other Christian.

In our modern context, when seeking to engage with people from different denominations, socio-economic backgrounds, or even life experiences, we can fluctuate between uninformed enthusiasm and guarded involvement. Both can hinder the building of mutual trust and commitment to working together. It is essential that we form authentic partnerships of equality, respect and integrity in furthering God's mission in the world.

Beyond the Christian church, we can collaborate with those in our communities who profess a different faith. This prospect can be difficult for some. But in the face of human need, the pressures of a secular society, and injustice and oppression, there can be a basis for interfaith cooperation that seeks to draw upon compassion, love and service to others. Interfaith dialogue is both a challenge and a gift.

Together on the way

The Uniting Church in Queensland's Vision 2020 incorporates nine action areas of significance for the church. Read them all at together.ucaqld.com.au. Three of significance to this session are:

Working for Christian unity

Engaged in authentic community relationships

Reaching out and speaking for justice and peace for all creation

Discussion points:

- Paul's analogy challenges us to show humility in our relations with each other. How is this expressed in partnerships with others in your local situation?
- At a local level, how are gifts offered in service to the wider church and humanity?
- How is your church or group engaged in the areas of significance listed above?
- The *Statement to the Nation* gives us an indication of issues we can address with other denominations and faiths. What are the key issues facing our society today that would benefit from people of faith working together?

Further reading: *Body of Christ* (www.theworkofthepeople.com)

For more information on these issues visit the Assembly website (assembly.uca.org.au) and read the sections on Christian Unity, Multicultural and Cross Cultural Ministry, and Relations with Other Faiths. There is also good work being done by Queensland Synod committees and Queensland Churches Together (www.qct.org.au).

study 4

Reflection on the *Statement to the Nation*: It's all about hope

Finally we affirm that the first allegiance of Christians is God, under whose judgment the policies and actions of all nations must pass. We realise that sometimes this allegiance may bring us into conflict with the rulers of our day. But our Uniting Church, as an institution within the nation, must constantly stress the universal values which must find expression in national policies if humanity is to survive.

We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth; the One who gave His life for others.

In the spirit of His self-giving love we seek to go forward.

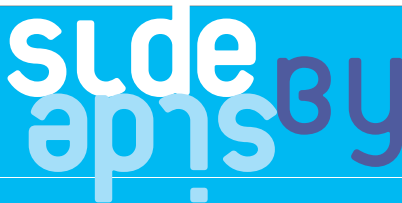
If you were wondering why we made all the commitments in this amazing *Statement to the Nation*, well here it is.

We're clear about whose we are – "the first allegiance of Christians is God". As the Uniting Church, this is our bedrock. It secures us to who we are and why we speak and act the way we do. Because of this belonging, we acknowledge that this may mean we could come into "conflict with the rulers of our day", not because we want it, but because we will be speaking out for "the universal values which must find expression in national policies if humanity is to survive." This isn't a statement that holds back.

"We pledge ourselves to hope..." Can you think of anything better to pledge yourself to? Because of this hope, we pledge ourselves to work for our nation – now that's a commitment which calls us to action! Our work however, is for a nation "whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone". Everything that has come prior to this in the statement has been about being God's church for others. Here "all persons everywhere" are identified as "the family of the One God", and this God has been made known to us in a very special way – in Jesus who "gave His life for others". In this statement, we are called to do that too and be part of the work of God's church in Australia.

Through Christ hope is offered to all humanity and at union, The Uniting Church in Australia committed itself to be the body of Christ, offering hope, with courage and love, to the nation in which it lives and serves.

How have we done?



Living with hope

Opening prayer or song

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:24b-27 and Mark 4:26-34 **Biblical Reflection:** Re-read verse 26-27

It's all about hope

Earlier sessions have pointed to attitudes and behaviours that prevent us from full participation in the body of Christ. Suspicion, mistrust, or jealousy, contribute to damaged or broken relationships. It may be our own attitude or behaviours that cause others to suffer. Or, it might be us who suffer neglect, rejection or marginalisation. Many of us carry wounds from an experience of a church that does not reflect the undeserved grace of our loving God.

The Corinthian church has become an example of the types of behaviours that can occur.

The passage reminds us that our relationship with each other is such that when one part of the church is in pain we all feel that pain.

If there is pain, then there is also hope. There is a way forward; it is a way of hope. Our hope rests in the great purposes and love of our Lord (Ephesians 2: 13 – 22). It is through God's Spirit, active in the body of Christ, that we can find true forgiveness and reconciliation with each other and with God.

Nothing is beyond hope. It is never too late nor too small a start for something to become a new beginning in Christ. The kingdom of God grows even from small beginnings (e.g. Mark 4:26-34).



