

THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol.101 No. 6, 29 April 1998

PRINT POST APPROVED PP349181/00418

# NSW

# The Way

# Forward





THE AUSTRALIAN

# Christianian

NATIONAL JOURNAL OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA

Vol. 101 No. 6, 29 April 1998

Editor: Don Smith, Production Manager/Sub Editor: Nigel Pegram Issue 13 May Deadline 29 April; Issue 27 May Deadline 14 May; Issue 10 June Deadline 28 May. Address for all correspondence: PO Box 101, Essendon North Vic 3041. Telephone (03) 9379 1219, Fax (03) 9379 0015, E-mail <acsditor@ozemail.com.au>. Member publication of the Australasian Religious Press Association. The Australian Christian is published by the Board of Management of The Australian Christian, a Department of the National Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia. Keith Aird, Chairman (SA); Lindsay Mott, Treasurer (Vic); John Batchler (Tas); Tom Glynn (NSW); Bev Grenfell (Qld); Lea Nelson (ACT); Allen Smyth (WA). Printed by New Litho Pty Ltd, 63 Sunbury Crescent, Surrey Hills Vic 3127. Responsibility for electoral material is accepted by Don Smith, 2 Larkspur Ave, Doncaster 3108. This publication is indexed in the Australasian Religion Index. ISSN 0004-8852. Advertising Rates: Displayed: \$6.00 per column centimetre, Classifieds: \$15.00 for the first 25 words and 25c for each additional word.



## Editorial

### Great Initiatives are Afoot!

DON SMITH

**T**his issue's focus on New South Wales is our first on states and territories. By any standard, the report is encouraging. As Bruce Armstrong observes, this is not to ignore the more-difficult situations common to every state and certainly present in churches in New Testament times. \* I was impressed with the leaders featured in the articles, with whom I spoke. Their energy, passion, insight, vision and convictions came through strongly. You could feel you were on a front line of mission and evangelistic endeavour. Here were marks of New Testament leadership. \* Such leadership qualities are fundamental to the progress of the Gospel. Let's be quite clear, things seldom happen without such qualities. The self-image of the leader and understanding of the missionary task are basic ingredients in church development. \* For all this we can give thanks. I was in the presence of heart lifters, not heart sinkers, as the late Robert Haupt, an Australian journalist, so wonderfully put it.\* However the comment which stimulated me most was the report of New South Wales and Queensland coming together in a new venture in ministry training. This is good news—indeed great news! Here is the potential to bring new vigour and a new vision to the task. Major moments of change present new opportunities in the way things are thought about and done. \* Here is an opportunity for two states to bring together their most experienced and vital leaders to rigorously re-evaluate the whole mission task of preparing future leaders. Let's take the best of the past and couple this with new ideas emerging and benefit by the stimulus all this brings. With an increasing number of training options nationwide, this is also a time to think and act nationally in these matters. \* Coincidentally, in "Making News" we carry a report about a recently-initiated thrust representing a new coalition of leaders and groups with a whole new commitment to mission in the first world. \* This is an exciting time in our movement. Great initiatives are afoot! The development of a young, inspired and intelligent leadership nationwide is at the core of our future progress and role as a Movement within the wider church. Thankyou New South Wales for the stimulus! \*







## NSW

**In the first of our planned focuses on states and territories, we find out what's happening in some parts of NSW.**

<i>MOPS for our Mums</i>	10
<i>The Way Forward</i>	11
<i>A Second Anniversary</i>	12
<i>Partnership Beyond 2000</i>	13
<i>A Vision for Families</i>	14

## News

<i>Have You Heard?</i>	4
<i>Church Takes Off</i>	5
<i>Lower Blue Mountains</i>	6
<i>Caveside Convention</i>	6
<i>Native Title Bill—Churches Call for Talks</i>	7
<i>Ministries Recognised</i>	7
<i>Arkansas School Shooting</i>	9

<b>A Time For Living Dangerously</b>	17
<b>Retiring Vic-Tas Conference President, Lindsay Dewberry, shares his thoughts on our ministry into the next century.</b>	

## Regulars

<i>Coffee Break</i>	16
<i>Media Matters</i>	15
<i>Snippets from History</i>	20

**The Australian Christian welcomes letters from its readers. Short letters up to 175 words stand the best chance of publication. All letters may be edited. We reserve the right to omit letters altogether.**

## Senior Ministers

To the Editor,  
I recently heard a very good friend refer to the term "Senior Minister" as non-Biblical nonsense. I am heartily sick of the use of the term in Churches of Christ, where it has become a term for status. Jesus had a good word for his disciples when they began to question about who would be the greatest among them. It's time that "the people of the book" got back to the book. A team ministry should be just that, in the true sense of the word.

Please leave the senior minister term for those who have grown old in years of ministry. My heart has gone out in concern for several such men who I know have had first-class ministries and who have submitted themselves to the authority of a senior minister.

—Ken Dawson  
(Brooklyn Park, SA)

about "such issues especially when they incite strong feelings." (Your words).

The thinking process is vital if we are to reverse the trend towards individualistic fundamentalism which is becoming so evident in our literature and practice. There are a number of articles which could have been held over or omitted to permit you to publish the *Zadok Perspectives* article.

—Max Collyer  
(Boronia, Vic)

[Our position was clearly set out in the news report. Readers, including the writer, are welcome to request a copy of the article (also available by e-mail), at no charge. The text will also be made available on our forthcoming web site. A similar controversy is currently raging over an exhibition containing work by a British artist at a Wellington, NZ, Gallery. —Ed]

## Questioning Communion Practice

To the Editor,  
As Churches of Christ we hold the observance of Holy Communion most sacred, the central and most beautiful part of our morning service. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we have before us the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ. But there at each end of the table we have the money bags (or bowls) for the collection of the offering. What are they doing there? Should they be there? Could not an alternative place be made where the collection bags are picked up and afterwards returned by the stewards, with the prayer of thanksgiving and dedication following?

Although I have (obviously) accepted our practice for a long time, nevertheless I have this strong conviction to make my feelings known and to have the practice cease. —Jack Goldsworthy  
(Mornington, Vic)

## Photographic Controversy

To the Editor,  
I have just read again the article "Photographic Controversy" ("AC" 11.3.98) and realised that once again a matter you describe as of "specialist interest" concerning "how the church handles controversy over contemporary social and moral issues" is withheld from the wider readership.

It is just such matters that are so obviously needed to be discussed in our churches. We should be given every opportunity to think

THE AUSTRALIAN

Christian

SUBSCRIPTION FORM PO BOX 101, NORTH ESSENDON 3041

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_  
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY BANKCARD, VISA OR MASTERCARD  
PLEASE CHARGE MY— ☐ BANKCARD ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD  
NUMBER            
EXPIRY DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ NEW ☐ \$32 FULL YEAR ☐ \$23 REST OF YEAR  
☐ RENEWAL ☐ \$60 TWO YEARS ☐ \$17 REST OF YEAR IF RECOMMENDED BY A SUBSCRIBER (NEW SUBS)  
DONATION:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ SUBSCRIBER \_\_\_\_\_



## Have You Heard?

### Significant changes noticed through Aboriginal conversions

Readers of Perth's morning newspaper, *The West Australian* awoke to a full-page article on 9 March entitled, "Grog Replaced by Gospel". A team had visited the isolated Pilbara town of Nullagine and reported on the conversion of many of the local Aborigines and the subsequent social changes. The local publican lost his business as his previous customers no longer patronised his hotel, while police also reported a significant drop in the number of arrests and gaolings.

What happened in Nullagine has also happened in several other large and significant communities out of Port Hedland. In the community of Punmu, the Christian school teachers had been forbidden to mention Christianity. Now that clause in their employment contract has been struck out and the people are looking to those teachers for Christian teaching. One of the elders from the community of Strelley was converted at a meeting recently and would not leave until Ross Norling, the



pastor at our Port Hedland church, baptised him in a nearby creek. All told, 85 people have been baptised in the past few weeks.

This movement of the Spirit of God has been manifested in areas as widely separated as Kalgoorlie, Jigalong and Darwin, where 100 people have been obedient in baptism. The movement is across several churches who have ministered for many years among the people. It was enhanced by the participation of 200 Aboriginal people from Newman in the Franklin Graham Crusade meetings held in Perth during January. Prayer for the new Christians and the work of teachers is invited. We

thank God for the breakthrough into previously closed communities. The work of Ross and Helen Norling who now have an even

heavier workload is also commended to the churches.