The relationship between Aspley Uniting Church and the Bald Hills Mosque is promoting understanding and thoughtful discussion around different ways of experiencing faith. Awareness of and appreciation for their differences is opening doors to exploring ways of working together to support the needs of the local community. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

Living with hope

Following this passage on the body, Paul speaks of faith, hope and love in chapter 13. This soaring reflection on God's love enshrines in one word that which our hearts yearn for, that which we seek in all relationships, and that which will bring us to a deeper and wider unity with each other and with the world for which Christ gave himself.

If Paul is right when he says, "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it", then we will not know our full selves until we do so within the fellowship of the Church, and take our part in Christ's mission in the unity of the body!

Together on the way

The Uniting Church in Queensland's Vision 2020 incorporates nine action areas. You can read them all at www.together.ucaqld.com.au

The actions we haven't looked at in this resource yet are:

- A prayerful listening church
- God-centred and life-related worship
- Forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus
- Confident in sharing faith
- Theologically informed, creative and visionary in its leadership
- Organised for mission

Discussion points:

- From the list above, which of these calls your congregation or group to act in hope?
- Spend some time in personal reflection on these two questions:
Am I willing to surrender my agenda to that which serves the whole Church?
While I am happy to rejoice with those who rejoice, am I willing to suffer with those who suffer, or is it easier to walk away?
- What actions will be initiated to ensure that the mission in your local area remains strongly connected to the ongoing mission of the church at regional and state levels?
- The *Statement to the Nation* draws us back to our first allegiance. How will we pledge ourselves to hope and work with all who are part of the whole Uniting Church to bring that hope to our nation?

Further reading: *We need each other* by Jean Vanier (L'Arche) (www.theworkofthepeople.com)

call to action

Here we are; 35 years as a church, a community of people, working for God.

It's been quite a journey: sometimes an anxious tightrope walk and at other times a joyful, carefree dance. Reflecting on our journey as the Uniting Church in Queensland (*Together on the way, enriching community*), we can be assured that today, just as it was 35 years ago, the vision of the Uniting Church in Australia is vital and attainable.

We have discerned the parts of that vision that we need to realise by 2020, as drawn out of the Call: Uniting in Christ: acting with love, living with hope, witnessing in faith, working for justice.

Now is the time for us to be purposeful and intentional about how we achieve that vision. Trusting in and partnering with other parts of the Uniting Church in Queensland can enrich our Church community and commitment towards that shared vision of working towards sustainable mission. There is a synergy derived from different parts of the Uniting Church collaborating that, with God, can shape dreams into realities.

So, where to from here?

Take the opportunity to come together following the completion of these studies and share your ideas for mission. Dream big! Explore the *Together on the way, enriching community* Vision 2020 using the wheel to acknowledge and celebrate where your strengths lie. Identify those sections in which you see weakness and reflect on how you can become more effective in mission. Share your vision with other congregations, presbytery, the Synod office, and with our health and community services and educational facilities. Be open to ways of working together to develop a plan for making your vision for mission a reality.

With God's help we will live out our baptism, enact our commitments in the Statement to the Nation and truly work towards enriching our communities together, as part of the body of Christ.

A time to celebrate

The anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia is just one occasion to give thanks, seek God's forgiveness, and respond faithfully to the continuing presence of the Word of God, Jesus Christ, head of the body!

Preparing

How can we prepare ourselves and our faith community to renew our commitment to being a pilgrim people on the way to the promised end?

Reflecting on *Together on the way, enriching community*; what elements can we use in worship services across the period of Pentecost or other times, to commit us to being the church in our area, state and nation as we move together towards 2020?

Contributors

Colleen Geyer (reflections), Bruce Johnson, Neil Thorpe, Lyndelle Gunton, Mardi Lumsden and many others.



Embodied spirituality key to integrating many parts

Rochelle Nolan

WHEN the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church in what we know as 1 Corinthians 12, he speaks to a Christian community struggling with both spiritual and social issues. Writing to those specific pathologies, Paul uses the analogy of the human body to illustrate the nature of the church in a highly accessible way which provides insights that remain relevant for our church today.

Dave Andrews is an Australian Christian anarchist, author, speaker, social activist, and community developer who, along

with his wife and family have lived and worked in intentional communities with marginalised groups of people in Australia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India for over 40 years.

Mr Andrews said when Paul talks about us being the body of Christ he is reminding us that we are called to embody God's love.

"The heart of the universe is a heart of love and that heart has been embodied for us to see and hear and touch in the person of Jesus," said Mr Andrews.

"Jesus is the embodiment of the reality of God's love in the universe. Paul, in using this

image of the body, is reminding us that we too are to embody God's love in the world in which we live. And that's non-negotiable – that's the central call for all of us, to incarnate God's love in our lives.

"All of us have different ways in which we can live that out in the context of our lives. It's not about competing with each other, it's about recognising that love can be incarnated in multiple ways and we need to cooperate, support and help each other to do that in ways which are beautiful, noble and practical as the body is meant to."

At the time Paul wrote to the people of Corinth, he was combating a spirituality which was disembodied, where the Spirit was good but the body was bad.

"Paul is confronting that directly here saying, 'No, in fact the Spirit and the body must come together because for the Spirit of God to be made incarnated, it needs to be embodied.' So he's challenging Gnosticism there and looking at a radical incarnation that is far more effective and productive," said Mr Andrews.

"Paul is also seeing the

whole world and everyone in it, particularly those of us who are called to follow Jesus, as people who are called to embody that Spirit of radical compassion that was incarnated in the person of Christ. And therefore, whether we're rich or poor, male or female, masters or slaves – we're all called to play a part in the process of embodied spirituality."

Such a message continues to be relevant to us today at multiple levels. By embodying the love of God, it enables us as a whole to embrace those who are lonely, support those who are struggling, help those who need to be lifted up and give them a hand.

"If we try to make it a reality, it will be counterproductive. It already is the reality, and we need to be sensitive to the ways that the Spirit is at work trying to bring us together and mobilise us. We need to honour that, acknowledge that, celebrate that and collaborate with the way the Spirit is actually already at work in the world and in our lives trying to bring us together. We don't need to make that happen or manufacture that. We only need to develop the capacity to be sensitive to the way the Spirit is already working to enable us to live this reality."

Mr Andrews said the image of the body helps us consider the way in which the Spirit is incarnated in the context of our community.

"It's important to be sensitive to the ways in which the Spirit is seeking to be embodied and through our individual and collective lives."

Part of the challenge of this passage is that people will embody that spirituality in different ways, at different places, at different times.

"Rather than play people off against each other in that process, we need to acknowledge that there are multiple ways of embodying spirituality and each of those ways meets a need that the other embodiments don't."

International publishers Wipf & Stock are re-releasing six of Dave Andrews' books. The *Dave Andrews Legacy Series* can now be purchased from Mosaic in Australia or from retailers such as Amazon



Christian anarchist, author, speaker, social activist, and community developer, Dave Andrews. Photo courtesy of Dave Andrews



ANDREWS
LIGHT UP

Summer
Lighting + Fan Sale



INDOOROOPILLY
INDOOROOPILLY CENTRAL
34 Coonan Street
Phone 3720 1877

JINDALEE
HOMEMAKER CITY
38 Goggs Road
Phone 3279 1961

ASPLEY
HOMEMAKER CITY
825 Zillmere Road
Phone 3862 8374

MT GRAVATT
HOMEMAKER CENTRE
1230 Logan Road
Phone 3849 5663

ROBINA
ROBINA SUPER CENTRE
Robina Town Centre Drive
Phone 5578 8355

www.lightup.com.au



4 – 6 MAY

100 years faith and witness in Burdekin, Ayr and Homehill. Contact Naomi Edwards on 0423 148 526 or n.edwards.becc@bigpond.com.

6 MAY

Please pray for Knox Moorooka Uniting Church. Vision: Mission Planning and Stewardship

- One of our younger families (the Crossleys), who have been active in community work following the disastrous floods in Rocklea last year
- Knox Moorooka joining the Brisbane Southside Cluster. The Cluster has incorporated the Worship and witness of five neighbouring congregations
- Welcoming the ministry of Rev Ross Mackay
- Uniting Nulean congregation who also worships in our church
- Please pray for God's guidance and blessing as we seek his way ahead.

5 – 7 MAY

Elanora Uniting Church Art Show. 17 Applecross Way, Elanora. Tickets \$10, Exhibiting Artists \$5. Contact Dianne Malimonenko on 5522 5102 or church@elanorauuniting.com.au.

13 MAY

On Mothers Day please pray for:

- your mother and those who are like a mother to you
- new mothers
- Mother Earth, for stewardship of God's creation
- mother's who have lost children
- those who have lost their mothers.

18 – 19 MAY

Garage Sale. Wheller Gardens, 950 Gympie Rd, Chermshire. Preloved clothes, appliances and homewares, crafts, books ect. Contact Barbara Wood on 3359 7010 or trevorjwood@bigpond.com.

19 MAY 8am – 12pm

Jumble Sale. Beachmere Uniting Church, Cnr Moreton Terrace and Second Avenue. Cakes, jams, plants, furniture, books, clothing, manchester, craftwork, CDs, DVDs, videos ect. Contact John and Marjorie Horchner on 5496 8371 or marjanhorchner@bigpond.com.