—Avon Moyle.

(Federal Aborigines Board)

## Update

Dear Readers,

In this issue we have a special focus on New South Wales. The material was prepared by Bruce Armstrong, the Conference Ministry Coordinator. We plan to continue presentations from all states and territories in the period ahead.

Readers will note our report on the tragedy in Arkansas and the sad involvement of one of our churches (see page 9). We picked up this information through e-mail correspondence with our Canadian (Disciples) national office.

In another overseas contact with our Polish churches, the Christian Bible Institute in Warsaw reports over 200 students involved in training. They have recently appreciated a series of lectures on pastoral care and family counselling themes by staff from our US-based churches. There was an overwhelming request for places from people throughout Poland. Kay McLennan of ABC Religious Broadcasts has written re-

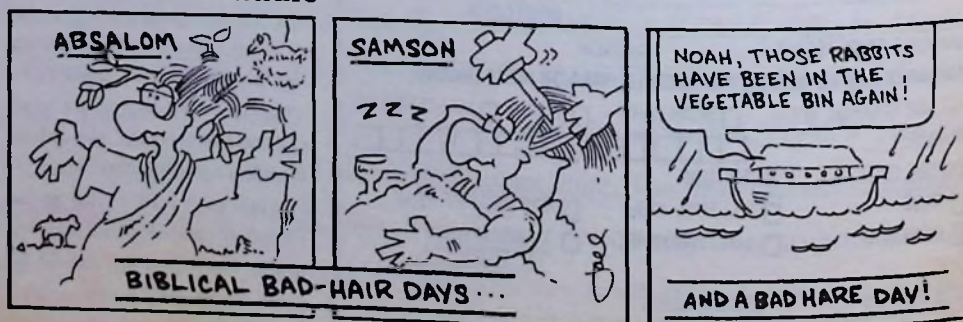
questing our help in preparation of a Radio National "Encounter" program. The focus will be on the realities of losing a partner. Kay McLennan is looking for people with experience of the words, "Till death do us part", long enough ago for measures of healing to have taken place. She is keen to hear something of the joys of partnership, first feelings after partners died and who and what was helpful, and what advice can be given to friends and neighbours who—through embarrassment or ignorance—want to help but can't. Issues of faith will also be explored. Readers may contact Kay by phoning their ABC state office and asking to be put through to her in Melbourne. Contact needs to be made by the end of May.

### Here and There

#### Global March for Jesus

Parliament House Canberra will be the focus of the Global March for Jesus on 30 May. Marchers will encircle Parliament House for a service of prayer and reflection, followed by a major celebration featuring Christian artists from across the country. A dusk-to-dawn prayer vigil for the nation and the world will be held on the land bridge area, with live radio links to other nations. Details are available from Awakening 2000 offices in each state.

### Pontius' Puddle





## Resource Christian Music

### Praise & Worship

- ★ Cassette/CD. Learn & enjoy the latest songs twice yearly.
- ★ Best of the best songs — for cong. worship.
- ★ Music supp. \$7.50
- ★ OHPT's © cleared or on disc (no fuss, make your own).
- ★ 600-song resource
- ★ Much more!

For brochure or  
FREE SAMPLE PACK:

RCM, 4/2  
Garden Blvde,  
Dingley Vic  
3172. Phone  
(03) 9551 7476.



**DIAL FOR  
NEW HOPE**  
(03) 9877 9191

**Regional Church of Christ, Greensborough**  
invites applications for the position of

## Minister / Pastor

This outer-suburban church, situated approximately 20 km north-east of Melbourne, is seeking a full-time minister/pastor who is mature in faith and experienced in ministry.

A profile for ministry is available on request from:

The Chairman, Ministry Selection Committee  
Regional Church of Christ, Greensborough  
PO Box 359  
Greensborough Vic 3088  
Ph: (03) 9435 4187

Applications close on 29 May 1998.

**REGIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**GREENSBOROUGH**

## Making News

### Marvellous Giving

Perth-based Whitford congregation of 300+ families raised \$871,777 at Victory Sunday, on 5 April, for their "Time To Build" program. Great rejoicing. General offering for day \$8,500, normally \$6,000. Report to follow.

### First World Mission

"Forge" mission training initiative for first-world mission and church planting, sponsored by Vic-Tas Churches of Christ and Victorian Baptists, Christian City Church, Wesleyan Methodists, CRMA, YWAM, and possible six colleges, launched Melbourne 24 April. Alan Hirsch, Director. Michael Frost Co-Director.

## Church Takes Off

**Roxburgh Park church officially launched**



*Enjoying the day at the church's launch—a bouncing castle and clowns with face painting (inset)*

Clowns, face painting, a jumping castle, pony rides, a barbecue and lots of people could be found at the official launch of the Roxburgh Park, Vic, church on 5 April.

The day was sunny and the multitude of children certainly enjoyed their time at "church".

The church began meeting in a home only two years ago. Under the leadership of their minister, Mathew Salvador, Roxburgh has now moved to being a self-supporting congregation.

Over two hundred people came to the primary school gymnasium where the church meets, only 95 of whom were regular attenders. Follow-up visits have already taken place with the 54 visitors from the community. Some have already indicated that they will be back.

Roxburgh Park church is a church plant sponsored by the Sunbury, Vic, church and part of the Vic-Tas Division of Mission and Revitalisation's church planting initiatives.

## Visiting Canberra? Stay with a Church Family

A number of Canberra church families offer accommodation in their homes at basic bed and breakfast rates to help raise funds for "Home Mission" extensions in the ACT

If you would like to enjoy friendly "one of the family" hospitality in Canberra write for particulars to:

Lyn Swift  
34 Yiman Street,  
Waramanga ACT 2611  
Phone (062) 88 2050

Barbara Kennedy  
6 Sharp Place,  
Melba ACT 2615  
Phone (062) 58 1360

*Advance bookings appreciated*



## Lower Blue Mountains

**Number of improvements happening and to come**



*Matthew Fox, one of the volunteers helping with improvements*

Matthew Fox (pictured left) has donated his time to install a reverse-cycle air conditioner at the Lower Blue Mountains church, NSW. As an electrician, Matthew is one of a number of volunteers contributing to the development of the facilities.

Other improvements include change tables in toilets, a new office, meeting rooms and a children's play area in the planning stages. Membership, attendances and giving have all increased.

## Caveside Convention

**Churches of Christ, Tasmania, Convention 1998**

The small rural church at Caveside, Tas, hosted Tasmanian Churches for their Convention Celebration over the last weekend of March. Dr Keith Farmer was the guest speaker. His input focussed on leadership which is based in spiritual development that produces mature Christian character.

Caveside, under the able leadership of John and Colleen Harrison, had undertaken the responsibility of hosting the Convention with some trepidation, but carried through the program with flair and efficiency.

Morning tea, a picnic lunch and afternoon tea were served in an outdoor entertainment centre. Actually, it was a steel-framed plastic-covered hot-house, but it served the 107 participants who had gathered extremely well. The church is in a lovely setting, nestled at the base of the Western Tiers. And although the area is experiencing a most uncharacteristic dry period, the beauty of the countryside was undiminished. The evening meal was served in the local recreation hall, catered



for by the hall committee. It was encouraging to see the support given to this truly rural church. Caveside boasts no shops, no petrol stations, no motels or hotels, no schools; just a Uniting Church (meeting monthly), the recreation hall, and the Church of Christ.

Keith's study sessions were held in the relatively new amenities hall, which was built largely with use of voluntary labour and completed free of debt last year. The studies were challenging and revealed Keith's own life journey to Christian maturity. His leadership was thoroughly appreciated.

The incoming President, John Powell, was inducted at the worship service on Sunday morning. Thanks were expressed to three retiring officers. John Batchler completed three years as president, Geoff Morffew served 13 years as secretary, and Colin Orr completed more than three as treasurer. We thank God for the wonderful stewardship of these men.

Hobart Church has planning well under way for the 1999 Convention.

—Tom Edge,  
Secretary

### Bethel Funerals

The Caring Australian Alternative



*A unique Christian funeral company  
supporting the work of missions*

24-hour, 7-day service

Pre-arranged and pre-paid funerals

(03) 9877 9900 (all hours) fax (03) 9877 0544

107 Koonung Road, Blackburn Vic 3130

## FOR LEASE

**Looking for a  
Ground Floor  
Office or Showroom?**

We may have just what you're looking for in the Churches of Christ Centre in West Melbourne, close to the Victoria Market. The ground floor of 276 sqm is currently available in this modern 2-level building. The space is fully partitioned and has on-site undercover parking available. For further details contact: Jens Schoppert (0417 707 887) or Chris Lang (0418 342 760).