19 MAY 8.30am – 2.30pm

Australian Christian Mediation Community Qld Day. 36 Villiers St New Farm. Meditation, discussion, shared lunch. Contact Gabby Nelson on 3711 4227 or toga@bigpond.net.au.

20 MAY 8am – 7.45pm

Contemporary cantata/ worship experience. Kawana Waters Uniting Church, Thunderbird Dve Bokarina, Sunshine Coast. Contact Ann Huth 5491 6632 or 0411 417 770 or 0408 723 638 or annhuth11022@gmail.com.

20 MAY

Chaplaincy Sunday. Uniting Church Chaplains minister in many different contexts, touching into people's lives every day. Please pray for:

- chaplains in health care and the police and emergency services
- chaplains in community services, including prison ministry, and the Defence forces
- chaplains in education, including SU chaplains in state schools
- chaplains in aged care and tourism, sport and recreation
- volunteers in chaplaincy and all who support chaplains ministry.

24 – 26 MAY

Mudgeeraba - Art, quilts and craft fair. Mudgeeraba Uniting Church, 89 Franklin Drive, Mudgeeraba. Contact John Lister on 5530 3201 or MudgeerabaCraftFair@jonei.com.au.

26 MAY 7am – 12pm

Annual Mayfair and Garage Sale. Redcliffe Uniting Church, 1 Richens St Anzac Ave. Bargains galore, refreshments, BBQ, children's activities, puppet show, busking, etc. Contact Deirdre McNeil on 3283 1261 or redcliffeuc@dovenetq.net.au.

26 MAY

Garage Sale. Trinity Uniting Church, 47 Marlborough Rd, Wellington Point. Plants, cakes, furniture, electrical, craft, books. Contact Heather Proellocks or 3207 3099 on trinityuc@pacific.net.au.

27 MAY 10am – 1pm

Retired Ministers and Spouses Autumn Luncheon. Emmanuel Uniting Church, South Pine Rd Enoggera. Contact Clive George on 0429 412 470 or macgeorge@optusnet.com.au.

27 MAY

Please pray for Forest Lake Uniting Church. Mission: Children and Youth Ministry, Community Engagement and Deepening Discipleship. Vision: to be Gods' people celebrating loving and serving together.

- Give thanks for the generosity of the wider church in purchasing land.
- Pray for a positive outcome in respect to the Development Application before the Brisbane City Council
- Pray for the planning for Kids Games for June/July school holidays
- Give thanks for the dedication of our leaders in all aspects of ministry, including our small groups (connection groups)
- Pray that God will guide us as we seek his will in the planning of future mission in this community
- Pray that God will raise up leaders to serve on our newly formed task groups.



3 JUNE 2pm – 5pm

Omega Writers meeting. St Francis College, Milton. Join other Christian authors to share support, information, inspiration and prayer. Contact Ruth Bonetti on 3375 1775 or info@omegawriters.com.



Members of St Mark's - Mt Gravatt Uniting Church, Brisbane, prepare for their garage sale. Photo by Matt Gees



Laidley Uniting Church enjoyed family fun in the Lockyer Valley when they hosted Kids Arvo Out in March. Kids Arvo Out is a fun afternoon for primary school aged children to experience Sunday School in a contemporary, engaging experience. Under the banner of Scripture Union, chaplains and people from local churches provide leadership and friendship throughout the afternoon. Organiser Rachael Willey said, "We realise that children thrive under positive influences and encouragement so we provide a safe, fun environment for that to happen." For more information email kidsarvoout@yahoo.com. Photo by Voice Photography and courtesy of Rachael Willey



St. Stephen's Uniting Church members celebrated 130 years of service to the Maryborough community in November. The official celebrations were attended by around 300 people including 15 ministers and members of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. The event even made the local news. Photo courtesy of St. Stephen's Uniting Church

Upload your What's On entries at www.journeyonline.com.au
Items may be shortened due to space limitations.

The Lucky One

Directed by Scott Hicks, Starring Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling and Blythe Danner, 2012, Rated M

Reviewed by Tara Burton.

BASED on Nicholas Sparks' best-selling novel of the same name, *The Lucky One* stars Zac Efron as U.S. Marine Sergeant Logan Thibault and Taylor Schilling as Beth Clayton.

This romantic comedy explores the subjects of destiny and fate. When Logan (Efron) discovers a picture of a smiling young woman (Schilling) whilst in battle in Iraq, he believes that she is his good luck charm. When he returns home from war he endeavours to find the woman that he thinks saved his life.

Logan walks from his home in Colorado to Hampton, North Carolina to find the girl who hasn't left his mind since first finding her picture. When he finds Beth he ends

up working for her family-run kennel business. After their initial meeting Beth is unsure and sceptical about Logan's intentions but sparks soon fly.