**GARDNER & LANG**

80 Collins Street, Melbourne. Phone (03) 9654 5199.

### L. C. F. Higgins

7 The Parade  
Norwood SA 5067  
Phone (08) 8362 1665

- Accountancy Services
- Business Management
- Retirement Planning
- Taxation Returns



Chartered Accountant



## Native Title Bill— Churches Call for Talks

**NCCA advises PM to consult further over native title**

Church leaders have called on the Australian government to consult further with indigenous people about problems associated with the Native Title Amendment Bill. In a letter to the Prime Minister, the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, the Rev David Gill, stressed the importance of the legislation for the country's process of reconciliation. The Executive acted after considering a report from the Council's Aboriginal and Islander Commission as well as advice from its Task Group for a Just Reconciliation, a group comprising equal numbers of indigenous and non-indigenous Christian leaders. The Task Group had warned, "Unless we are prepared to listen to each other and to work



### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

with each other in a way that respects the rights of all people, our nation will be diminished and our future compromised".

## Ministries Recognised

**Darwin acknowledges the services of some of its leaders**



*Two of Darwin's leaders recently acknowledged: Jim Larkham (minister) and Cindy Kerlake (child care director) with Bob Pettitt (chairman—child care and church treasurer).*

Darwin church recognised the ministries of a new child-care centre director and a RAAF Chaplain at a recent service. Cindy Kerlake leads a flourishing child-care centre operating in the church complex. Jim Larkham, the church's minister, also serves as a reserve chaplain for the RAAF.

The service of recognition was especially designed to recognise the importance of both roles and

express the congregation's appreciation of the leadership offered by Cindy and Jim. Bob Pettitt, the church treasurer and chairman of the child-care program, also received a cheque from the Ormond, Vic, church at the same service. The gift will help reduce the current debt on the church facilities. Narelle Jones, Telopea, NSW, and Tim and Belinda Shaw, Aldgate Valley, SA, are among recent arrivals.



### Austin & Repatriation Medical Centre, Vic

The new Department of Pastoral Care & Education, Spirituality and Health, is offering Clinical Pastoral Education units in —

Winter 1998	18 May – 31 July (closing date for applications 17 April—1 place available)
Spring 1998	24 August – 6 November (closing date for applications 26 June)
Summer 1998–1999	16 November – 29 January (closing date for applications 11 September)

Inquiries and requests for application forms:

Ms Allison M. Whitby	Phone (03) 9496 2895
	Fax (03) 9496 2328
Rev Dr Graeme Gibbons	Phone (03) 9496 5289
	Fax (03) 9496 3837



### SWANSTON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST Melbourne (cnr Swanston & Little Lonsdale Streets)

**Sunday**

9.00 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.

Worship & Communion  
Services  
Gospel Celebration

7.00 p.m.

**Wednesday**

1.15–1.45 p.m.

Lunchtime Service

For further enquiries, please ring (03) 9663 3884



Baptist Youth Ministries Australia Presents

## YOUTH MINISTRY THAT LASTS REDISCOVERING DISCIPLESHIP

Get yourself behind this series of dynamic, equipping leadership seminars and youth meetings.

Chairman of the Department of Youth Ministry at Eastern College, Pennsylvania USA, brings with him 22 years of extensive experience in training youth leaders worldwide. His speaking engagements have included youth retreats and conventions, conferences and workshops for youth workers and music festivals including Creation, Cornerstone, ICHTHUS and Blackstump (Sydney, Australia).

**New South Wales** May 27-31

**Canberra** June 1

**Tasmania** June 3-4

**Victoria** June 5-7

**South Australia** June 8

**West Australia** June 11-14

**New South Wales:**

Mark Wellings (02) 9660 3255

**Tasmania:**

Philip Loone (03) 6231 4435

**Victoria:**

Julian Dunham (03) 5975 4580

**South Australia:**

Mark Wilkinson (08) 8396 0464

**Western Australia:**

Ross Britza (08) 9470 3081

*Featuring*



# DUFFY ROBBINS

*Imagine how you and your young people would benefit from all this expertise!*

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

WORKERS COMPENSATION

DIRECTOR'S AND OFFICER'S LIABILITY

## CHURCHES OF CHRIST PROVIDENT FUND-NO. 1 FUND

announces the appointment  
of

Rupert Taylor Insurance Consultant Pty. Ltd.

as

**Insurance Consultant Coordinator**

### ATTENTION ALL MINISTERS

Your "home and contents" policy can help swell the resources of the  
**Churches of Christ Provident Fund No. 1 Fund**  
by way of commissions.

When you receive your next renewal notice, simply telephone

**RUPERT TAYLOR**

on

**1800 023 270**

Our aim is to reduce the amount of premium you pay as well as place your transaction with  
an Australian Underwriter ... QBE Insurance Ltd.

Jim Ashley  
Secretary

Lyn Carr  
Office Manager

PUBLIC LIABILITY

PRODUCTS LIABILITY

VOLUNTARY WORKERS COVER

BURGLARY

MONEY LOSS

FIRE AND PERILS

HOME AND CONTENTS

EQUIPMENT FAILURE

DESTRUCTION CAUSING LOSS OF OFFERINGS

GLASS BREAKAGE



## Burleigh Heads Church of Christ

invites applications for the position of

## Full-Time Pastor

Burleigh Heads is situated in the centre of the City of Gold Coast, a major tourist destination with great potential for outreach ministry throughout the year. The church, with membership of approximately 120, is strongly conservative evangelical in its approach. The person we require will need to fulfil the following criteria:

- Current experience in ministry
- Age 30-50
- Bible college graduate (conservative evangelical).

This person will need to:

- Join in ministry with our eldership team
- Lead in pastoral care of the congregation
- Be experienced in preaching, teaching and evangelism.

The Pastor will be backed by a strong oversight, able to assist in many aspects of ministry.

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential.

Please contact the Secretary for an application form:

Mrs Merryl Tree  
Secretary, Board of Officers  
PO Box 441  
Burleigh Heads Qld 4220.  
Phone (07) 5534 2675.



## Arkansas School Shooting

### A cappella church members and families involved in tragedy

Some victims of the tragic shooting at the now internationally known Westside School belong to

the Bono Church of Christ, an a cappella congregation in Arkansas.

Shannon Wright, the teacher who was killed, was a member of the Bono congregation. She died after surgery and leaves behind a husband and a young son. Lynette Thetford, the other teacher who was shot, is the wife of one of the elders of the church. She is in a stable condition. Candice Porter, an eleven-year-old student, who was also shot attends the church. Benny Baker, minister of the church, has invited prayer for all the victims and the wider community caught up in the tragedy. He has invited messages of encouragement which will be passed on to all concerned.

The church address is 211 Church St, Bono, Arkansas 72416, USA, or e-mail <jbbake@mail.cel.net>. The Bono church is a part of one of the three streams of our family of churches in the United States.

Given our own experience at Port Arthur in 1996, it would be most appropriate to share with a sister church in the US. —Ed

### Here and There

#### CWF Supports the Community

Liz Tilson CWF Vic-Tas President recently presented a donation of \$2,000 to the National Network of Adult and Adolescent Children who have a mentally ill parent/s. Funds were raised from a musical event at Blackburn church, featuring the "Inasmuch" singers and flautist and composer Howlin Wind, who contributed their services voluntarily. Each year CWF groups support one outside charitable group through funds raised by a special event.

## Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village

established by the Templestowe Baptist Church, is a resident-funded village with 44 independent-living units and 53 luxury fully-serviced apartments, offering mature residents the security, comfort, support and companionship of a caring environment.

Situated in an established residential area, we provide:

- \* 24-hour staffing and emergency call system
- \* respite care
- \* quality personal care for all Village residents
- \* dining room where freshly-prepared meals are served daily
- \* mini bus for shopping trips and outings
- \* regular social activities and entertainment
- \* many other quality features.

Fully-serviced apartment  
now available.



### Templestowe Orchards Retirement Village

107 Andersons Creek Road  
Doncaster East Vic 3109.

Melway Ref: Map 34 E7

A ministry of Templestowe Baptist Church.

Telephone (03) 9842 8433 to arrange a visit or further information.

### Come and See What God is Doing

Open to all past members  
and friends

Carnegie's 105<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

31 May 1998

10.00 am

Service and thanksgiving

Followed by lunch at

12.00 noon



# NSW MOPS for our Mums

DEBORAH BURFORD

**“W**hat exactly is MOPS?” This is a question I have been constantly asked since we began our MOPS group at Wollongong, Church of Christ in April 1997. MOPS stands for Mothers Of PreSchoolers and is a program designed specifically for meeting the needs of mothers with children who are not yet at school, whether they are newborns, in the terrible twos, or five-year-olds who can't wait to start school next year.

*This helps each mother to realise that she is not alone*

Each MOPS group is a part of MOPS International. They provide a focus for the local group. The purpose and goal of your group will stay clear, even as new women move into leadership of the group. MOPS International also provides you with training resources in the form of tapes, videos and books.

For those who attend MOPS, the benefits are many. MOPS seeks to build a sense of belonging for every mother of a preschooler. It aims to provide a place where mums can share their feelings and experiences. This helps each mother to realise that she is not alone—that the struggles she faces every day are the same struggles that other women also face.

At each meeting there is a teaching time. This biblically-based teaching provides instruction in many topics that relate to mothers. These include child-rearing, womanhood, marriage and relationships, and the home. Guest speakers, who are usually parents themselves, provide this teaching, although

in many other MOPS groups this is done by a mentor. The mentor is an older woman who shares with, and encourages the mums, based on her own experiences.

Time out from children is another of the benefits of a MOPS program. For some mums this is just what they need. They face a constant stream of dirty nappies, babies that won't feed or sleep enough, or active toddlers who never slow down and won't take a nap. These mums long for just five minutes of time when their thoughts are their own, along with a cup of coffee that they don't have to “keep out of reach”.

When we first began our MOPS group, the most exciting thing we saw was women in our church who had done little in the way of leadership and sometimes ministry in general, taking on roles and responsibilities. MOPS has given them the opportunity to develop their gifts and talents in a relatively non-threatening environment. The MOPS program provides a wonderful model for training and developing leadership in young women.

Although it has been a constant struggle to find enough child carers for our group, a positive side effect of MOPS has been the excitement of some of those carers. They see the child care program as a ministry, both to the children they care for and to the mothers, and they long to share Jesus with the children.

Unlike playgroups, in which the program is structured around the kids and outreach to the mothers is limited, MOPS takes things a step further. MOPS aims to meet the needs of mothers, and one of those needs is hope—this is the hope that we find in Christ. MOPS strives to bring this hope to each and every mum that comes along.



*(front) Julie Prattis (Australian Area Coordinator for MOPS) with (rear) Robyn Robertson (Ballarat, Vic, coordinator), Deborah Burford (Wollongong, NSW coordinator) and Carol Kuykendall (MOPS International)*

MOPS has provided another doorway through which people can come into our church. We are slowly seeing results in this area. Just the other week a young woman was baptised who came into our church through MOPS. Although she had been involved with other churches in the past, it had been four or five years since she had last attended church. MOPS gave her the opportunity to ease back into things, and to then renew her commitment to Christ.

MOPS is a valuable program for any church. The testimonies of mums who come along to MOPS speak for themselves. “I like getting together with other mums to share concerns without interruptions from children.” “I get a lot of fun as well as good ideas from MOPS.” “I enjoy talking to other mums, the morning tea, craft and having time away from the kids. The whole lot is great.”

Deborah Burford is the coordinator of MOPS at our Wollongong, NSW, church.



# NSW The Way Forward

BRUCE ARMSTRONG

It is important to understand that while there may be any number of ways to advance our cause, the only successful way is to move forward in harmony, together. At my induction at Northside church, NSW, our Conference President graphically demonstrated that while we may differ on our mode of operation, we are all of the same essence. Let me fill in the dots so the picture may become clearer.

*There has to be a firm commitment to our historic New Testament plan of salvation.*

## Primary Understanding

Whatever our personal pendants, practices or peeves, the unquestionable and central truth for our existence is the Lordship of Christ. "Jesus Christ is Lord." The heavens know it and rejoice. The demons know it and shake. We must know it and surrender to his will. There has to be a firm commitment to our historic New Testament plan of salvation. Like the juggler keeps the balls in sync, so must we—without compromise or omission. Walter Scott called it the five-finger exercise.

1. **Faith**—without which we cannot hope to please God the Father.
2. **Repentance**—the change of mind and will that sets a new direction.
3. **Confession**—I will declare him to be my divine Lord and Saviour and my life must show it in many possible ways.
4. **Baptism**—a graphic air-lock through which, in normal circumstances, all must pass.
5. **Gift of the Holy Spirit**—this di-

vine presence within each committed believer is the gracious gift that assures of salvation and empowers for daily fruit-filled living.

While some might say that that is returning to the past, I must confess that I have never left it.

We have to become a vital part of the Body of Christ. Then there must be a desire to see the absolute forward progress of the "Church of Christ", as it is through this movement we have entered the Christian Church Eternal. The God-given intent is to work within the context of your local church, within the concept that we are a valid network of believers. Our strong connection within the network of the Conference of Churches enhances that body strength. What is good for us as a movement is good for the church at large.

Within my local church, I play my role as God has allocated my position. I share in the Spirit-generated and enhanced "good works" and the resulting balance that my local church brings to blending each believer's talents.

So I strive to bring prominence to the Christ and his church (Matt 5:16). I endeavour to enable the church to be more effective in its calling (Eph 4:12-13). My commitment will help the churches to grown in number and in service (Acts 5:14, 42).

*While it is not just as simple as that today, we must plant or disappear*

## Primary Development

There can be no more primary goal, than to bring people to Christ. I may serve the poor or the elderly or the im-



poverished, but I do that on the way to winning people to Christ for eternity. While youth are part of the church today, they are the leaders of tomorrow. These are the important years of decision-making for careers, marriage and values. What more important value can they understand and receive than Jesus?

The ratio of leaders to followers is slim. We need to concentrate on the development of leaders with vision, gumption, faith and compassion. It is an absolute must. Otherwise, we will disintegrate in a pile of rust, left by the failure of the tin gods that are about!

The early church leaders made it a point to plant churches at every opportunity or wherever they were located. While it is not just as simple as that today, we must plant or disappear. We have some 25 churches with less than 29 members and that's a time-bomb waiting to destroy us.

Rather than lament recent changes, rather than long for past grandeur of our movement in NSW, let us rally to avoid an agonising and disgraceful death. Let us lift the name of Christ and see his church grow and multiply.

Under God we can make it happen.

Bruce Armstrong is Ministry Coordinator for NSW Conference.



# NSW

## A Second Anniversary

TONY SANDS

**T**his Easter Campbelltown Church of Christ, NSW, celebrated our second year in our new facility, the Ambarvale Recreation Centre. In 1962 our church began as a plant from the Austral and Liverpool churches. Since then, it has developed over the years into an exciting place to be.

Two years ago we voted as a church to purchase a very dilapidated squash centre, which had going for it size (eighteen courts plus aerobics room) and car parking, two things for which we were really desperate. In a wonderful expression of unity and team work, we were able to renovate and update the building, add a medical and counselling centre, and build some offices for the church staff.

We decided to operate the sports centre as a means of community contact, despite the fact it was losing money. Since then, and with a lot of hard work and good management from our sports centre manager, the centre is beginning to hold its own. We have contact

*Campbelltown, a community centre as well as a church*



*We have contact through the centre with just over 2000 different people in our community each month.*

through the centre with just over 2000 different people in our community each month.

The medical and counselling centre is going well, with our two counsellors, family support and youth worker being kept very busy. Our vision is to be a healing presence in the community and to have a centre where a doctor (a Christian) can refer folk to our counsellors and into the church where appropriate. As we review our experience and the significance of the acquisition of our facilities in reaching our community, I am convinced as ministry team leader that I would never ever build a chapel again.

Overall, the church has a team of six people directly involved in ministry on a full or part-time basis. Areas include evangelism, pastoral care, children, women, youth and counselling, and medical centre administration. The sports centre has an additional staff of fourteen full-time, part-time and casual staff plus a recently appointed sports minister.

Since the opening we have seen the church grow from around 180 members to 250.

Current Sunday morning attendances are around 230, with over 100 youth and young adults participating in our evening service. The most exciting part has been that



*Tony Sands (centre) with the Campbelltown leadership team.*

people have come to Christ and into the life of the church through the sports centre and the medical and counselling centre.