Logan also forms a close friendship with Beth's son Ben and this bond draws Logan and Beth together.

As their romance blossoms Logan soon realises that Beth could be more than just his good luck charm. However, when Beth finds out Logan's secret from her conniving ex-husband their new found love affair is in jeopardy.

The two lead characters are believable and their love story is beautifully played out.

Taylor Schilling's portrayal of a devastated sister who mourns the death of her brother is touching and convincing.



Young star Zac Efron plays a very mature and hardworking army sergeant, who still struggles with memories of the war.

I have always been a fan of Nicholas Sparks and his extraordinary books-turned-movies, such as *The Notebook*, *A Walk to Remember* and *Dear John*. *The Lucky One* is no exception.

A definite must see for all those romantics!

The Good Wagon

By Paul Clark, illustrated by Graham Preston, Even Before Publishing, 2011, RRP \$4.95

Reviewed by Bevan Loble, who loves to work with children and hear the insights they give us for our lives.

THIS book by Paul Clark is a quaint retelling of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

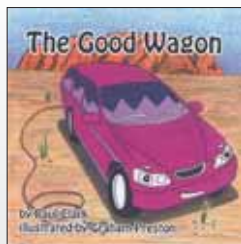
Using cars in place of people allows us to enter the story a little nonchalantly, which is probably how the people in Jesus' time entered his stories.

This then gives greater impact to the meaning of the story as it hits you between

the eyes.

It's a great story for kids that will impact adults as well, as this old story is revamped and supped up to a modern day parable. It is very creative in its use of the cars and does not lose any of the meaning of the original parable.

It's easy to read, with great illustrations and there can be no doubt as to the origin of the story.



My own children love Paul's books and this one is no different. We also use these books as baptismal gifts for families.

I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend it to your bookshelf.

The Long and Winding Road: Indigenous women's stories of survival from family violence

Collected by Val Alberts, Black Ink Press, 2011

Reviewed by Karyl Davison.

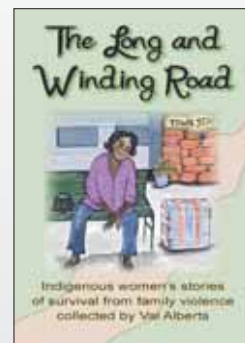
COMPILED by Val Alberts, retired Associate Lecturer at James Cook University, Townsville, *The Long and Winding Road* is a collection of Indigenous women's stories of survival from family violence.

Originally part of an academic project, Ms Alberts, a Gudan woman, interviewed women about the difficult topic of family violence but she and the women involved wanted to share their stories with others.

The resulting book is a moving and brutally honest account of what these women went through at the hands of those they loved, and how they went about beginning a new life, free from the violence.

The stories depict a range of abuse – physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse.

What stands out, apart from the courage and resilience of these women, is the terrible toll abuse takes on women both in the short and



long term, and the scourge of intergenerational violence.

Although *The Long and Winding Road* is primarily a self-help book for Indigenous women, these stories could equally speak to any woman experiencing family violence and the people who work in the field.

It is a valuable tool towards empowering abused women, as well as a strongly persuasive argument for more resources that support and empower such women.

Christianity Beyond Belief: Following Jesus for the Sake of Others

Todd D. Hunter, Intervarsity Press, 2009, RRP \$37.95

Reviewed by Karyl Davison.

ONE of the most concerning aspects of my work in the last four years is the overwhelming acceptance of a heaven or hell framework among church people I have worked with, reducing Christianity to an individualistic, privatised faith that rewards "the saved" and sends "non-believers" to hell.

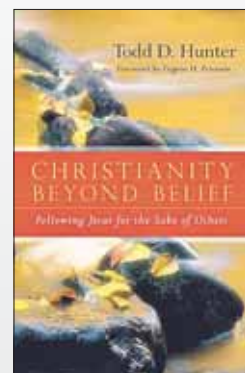
In *Christianity Beyond Belief*, Bishop Todd Hunter tries to redress this imbalanced view by placing the doctrines of sin, forgiveness, heaven and hell within the context of humanity (and creation) being restored to fulfil God's purposes.

Rather than simply escaping hell, Hunter sees forgiveness as the starting point of a Christian life where a new life is formed – "a cooperative friendship with God".

This is one of the four pivotal phrases that summarise his understanding of what it means to be a Christian, the others being "living in creative goodness", "for the sake of others" and "through the power of the Holy Spirit".

Put together, these steps bring about wholeness, resulting in the ability to participate with God in God's plans for the world.