Recently, I was privileged to share with one of our almost founding members in a pre work early morning prayer meeting. One of the topics was finances. Our mortgage is \$1,500 per week! This man was remembering in prayer 30 years ago, when they couldn't see how they were going to be able to carpet the garage they were holding the church services in!

These comments are a brief overview as to how God has been working in people's lives, how good it has been to be in a community facility and what our hopes and dreams are. Our experience has been to be bold in our prayer, to continually seek God's guidance and to go for what we believe is within his purpose.

Tony Sands is the ministry team leader at Campbelltown. He would welcome visitors or any enquires about developing a similar ministry in other areas. (—Ed)



NSW

# Partnership Beyond 2000

KEITH FARMER AND RANDY EDWARDS

In 1989 a task force on theological education and ministry training presented to Federal Conference in Canberra its report on theological education in Churches of Christ in Australia. In the report the task force stated that it believed "that an ideal would be for there to be two national colleges serving all Churches of Christ in Australia. One would be a multi-campus College including Carlingford, Kenmore and Wollongong and the other based on Mulgrave ... with off-campus study centres in Adelaide and possibly Tasmania". (p. 19)

In 1996 discussions were instigated between Churches of Christ (NSW) Theological College (Carlingford) and Kenmore Christian College (Qld) to examine the possibilities of forming a single college with a multi-campus model. This followed a resolution passed by Churches of Christ in Queensland and subsequently approved by its NSW counterpart that the colleges be encouraged to seek a partnership. Meeting last year at Dorrigo, NSW, representatives from the two colleges overwhelmingly agreed to proceed with negotiations. They established time lines for the investigation

of issues, the identification of procedures and the establishment of potential structures. Throughout 1997 both colleges

worked diligently to enable clear and concise discussion on matters of partnership. Two subsequent meetings were held between representatives and the final outcome has been a recommendation that the two colleges form a partnership commencing in 1999 (ten years after the initial report of the task

*If approved, this would signal a new era in interstate cooperation*

force). In November 1997 it was agreed that the following motion be put to the respective state Conferences for their endorsement:

"That Kenmore Christian College and the Churches of Christ in New South Wales Theological College form an association of colleges responsible to both Queensland and New South Wales Conferences, and that this association operate as a single college with all aspects amalgamated from 1 January 1999".

Effectively this would mean that the two colleges continue to exist (technically), but would form a partnership which in turn would "trade" under a new name. The new partnership would have a single administration, share a common program and utilise its resources (both human and material) collectively to offer the best program possible. The former Institute at Wollongong had previously merged with Carlingford and Kenmore has since adopted the teaching program which Carlingford instituted in light of the recommendations of the task force on theological education.

If approved, this would signal a new era

in interstate cooperation and create the first merger of state departments/committees formed between two state Conferences. The new college would form a joint policy group which would be accountable to both state conferences and would continue to offer theological education in a variety of delivery forms in both states and in Western Australia, where Carlingford currently operates a ministry centre. It is an exciting proposal which will require much prayer from our churches and hard work on the part of the colleges.

It is anticipated that regional meetings in Queensland and New South Wales will be held in the first half of this year, with a postal ballot in each state being used to allow churches to determine the future. Questions and comments are welcomed and encouraged, and information booklets outlining details of the proposal will be available by 15 March. We would seek the prayerful support of Churches of Christ throughout Australia as we seek to determine the will of God in this venture.

Keith Farmer is Principal of the Churches of Christ Theological College, Carlingford, NSW. Randy Edwards is Principal of Kenmore Christian College.





# NSW

## A Vision for Families

ANDREW RANUCCI

**H**ardys Bay, NSW, church, on the central coast north of Sydney is relatively new. It affiliated with Conference in 1991. Andrew Ranucci came as a student minister in 1992 and was appointed full-time minister in 1994. The church began with an evening congregation that was largely aimed at youth and adults. When Andrew started in 1992, some sixty people attended the evening service.

The demographics of the area point to mainly working class and semi-profes-

sors to over 300 adults and children, with the evening service reaching about 100 youth and young adults. A key element in its effectiveness is its very specific vision statement: "To turn central coast families into devoted followers of Christ".

This meant all programming was focussed on the needs of families.

Andrew Ranucci firmly believes that if a family visits and the kids love the Sunday School, the family will be back! The services are very seeker-sensitive, with contemporary music and bands, and lots of variety to create a sense of anticipation.

Practical biblical preaching and conversion testimonies are also a key element.

No matter what stage the Hardys Bay church is at, Andrew Ranucci believes its best years are still ahead. The church is presently negotiating to buy a two-acre block of land in the hope of building a ministry centre. This is an urgent need because the present school hall only seats 220 and the church is already at capacity, with no other larger halls available in the area.

This year Glenn Dibley has joined as youth pastor, with a vision to build on the church's strength in youth ministry. In just two months Glenn has built the Junior Youth Group to over 80 kids and his monthly "Reachout" services have attracted some 200 youth.



*The band at Hardys Bay Church of Christ is an important part of communicating the message of the Gospel to the culture of the people which surrounds them.*

### *Unchurched families are quite willing to rediscover church*

sional families, who have decided to move out of Sydney to enjoy a quality of life, without the large mortgage.

For that reason the vision of the church was focussed on reaching families.

A morning service was started, with rather few people and no musicians. Families gradually began attending and a kids church was commenced.

By the end of 1996, with 80 adults and 50 children attending the morning service, the congregation had grown beyond the capacity of the building.

By February 1997, a strategic decision was made to add a second morning service at Empire Bay Public School, a well-appointed new school with excellent facilities.

That was an exciting year for the church, as God brought more and more families into the congregation.

By the end of 1997 it had grown further, with 40 new families, over half of whom were previously unchurched. On Sunday mornings the church now minis-

With the growing number of families in the church, it is obvious that an effective youth ministry is vital in order to care for the many children who are soon to become our future youth. Families are the foundation of our society. Andrew Ranucci firmly believes that churches need to develop a clear vision of how they can best reach out, minister and care for families.

Unchurched families are quite willing to rediscover church and are pleasantly surprised when they find themselves and their children enjoying the experience.

Relationships are developed and before you know it, people want to discover more about what it means to be a Christian.

Even bungy jumping doesn't come close to the excitement of seeing an unchurched family commit itself to Christ and become enthusiastic about worshipping together on a Sunday morning. Our vision has become a reality.

Andrew Ranucci is minister of the Hardys Bay, NSW, church.



# Musings of a Media Moralist

VINEY LONGTHORP

**M**usings? Moralist? Why not? All of us make such responses most of the time as we reflect on significant offerings on the media. We become moralists in so far as we compare the values in these offerings with those of our own. No More Snoozing in the Pews In a newspaper column under this heading, the inimitable Keith Dunstan presented an

*In these matters the right hand knows only too well what its left hand is doing.*

interesting argument which must resonate with most of us. He reported that Mr Howard was angry because church leaders were united in opposition to his Wik legislation. He also noted that a suggestion was made by Queensland Liberal backbencher, Warren Entsch, that parishioners stay away from their churches in protest. Our scribe went on: "Stay away? Good heavens, the reverse will happen. Here is an excellent reason for all of us to come back". He commented that this

would be the first time in years that there would be a chance to take in sermons which were worth hearing.

Warming to his theme, Mr Dunstan went on to say that slumbering in sermons might become difficult if this social criticism catches on. He noted that young people are not necessarily non-believers, they are just bored and rarely hear anything relevant to their problems and what is happening now.

Many of us wish that filling pews is as easy as is here suggested. Reasons for the neglect of churches are somewhat more complex and far-reaching than our optimist realises. Prophets have rarely been popular and our Lord never promised that there would be crowds wanting to get into the places where truth was being told.

**Spielberg's Animated Bible Epic** Yes, the director of *Jaws* and *Jurassic Park* is to spend \$A90 million on the first of a series of feature-length animations on events in the Bible. The first will be *The Prince of Egypt*—the story of Moses. The film will be released later this year.

To many this may come as good news. There is wide-spread concern in the churches that the generations which have been absent from Christian education, as say in Sunday Schools and similar groups, are woefully ignorant of the basic teachings of the Bible.

As Alan Bloom says, in his *American Religion*, those religious pressures for "revivalism and ecstasy" could produce religious "loose cannons" where there is no discipline of Christian thought or regard for Christian origins which the Bible gives. Such ignorance may open the way again to the predations

of the tele-evangelists and their ilk. Hollywood to the rescue?

**The Year's Silliest Broadcasting Decision** Thus Errol Simper, media writer for *The Australian* described channel Nine's refusal to screen a Christian Television Association's commercial which warned against gambling, especially when Nine then devoted two hours of prime time to the opening of Sydney's casino.

He suggested that this was public relations at its lowest, especially since Kerry Packer, Nine's proprietor, was a stakeholder in Melbourne's Crown Casino. Mr Simper observed, however, that Nine eventually agreed to fund the Association to make some anti-poker machine ads.

The decision may be "silly", as our writer says, but it is perfectly understandable and, given the network of business interests, should have surprised no one. In these matters the right hand knows only too well what its left hand is doing.

**Second Fiddle** What a fine actor is Britain's Tom Wilkinson. He nearly stole the show in that excellent film, *Wilde*, the tragic story of the last years of the playwright, Oscar Wilde. Wilkinson played the part of that horrid oaf, the lecherous Marquee of Queensbury who encompassed the downfall of Wilde. Wilkinson's acting seemed to enhance the work of Stephen Fry in the title role, whose acting also was of a very high order. Many will remember Wilkinson being equally at home as the compassionate cleric in the film, *Priest*. How important are secondary roles in making a film really great. Thus prompted, may I forward this "moral"? A great conductor was once asked which was the



most important instrument to play in a symphony orchestra. Without hesitation, he replied, "Second fiddle". And if you want, test his opinion, listen for example to the part of the second violins in the slow movement of Joseph Haydn's *Surprise Symphony (Number 94 in G)*. You can gauge for yourself the importance of second fiddle both in art and in life.

**Oprah Meets a Beatle** When it comes to cutting through waffle so to get to the core of a program you can't beat Simon Hughes' television previews, with his tongue-in-cheek manner. Thus when previewing *Oprah with Paul McCartney*, he notes Oprah asking Sir Paul about the late John Lennon. Reply: "I loved him dearly. He was a very beautiful man". According to Hughes, McCartney then "throws in a bit of snake oil for good measure. 'Lennon's Jesus remark was pro-church.'" (At the height of the Beatle's fame, Lennon had boasted that they were now more famous than Jesus Christ.) Why now, the "snake oil apology"? Hughes slyly implies that with the youthful, rebellious, middle-class baiting days behind them, Sir Paul wants to ensure the widest possible market to buy up remastering albums in CD boxed sets. Economic rationalism—or rationalisation?

## Strack Removals

Removals—Storage—  
Packing—Pianos  
All Suburbs—Country—  
Interstate

**David Strack**  
(Proprietor)

Office and Store  
45 McIntosh Street  
Airport West 3042  
Telephone (03) 9370 3737  
(03) 9330 2211  
Fax (03) 9330 3039  
AH (054) 27 0472

"Service since 1907"



# Classifieds

# Coffee Break New Life

CAROL PRESTON

## BIRTHS

**EARL-SOUTH** Lyn and Ray Earl give thanks for their fourth grandchild, Jessica Taylor, born at Warragul, Vic, 9 February, 1998. Second daughter for Debbie and Stephen Earl of Drouin. Fifth great-grandchild for Joan Peterson.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**CARTER-MATHIESON** Helen Carter and Peter Mathieson are happy to announce their engagement.

## DIAMOND WEDDINGS

**DAFF (Wolf), Theo and Wilma** at Cheltenham, Vic, 30.4.38, J.E. Allan officiating. Present address: 322 Hursley Road, Toowoomba Qld 4350. Anniversary will be celebrated at Bongeene Church of Christ, Sunday, 3 May 1998. Children are Hazel and Reg O'Connor, Les and Lois Daff, Marian and Charles Jones, and Keith and Lynette Daff. Grandchildren are: Phillip, Stewart, Bradley, Rosie, Gary, Leonie, David, Dale, Sharon, Tania, Robyn, Debbie, Warren, Paul (in Heaven), Fiona and Cameron. Theo and Wilma also have several great-grandchildren. They give thanks to God for their long life and have enjoyed fellowshiping at Cheltenham, Warragul, Kingaroy and now Bongeene.

## DEATHS

**MARKS, Heather** A service was held in loving memory of the life and witness of Heather Marks at the Wagga Wagga Church of Christ, NSW, on

Monday, 20 April 1998. Heather's selfless involvement in the local hospital, nursing home and charitable organisations contributed much to our community.

## CHURCH RELOCATION

**MANIFOLD HEIGHTS** Church of Christ has temporarily relocated. Services now held at Vines Road, Community Centre, 49 Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights Vic 3215. The church office is now at 82 Autumn Street, Geelong West 3218. Telephone (03) 5229 4830. Fax (03) 5222 5896. This change will be until further notice.

## HOLIDAYS

**HERVEY BAY, POINT VERNON** Whale watch or explore magical Fraser Island. Premier holiday position. New 3BR house, lock-up garage. All modern cons, has everything. Fully furnished, carpets, colour TV, washing machine, dryer, microwave. Short stroll to Bay, boat ramps, shops and parks. Bookings phone (02) 9790 3710.

**HOUSEBOAT "White Heron"** 8-berth. Moored at Blanchetown, SA. Phone (08) 8365 1153 or (08) 8540 5250 or write 7 Gameau Rd, Paradise 5075.

**McCRAE, VIC** Morning Glory bed & breakfast. Enjoy traditional B&B hospitality in a peaceful setting on the Mornington Peninsula. Bay views. Phone Tom & Julie Ede (03) 5986 8744. Also suitable venue for small-group day seminars.

**A**round Easter it's easy to think about the joy of the new life we have in Christ, which brings us new hope and enthusiasm for life. It's often like this too after the birth of a new child—great excitement, thankfulness for life, relief after the pain of childbirth. But so often these days, I find I'm talking to young mums who find new birth is the beginning of a great struggle which begins when they get home and



## Postnatal depression is at an all time high in our society.

begin the journey of parenting. The earliest stages of this new relationship in families can bring a whole range of feelings and adjustments that there seems no way to really prepare for. What is now called postnatal depression is at an all time high in our society. Many older mums would have experienced similar struggles, probably calling it "baby blues". These days when I talk to young mums they are often so overwhelmed with these feelings they are barely coping. What's happening in our society to put such pressure on young families?

I believe part of it is the isolation that has come with the development of the nuclear family, which has meant the responsibility of raising children is often left to mum alone. Their partner is away for most of each day and there is little access to the extended family. I think we still underestimate the value of and need for extended family. This is a community notion, where there is diversity of support,

care and encouragement for new mums learning to care for and relate to their babies.

Other significant issues I hear from struggling young mums are the loss of identity around roles which have ended with the birth of the child, unrealistic expectations of their mothering skills, lack of models of good mothering, and attending to previous children who have different needs and demands. This is added to recuperating physically and the varying challenges each child brings in terms of it's health, temperament, and adjustment to feeding and sleeping. When most of this is experienced in isolation, it's no wonder that they feel confused, anxious, tired and depressed!

Postnatal depression, baby blues, the struggle of adjustment takes time, patience, understanding, support, and sometimes medication. I believe the amount of struggle around these issues for so many young mums in our society calls us all to look carefully at our resources to help in this most precious time of new life and new relationships, so they can be established in the most healthy way possible. Do something supportive for a new mum this month. It will be an investment in the health of our family homes, churches and society.

## "In the Steps of Jesus" and the Oberammergau passion play

with

Graham and Freda Carslake.  
Year 2000 in June.

We visit Israel and Germany over two weeks.

As there are very limited seats for the passion play, you should indicate your interest as soon as possible.

Details of costs, program, etc, may be directed to:

Inner Faith  
PO Box 377  
ASHMORE QLD 4214.  
Phone 1800 074 426



# A Time For Living Dangerously

LINDSAY DEWBERRY

She would say that she did "what any friend would do". But the friendship cost her dearly. She was there when her friend left her violent marriage, there to cop the threats of physical and sexual violence from her friend's "ex", there when her friend collapsed in frequent bouts of crippling depression, there to help with the kids, there to hold a hand by a bedside. But she was also there also to see a remarkable re-shaping of a life as her friend was introduced to a church, a loving community, and, through it all, a loving God.

*Would our programs be different?  
Would we use our time and resources differently?*

Theirs is a nice, small, safe country church when they invite the young minister. A former drug pusher with a radical conversion experience, he comes to the community and sees young people with exactly the same addictions he once knew. After much debate and with many fears, the church gives him permission to minister to hurting people in the township. Twelve months later the congregation has doubled, as people who've never previously set foot in church discover faith. The existing congregation gain a whole new lease of life as they rediscover the love and

friendship they have to offer their township.