While I support Hunter's



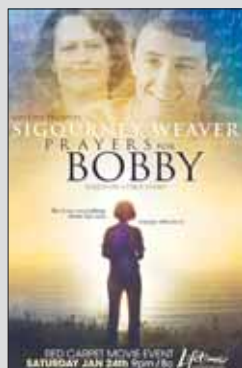
aim, there's a hyped-up, pop Christian feel about *Christianity Beyond Belief* that doesn't necessarily convince Australian readers. And although Hunter is keenly aware of the diminishing popularity of traditional church life and practice, he offers no solutions other than to say "don't give up".

Although the message is not new, and there isn't much meat in the book, Hunter does remind us that Christianity is about life, not merely a comfortable death and that eternal life is about an abundant and meaningful life on earth, not in "some heaven, light years away, but here in this place" (Marty Haugen in *Gather us In*).

More reviews online at
www.journeyonline.com.au including:

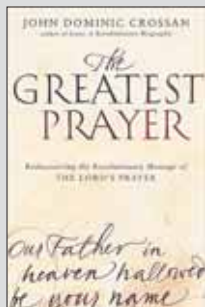
Prayers for Bobby (DVD)

Directed by Russell Mulcahy
Starring Sigourney Weaver,
2009, Rated M



The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer

By John Dominic Crossan,
Harper Collins, 2010, RRP \$21



My very first Easter Playtime Activity book with stickers

Written by Lois Rock, Illustrated
by Alex Ayliffe, Lion, 2012,
RRP \$9.95



Books available from ...

Many of the titles reviewed in *Journey* are available from St Paul's Bookstore in Brisbane city or Christian Supplies in Milton. Books can usually be ordered from Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield, or may be available from www.mosaicresources.com.au or <http://rainbowbooks.com.au>.

Mining chaplains make a difference

Tara Burton

THE Synod Chaplaincy Commission has been working towards providing chaplains to mining communities that are often isolated and under pressure from the fly-in, fly-out industry. With the April announcement that the Norwich Park mine in the Bowen Basin, Central Queensland, will cease operation, the need to support mining communities really hits home. Synod Ministries Coordinator, Rev John Cox, said mining chaplaincy has been a vision of the Chaplaincy Commission. “We have recognised both the impacts of mining on the workforce and their families, as well as the impact on communities around which mining is based,” he said. “The Chaplaincy Commission is sponsoring the work to develop a model for chaplaincy

into this industry and the communities related to it. “The mining chaplain could work with the mining workforce in particular locations to support workers in the midst of their daily lives. “Mining chaplaincy could also develop relationships with congregations in localities from which mining workers fly, and in which their families live, as a supportive network for mining families.” Mr Cox emphasises the importance of mining chaplains in the case of mines shutting down. Rev Graeme Adsett, a retired Uniting Church minister, volunteers in mining chaplaincy and agrees. “There is a heightened tension and fear of the unknown when a miner and his or her family are disrupted through loss of work,” he said.



Synod Ministries Coordinator, Rev John Cox. Photo by Osker Lau

“The whole economic and social fabric of a community is altered, causing uncertainty, anger, blame, etc., which throws up all manner of pastoral problems for a chaplain to face.” Mr Adsett said one of the biggest challenges that faces mining chaplaincy is finding suitable chaplains. “With a shortage of ordained personnel, it requires some out-

of-the-box thinking. “Possibly the training of appropriate lay persons who have had experience in the mining industry, and have the capacity and commitment for pastoral ministry. “Such persons would require resource support, possibly by one ordained person with a roving mandate for the wider mining region.”

Mr Adsett said any chaplain working in the mining industry would need to have a good understanding of the political environment as well as an understanding of pastoral issues. “A chaplain working in the mining industry would need a very balanced approach to his or her work: an honest broker that stands beside people to attend to their genuine needs,” he said.

Emergency relief pushes through troubling times

Emma Tucker

EMERGENCY relief, or crisis intervention, is a service provided for people in dire financial or personal straits who need a hand up. Rose (not her real name), was struggling financially and trapped in an abusive relationship. She

reached out to Wesley Mission Brisbane’s Emergency Relief service and they provided her with the train fare she needed to travel to safe housing. Rose returned to Emergency Relief several months later and thanked the team for saving her life. Emergency Relief services also provide essential items like

food parcels, grocery cards, no interest loans and payment of rent and other vital bills. Other assistance includes providing new mothers with baby bundles – essential items like nappies and formula – as well as a range of other items to help struggling families through hard times or unforeseen circumstances. And times are hard this year, following the worsening of the economic crisis that has hurt lower-income families. Most Uniting Churches throughout Australia provide a crisis relief program to aid families where they can, but

lack of funding and increasing numbers of people in need have put a strain on their ability to provide. According to an issues paper by Anglicare Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, The Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia, rising unemployment levels go hand in hand with economic slowdown and, in turn, increase financial vulnerability. This means that even families with a reliable income could struggle to accommodate unforeseen events. Pam McGoldrick, of St David’s Crisis Food Care in Holland Park, Brisbane, said the growing number of people in need affects their capacity to help. “The increase in people needing help has led to our having to restrict assistance to those living in our designated area until our funding runs out. “As other centres exhaust their funding we get requests from people as far away as Ipswich or northern areas of Brisbane,” said Ms McGoldrick. The Crisis Care Centre is part of St David’s Uniting Church and suffers a further problem of the ageing congregation and lack of volunteers.