As Conference President for Vic-Tas over the last twelve months my theme has been "A Time For Living Dangerously" and I have been privileged to visit places where it has already been happening.

What would it mean for us to live dangerously in the faith as individuals?

Would we actively look for more opportunities to share faith? Would we develop relationships from which we hang back at the moment because of the time or the emotional cost involved? Would we find ourselves feeling vulnerable as we share in the crises of others in order to bring the compassion of Christ? Would we be vulnerable also as we work through our own hurts, fears and issues that have limited our faith experience in the past? And what would it mean for us to live dangerously in the faith as churches?

Would our programs be different? Would we use our time and resources differently? Who are the hurting people in our community and, more important, are we connecting with them? If we are, then let's celebrate that! But if we are not, then perhaps we need to ask whether our fears have overcome the call to minister the Gospel in ways relevant to our communities.

Sometimes we think that to be faithful is simply to stay where we are, to fly the flag, to do what we have always done. Tragically, all too often we become captives to the safety and security of doing things in the same old way. In the end we become "Keepers of the Kingdom", largely keeping it to ourselves. To be truly faithful is to con-



stantly ask, "Yes, but what is God calling us/me to do and be now?"

It is to be constantly open to having our understanding and ways of operating challenged, just as Jesus challenged the fears, the understanding, the prejudices, the lifestyles and power bases of his day.

It is to take the risks involved in once again becoming "Bringers of the Kingdom" to our communities.

This openness is the essence of the transformation heralded so often in the Gospels and will define our ability to minister relevantly into the 21st century. Lindsay Dewberry is currently completing his year as Vic-Tas Conference President.

## BAPTISMS

•Tahlia Ries, Balaklava, SA •Hayley Sutherland, Werribee, Vic •Leah Edmond, Syd Bartholomew, Dandenong, Vic •Rachel Laidlaw, Launceston, Tas •Lyne Sykes, Boronia, Vic •Joel Donaldson, Stephen Parker, Scarborough, WA •Jodi Grice, Belinda Peadthro, William (Wildo) Goldsmith, Toowoomba, Hume St, Qld •Catherine Trimmell, Rosemary Trimmell, Heather Beard, Hamilton, Vic •Ricky Adrisurya, Bendigo, Vic •Kathy Novakos, Balwyn, Vic

## MARRIAGES

•Jan Kilah and Noel Vogler, Melissa Burge and Colin Case, Lisa Kambouris and Adam Kingston, Toowoomba North, Qld •Wendy Gribble and Mark Stanford, Rene Croot and Bryan Morris, Scarborough, WA •Renee Essex and James Russell, Toowoomba Hume St, Qld •Rebecca Mines and Matthew Thomas, Hamilton, Vic •Paula Seal and Raymond Johnson, Caveside, Tas •Karen Earl and Bruce Manintveld, Warragul, Vic

## DEATHS

•Beryl Zambra, Maitland, NSW •Ivy Clements, Dandenong, Vic •Ivy Burden, Boronia, Vic •Vin Burnham, Tootgarook, Vic

## OBITUARIES

Obituaries are limited to 100 words  
**BLINKIRON, Dorothy Ida**

(3.3.98) Dorothy was born in Victoria in 1923, a daughter of the manse. In every church where she and her husband Ivan have been involved, they have served with enthusiasm and dedication. During her almost 20 years at Marion, SA, she was active in the CWF and Women's Conference. She was a competent communion leader and in recent years gave outstanding service as an assistant in our "Good Gear" recycled clothing shop. Dorothy was a gracious lady whose witness was inspirational. She will be missed by her three children, their spouses, seven grandchildren and all who knew her as a friend. —G. Agnew



330-350 Frankston-Dandenong Road  
Seaford Vic 3198  
Phone (03) 9786 8679

Managed by  
Church of Christ  
Frankston

1- and 2-bedroom villas  
Motel-type lodge suites

Waiting list open



# Church News

## WA

**CARNARVON** (Gavin Law Davis) Principal of Christian School, Ian Blackburne & wife Yvonne settled in ... Gavin Law Davis to present video series *Growing Kids God's Way* in second term. Open to community ... Easter beach camp planned with Ross Burton of Rivervale church to lead studies focussing on the church family ... Olive Burgess of Olive Laird Hostel celebrated her 92nd birthday with a horse & cart ride.

**SCARBOROUGH** (Nigel Merrick, Ken Doran) Nigel Merrick to take up part-time position with FEBC ... Judy & Brad Parker left to serve at WEC Headquarters in England ... Church actively involved in abortion issue ... 40 people referred from Festival WA.

## VIC

**BURWOOD-MT WAVERLEY** (Peter Wing Tang) Progressive dinner & garage sale most successful ... Plans under way for 40th Anniversary, 26 April ... Church saddened by death of Mrs E.M. Wickam ... Church secretary, Beryl Drake recovering from surgery ... Privilege to have had guest speakers Peter Little, Kevin Miller, Norman Lowe & Charles Bayer ... Mark & Margaret Schroder welcomed into church. Gerald & Greta Stekelenburg have made commitment ... Sunbeamers playgroup expanding.

**NORTH ESSENDON** (Mike Esbensen) Child dedication for baby Brooke Newton 8 March, conducted by Jack Edwards ... Norm & Anne Peebles sustained minor injuries in car accident ... Discussion group meeting with communion at Dave Ploog's home Thursday evenings ... Mike Esbensen leaving December 1998 ... Playgroup hosted morning tea for church 30 March ... Dancing classes using premises 6 days weekly ... Congregation at Keilor Road Uniting on Palm Sunday.

**CHADSTONE** (Yvonne & Malcolm Lowe) Chadstone musicians supported outreach at Oakleigh. Doug MacFarlane speaker ... New outreach ministry with elderly Chinese ... Peter & Heather Fisher farewelled ... Lynette Leach guest speaker at service ... Parenting group series held March ... Phyllis Currie OAM guest speaker at CWF meeting ... Crazy Whist held by Club 147.

**KANIVA** (Paul Bauer) Thank offering for Saltmarsh bequest to needs other than our own ... AGM held. Barry & Elsa Williams secretary & minute secretary respectively ... Impressive open-air dedication service at commencement of combined Sunday school ... Clugston family farewelled prior to transfer to Hamilton ... Sunday school children collected gifts for Community Care for display at harvest thanksgiving ... Special offering to various needs.

**DANDENONG** (Brian White, Martin Rees, Jack Edwards) Church employed Jack Edwards for one day per week ministry with seniors. Martin Rees for two days with young adults & youth ... Family camp at Forest Edge. 66 people attended. 27 under 17 years. John Sharpe study leader ... Joan White leading study group for women.

**BORONIA** (Bruce Moore) 77th church anniversary celebrated 29 March. Lindsay Dewberry, Conference President speaker ... Prayer Network commenced ... Letter forwarded to state premier concerning amendments to gun laws ... Church participating in 50 days of prayer organised by local ministers' association ... Dinner preceded auction of goods & services. \$1000 raised ... Bruce Moore & Adrian Wilson attended leadership conference ... Gordon Stirling assisting in pastoral ministry.

**HAMILTON** (Roy Hope) Guest speakers while minister ill ... Church fully carpeted ... Pie night & entertainment for Australia Day & pancake tea on Shrove Tuesday ... Family night service 2nd Sunday each month. Bible

study in homes other nights ... Members joined with other churches for World Day of Prayer ... Art group meeting in building each Tuesday ... Paul Bauer, Kaniva, conducted wedding 14 March ... 3 baptisms in church this year.

**TOOTGAROOK** (M. Giezendanner) Easter services well attended. Palm Sunday combined with Inter Church service. Early morning service Good Friday followed by walk of witness & stations of the cross ... Clare Barton appointed CWF country representative ... Church saddened by death of foundation member Vin Burnham ... CWF had special Easter presentation in recitation & song.

**BALLARAT CENTRAL** (J. White) Ordination service for Jack White 6 April. Lynette Leach preached. Number of visitors present from Knoxfield ... Jack & Ann participating in youth fellowship Sunday evenings ... Good Friday services excellent. A meditation service with a number of members taking part. Easter Sunday service, building almost full ... Badminton team won D Grade grand final.

**WARRAGUL** (Bill Vassiliou, Anne Prime) Les & Jenny Medley presented with gifts in recognition of ministry at picnic in park ... Bill Vassiliou (LITE Australia) engaged part-time for 1998. Anne Prime appointed student minister for 1998 ... Warragul joined in recent Gippsland Gathering ... Driveway fund boosted from car boot sale, old time cinema & CWF stall ... Prayer chain commenced ... Speakers include Jack Edwards & local church members.

**BENDIGO** (Ross Barnes) Well-attended President's Reception held, in-

cluding a ladies fellowship tea with Liz Tilson ... Activity bags for children during morning service working well when Sunday School is in recess ... Church library enjoying increasing patronage from community ... Plans for organising country ladies camp at Hall's Gap well advanced ... John Bond, South Perth, spoke at evening service.

## SA

**GOOLWA** (Chris Ambrose) Successful Holiday Bible Adventure held January ... Sunday youth & worship services combined for two-term trial ... Two outdoor services held February ... Number of young people made commitments during Franklin Graham Crusade ... Sunday Forum "Christian attitude to war" ... Healing service held & well received. More to follow ... Lenten studies held with inter church council using same material.

**BALAKLAVA** (Grant Spangenberg) Minister inducted as President of Northern District Conference ... Terry Howard Northern Districts representative on State Board ... Fellowship group conducted evening of tennis and golf afternoon ... Combined Good Friday service with UCA ... Easter Sunday dawn service 6.30 am, also 7.45 am service and breakfast ... Sunday 19 April church celebrates 90 years since laying foundation stone of present chapel.

## NSW

**MAITLAND** (R. Hawkins) Recent speakers G. Long, Conference Presi-

Toowoomba's Quietest caravan park—(076) 35 1747

## GARDEN CITY CARAVAN PARK

Eiser St, Toowoomba

- En suite cabins
- Overnight vans
- Powered & en suite powered sites
- Swimming pool & free BBQs





# Church News

dent, B. Armstrong, NSW Ministry Coordinator, I. Richer, ITIM, J. Naffer ... R. Hawkins gave series of studies on "How to be a Successful Spouse" ... Coffee Plus outreach commenced. Runs 2 days a week from church complex ... Mrs S. Malony welcomed into membership ... "Endless Praise" held Saturday Concert ... Mrs B. Zambra died.

**TWEED HEADS-COOLANGATTA** (Bruce Warwick) 30 participated in 15-week NT Introductory Studies with Randy Edwards, KCC ... CWF hosted World Day of Prayer. Dorothy Mathieson speaker assisted by Frances from China ... Bruce conducted studies for Bundamba church camp ... Jeanette Nicolle, working with AIM in Kenya, speaker at CWF ... 500 homes visited in "Jesus, Gift for the nation" video project. 36 distributors taking part, while several others prayed ... Increasing numbers at TAG (Sunday School).

## QLD

**TOOWOOMBA NORTH** (Daryl Thorpe, Frank Langford) Frank Langford will finish 6 year term end of this year ... Month of Missions planned later this year, following last year's success where guest artist Geoff Bullock, attracting over 1,600 attendees, \$8,000 raised, allocated to Zimbabwe, PNG & India ... Gail Parry appointed part-time youth worker ... Church seeking a full-time minister.

**TOOWOOMBA, HUME ST** (Dale White, Ross Savill) Good Friday service attracted 410 worshippers, including many from non-church backgrounds ... Newcomers Dinner 23 March provided fellowship & information for 50 recent attendees ... 260 people shared in Sunday night baptismal service for 3 young adults ... Successful ladies breakfast 21 March enjoyed by over 100 ladies ... Church book room run by Cheryl Gramenz achieved a record \$3,500 in book & card sales for March. Expansion under way.

## TAS

**DEVONPORT** (Peter Willis) Church considering purchasing neighbouring property to increase car parking space, provide space for child care, youth centre, emergency accommodation & staff residence. Members asked to determine course of action through ballot ... Church family camp 3-5 April at Riverbend, Smithton ... Draft plans for building update on display ... Youth

group conducting basketball-a-thon to raise money for camp at Bicheno.

**LAUNCESTON** (C. Spaulding, W. Kerrison, T. Gray, S. Fitzallen) Leprosy Mission speaker at afternoon fellowship 25 March ... Steve Fitzallen inducted to ministry at 7.00 pm service. 5 April. Keith Farmer, CCTC Carlingford, speaker ... Bernard Bogere, Director of International Needs, Uganda, speaker at CY evening 6 April ... One baptism 5 April.

**CAVESIDE** (John & Colleen Harrison) Great time of blessing at Tasmanian Convention 28-29 March. Keith Farmer speaker ... Raymond Johnson & Paula Seal married at St Marks, Deloraine, 4 April. Rev A. Bulmer & J. Harrison officiating ... Caveside hosted combined Good Friday service. Good attendance ... J. & C. Harrison concluding 9½ years' part-time ministry on 26 April ... Rod & Lynne Chapman commencing ministry during May.

## COCOA brings HOPE



**COCOA provides finance to develop food crops like this at Londua Training School in Vanuatu.**

**Londua students are taught a variety of skills, including carpentry, domestic science and subsistence agriculture. These skills equip them to build a better lifestyle.**

**Will you become a partner in this vital work?  
Help spread HOPE though a gift to COCOA.**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Amount: \$ .....

Please charge my: ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Expiry Date: .....

Signature: .....

Post to: Churches of Christ Overseas Aid  
180a Gray St, ADELAIDE SA 5000.

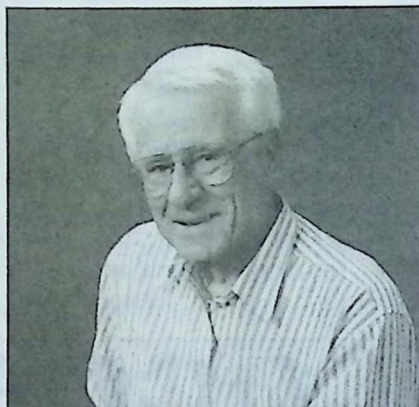


# Advice to Ministers 1880

GORDON STIRLING

**W**hen A.B. Maston, first Editor of *The Australian Christian* (101 years ago) came "Down Under" as a young preacher in 1880, he was given the following tips from O.A. Carr, a fellow American who had served in Australia for some years.

1. Accommodate yourself to English and Scottish customs.
2. Your business is to preach the gospel.
3. Teach the church to take care of itself.
4. Do not have elders unless they fulfil the requirements (1 Tim 3:1-7).
5. Do not preach on Lord's Day morning. Meet to break bread, for worship, teaching prayer and mutual edification.
6. Contribution, fellowship, each first day.
7. Use the press all you can.
8. Have the brethren distribute tracts.
9. See that the church and the world do not get mixed up.
10. Show no quarter and expect none.
11. Don't be "mealy mouthed, but always kind".
12. Don't countenance sectarianism.
13. Don't say "Campbellite".
14. Don't say "other denominations".
15. The plainer you preach the better.
16. Remember that you speak to those who do not understand rather than those who oppose.
17. Shake hands with everybody.
18. Mingle with the people.
19. Go to meetings of the sects and speak when you have a chance.
20. Don't join any "society" unless it be "temperance".
21. Teach the brethren that the Church is enough.
22. Have the church take care of its own poor and unfortunate.
23. Bring out talent and have preaching stations and put young men at it.
24. Do not try to do everything yourself.
25. Appoint committees for special work.
26. Beware of business meetings. Have as few as possible and never on the Lord's Day.
27. Remember that non-attendance at worship is an indication of bad spiritual health and requires medicine.
28. Have every member do something.



## The Last Word

**At every stage of growth thousands of seeds must perish for one flower that will bloom.**

—Anthony de Mello

**Boss:** You had your hair cut in work time.

**Worker:** it grew in work time.

**Boss:** It didn't all grow in work time.

**Worker:** I didn't get it all cut off.

**Mother:** Everything is going up.

**The price of food is going up.**

**The price of clothing is going up.**

**I wish there was one thing that was going down.**

**Carol:** Here's my report card, Mum I think it will make you feel better.

**I won my sergeant's stripes the hard way. I started as a lieutenant.**

**Sergeant:** Fire at will!

**Soldier:** Which one is Will?

**He's a terrible artist. He couldn't even draw the curtains.**

**An atheist is someone with no invisible means of support.**

**He crossed a carrier pigeon with a woodpecker so that it would not only carry messages, but also knock on the door when it arrived.**

## Introduce Your Friends to an Australian Christian



We would be happy to send them three issues on a trial basis. Simply fill in their details below (with their permission) and send this form to, The Australian Christian, PO Box 101, North Essendon Vic 3041.

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

## Pontius' Puddle