“We would love to find ways to become more effective but with limited funds and volunteers we have found that we cannot offer anything more than our existing service,” she said. Wesley Mission Brisbane’s Emergency Relief program at Spring Hill faces similar troubles. Manager David Baker said he has noticed trends in light of the economic downturn. “Something we are seeing more and more is generational poverty,” said Mr Baker. “This means we’re seeing two or more generations of a family coming in and seeking help, meaning that their issues aren’t being addressed and a cycle of poverty is forming.” It’s not all bad news, though. The Spring Hill service reached out to 10 000 people between 2010 and 2011, and the program is home to numerous success stories. The annual Christmas gift appeal with UnitingCare and Target is a particular favourite. “There was a huge response last year,” said Mr Baker. “It enabled Emergency Relief to make Christmas and beyond a much happier time for many people in crisis.”



St David's Uniting Church, Holland Park, volunteers Marie Ramsey and Pam McGoldrick. Photo by Tom McEwan

OzHarvest Brisbane sows goodwill

Emma Tucker

OZHARVEST'S newest branch, operating out of Brisbane, has had an inspiring first six months. The food rescue program picks up unwanted excess food from supermarkets, restaurants and other food outlets and delivers them the same day to charities feeding people in need.

OzHarvest Brisbane is currently averaging 1800 kilograms of food per week – feeding around 200 people per day at a number of charitable agencies around Brisbane.

OzHarvest Brisbane Coordinator Cameron Hickey recently travelled out west to the flood-ravaged town of Dunkeld, near Mitchell in south-west Queensland.

"We packed in about 1770 kilograms of food into the truck. The journey took us a bit longer than we anticipated, as one of the main roads into the town was flooded. In the end it was about a 10 hour drive, 600 kilometres," said Mr Hickey.

The locals were appreciative of the delivery, having not had access to fresh bread for up to three weeks. Food prices in the Queensland town have skyrocketed, potatoes rising to around four dollars per kilo.

"One man I spoke to said he hadn't been back to his house for three weeks, having been busy fixing roads. He knew there was about four feet of water in his home and expected to just pull it down and start over," he said.

"What's inspiring is that these people are facing the fallout from the worst flood in their town's record, but they just keep persevering. The attitude is positive and though there is so much work to be done, they just keep getting up every morning and getting into it."

OzHarvest worked alongside a number of organisations prior to arriving to better understand the situation on the ground.

"It's important to communicate about things; it's no good to distribute a lot of fresh food to an area which has no refrigeration or electricity, for example. We also talked to BlazeAid to find out what was already happening on the ground, where it would be safe for us to distribute food and the best ways to go about it."

Mr Hickey pointed out the vast difference between Brisbane's own flood clean-up compared to somewhere as isolated as Mitchell.

It can be a tricky logistical task managing donations with needs, the realities of time, distance and resources.

Mr Hickey said that while OzHarvest works alongside many organisations, it is in a position where it has to triage the donations of food and the needs of recipient organisations.

"It can be a juggling act because we have to prioritise the distribution of food donations to the organisations that need it most."

"We have to categorise our



OzHarvest has just reached 70 000 meals delivered in Brisbane. Nationally they have delivered over 10 million.

Photo by Joh Knijnenburg

Find Uniting Church Queensland on Facebook

Uniting Church Queensland |



Facebook comments

Thoughts on Cardinal George Pell and Richard Dawkins on Q&A

I also thought the debate was disappointing. I wonder if the ABC chose George Pell to sit opposite Richard Dawkins only because of his name recognition? Surely there were other more qualified theologians / scientists in Australia to sit opposite Richard Dawkins.

Craig Batty

I thought it was embarrassing and scientifically and theologically inept. There are others on both sides who would have done a better job.

Christine Maree Sloan

Science and technology – an improved means to an unimproved end?

Warwick Jensen

Monday Midday Prayer

Help us follow the way of the cross, knowing that it is the way of resurrection life.

Ralph Reilly

Please keep Fiji in your prayers.

Vili Waqainabete

Side by Side filming stories

Thanks to Mardi and Amy for going on the road over the past couple days to record this and other exciting partnerships that are developing in the life of our Church, which will feature in the forthcoming Uniting Church Queensland, Together on the way study resource *Side by Side*.

Lyndelle Gunton

Kony 2012

A very good article. My sister and I were discussing many of those same issues with the campaign yesterday. At the very least, the *Kony 2012* campaign made people step outside their worlds, if only for a minute, and consider how lucky we really are. Sadly, I have found that many of my Facebook friends who were the most vocal about the campaign, have since forgotten and are back to their egocentric existences.

Naomi Ronalds

Very interesting and timely article.

Philipa Core

Login and have your say now!

CLASSIFIEDS

Accommodation

Holiday unit, modern, pool. 100m from Kings Beach Caloundra from \$390/wk. Ph Ray 04279 90161.

London B & B. Lovely home, reasonable rates. Ph 0011442086946538. rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk

Wanted

ACCOM WANTED. Geneva for 1yr from Aug for single woman ph 33001581.

Email your classified advertisements to journey@ucaqld.com.au

Send your letters to journey@ucaqld.com.au or Journey GPO Box 674, Brisbane QLD 4001.

Please keep letters to a maximum of 250 words. Letters may be edited due to space limitations.

Chaplain Margaret's shave for a cure

Emma Tucker

Wesley Mission Brisbane's Chaplain, Margaret Niethe, showed great bravery last month when she shaved her head for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave appeal.

Ms Niethe, her husband Paul, daughter Wendy and grandson Blake all took part in the shave at the Ipswich Riverlink Shopping Centre.

Blake has been taking part in the World's Greatest Shave since he was in Grade 10 at school, and made his grandmother promise that

the year he turned 21 she would get involved.

"For a long time I wasn't brave enough to shave my head whenever Blake asked me to take part," said Ms Niethe, now 60.

"But this year he called me up and said, 'Grandma, I've signed us up!' and I thought I might as well get it over and done with. It's a wonderful cause," she said.

"I have a nephew overseas who has been diagnosed with leukaemia. It's just about showing support for him and to let him know that we are

thinking of him and all the other individuals and families affected by the disease.

"I don't miss my hair, until I look in the mirror!" she said. "Although, coming into winter it is starting to feel a bit chilly up there."

The gen 3 team (for the three generations that participated) reached their goal of raising \$5000 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

For more information visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com



Chaplain Margaret and her family at the Riverlink Centre in Ipswich. Photo courtesy of Wesley Mission Brisbane

Journey Asks: What does it mean to work for Uniting Church organisation, Wesley Mission Brisbane (WMB)?

GREG RYAN
Employment Services Manager

It's empowering to help the disadvantaged – being part of the Uniting Church offers me that opportunity. Helping people is a huge part of my motivation and I might not get that opportunity with other organisations.

MIKE JEFFREY
Marketing, Communication and Fundraising Manager

The Uniting Church was prepared to invest in my development, whether it be mentoring, training or education. The second thing is that people in leadership were always prepared to give me a go and listen to what I had to say; they made me feel welcome and significant. The final thing is that the people working across the UC are heart-driven people who really care about making a difference and there is no better example of this than at Wesley Mission Brisbane.

KERRY CLAYTON
Logan City Services Manager

The values that the Uniting Church holds are very respectful of people and that makes it easy to work within that; we like to uphold those values in our work. Working as part of a larger organisation doing such diverse work around Queensland and Australia lends a great deal of credibility and strength to our own programs.

JANE LAMBERTH
Accounts Payable

I find that working for a Uniting Church organisation means being part of a supportive, caring and relaxed environment which respects the values and character of the individual.

ANNA HICKEY
Senior Community Services Accountant

My role as an accountant at Wesley Mission Brisbane involves much more than numbers on a page. The connection and contact I have with individual services across the organisation gives meaning to what I do, and I greatly value the relationships I have with the people I work alongside – they make it all worthwhile.

RUTH PICKETT
Senior Accountant

I have been working as an accountant for Wesley Mission Brisbane since arriving in Australia from the UK four years ago. Working for such an organisation like WMB provides me with a sense of fulfilment. I enjoy being able to work alongside so many wonderful colleagues and friends that add value to the wider community.

side
ap!s
by



Hi my name is Alex Gow!

5th Gow Family Generation

You may have heard me talking on the radio about funeral pre planning. My dad says planning ahead for a funeral service is one of the best things you can do for your family. The Alex Gow 'Guide to Thoughtful Funeral Pre-Planning' will really help.

If you would like a **FREE** copy of the guide please fill out this coupon or call my Dad on 3852 1501 and please mention my name Alex Gow!

Alex Gow Funerals
56 Breakfast Creek Rd,
Newstead, 4006.

Name:
Address:
p/c:

