



Northern Communities of Hope

Pastor Bryan Sellars receives Innovation Award

At a Schools Ministry Group (SMG) Community Event Bryan Sellars, Pastor of Northern Communities of Hope Church in Davoren Park was presented with a Community Innovation Award in recognition of the positive impact he is making in his local area. The church provides a regular community lunch, and Bryan wanted to get students from local schools involved to help them learn skills and also connect with people in their community.

Tracey Hearse Pastoral Care Worker at Elizabeth North Primary School nominated Bryan for the Innovation Award. "I take students once a month to the community lunch so they can learn how to prepare a meal, serve it, and get to know others. The students really love going there, they get along with the community members really well, they have chats and laughs – I can just see their attitude and their faces are always happy. They like being out and about and feeling that they have something to offer the community."

Elizabeth North Primary student Harrison says going to the community lunch is his favourite thing. "I liked cooking using the BBQ, and I learned how to cook sausages on a barbie. I liked actually getting my first time to cook chops. It feels good to get to chat to people especially to grown-ups because it teaches me to learn to be nice to show them my respect and then they show me their respect. That's how we can build

a friendship bond. Thank you very much Pastor Bryan, I think with your help I can finally live my dream to be a great cook."

SMG Ambassador Brenton Ragless and Mark Lee from Uniting Venues SA - Award Sponsor presented Bryan Sellars with the SMG Community Innovation Award in front of 500 guests.



Brenton Ragless and Mark Lee and Bryan Sellars

Eyre Peninsula Conference August 6th

In early August Mark Riessen (State Ministry Team) and Faye Carmichael (Ministry Work Group & Hewett Church of Christ) attended the Eyre Peninsula Conference at Tumby Bay Church of Christ. It was a fantastic day of worship and fellowship with attendees from Tumby Bay, Whyalla and Ungarra Churches of Christ.

Mark preached twice in the morning on 'Unity of the Church in the body of Christ' from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. He reflected on the Apostle Paul's appeal to the church to be united in purpose and for there not to be divisions among them. Mark also reflected on the Stone-Campbell heritage and what that identity might look like for us today as Churches of Christ working with other Christians in the community, responding to God's mission together.

Mark and Faye had an opportunity in the afternoon to share stories of mission and hope from their experiences of churches in Adelaide and to field questions about resourcing mission and working together as a Conference of churches. Mark inducted Eyre Peninsula Conference President elect, Terry Catling and participated in the opening of 'Our Back Yard', a community engagement initiative of the Tumby Bay Church of Christ.

Glenys Tyler of the Tumby Bay Church of Christ reflects below:

"What a buzz to gather together, share in worship and enjoy a barbecue lunch. Instead of the usual 'Fellowship Service' we experienced a time of Q&A (Question and Answer). It was exciting to listen to stories from Mark Riessen and Faye Carmichael who were our special guests from Adelaide. It also was beneficial to confront the challenges and frustrations for congregations in our region and to be inspired by local examples of doing mission in our own communities."

Ungarra Community Cafe is run by volunteers, the initial team being members of Ungarra Churches of Christ. The central location and common ground in a tiny township has become a welcoming hub of conversation and deeper relationships. The coffee is cheap but delicious, as is the home baked food. Handmade items are for sale and you are served by volunteers. Any proceeds are going to existing projects across Eyre Peninsula and around the world."

(see their Facebook page for more details and photos www.facebook.com/ungarracommunitycafe) Sunday, 6th August was a great opportunity to officially open Our Back Yard, an outdoor space which has been weeded and landscaped with simple, cost effective items such as logs, mulch and a fire pit. It lines up with the aims of NaturePlaySA – encouraging children and all age groups to enjoy being outside. Part of the concept is to use Our Back Yard as an outdoor space for children who are interested in attending church, even though their parents are not yet part of a faith community. Activities are easy to come up with when there is room for planting flowers, toasting marshmallows and sitting in a circle for a chat about life. Old bricks have become stepping stones leading to the focal point of a cross. District Council of Tumby Bay Mayor, Sam Telfer, was present and shared some thoughts and Mark Riessen prayed for children, young people and families."



Dale Telfer, Faye Carmichael, Mark Riessen, Trevor Simpson



Mark Riessen, Marika Telfer, Glenys Sauturaga, Freya Telfer, Sam Telfer

Call to Pray

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Each month you are encouraged to pray for some of our churches. Twelve months after starting we will have prayed for all of our churches.

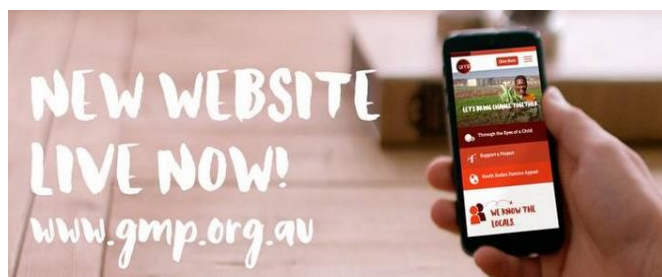
For September, pray for:

Port Lincoln, Salisbury East, Seaford Combined, SouthPoint, Strathalbyn.

The Challenge

One month, just water, raise funds, change lives. Take the challenge with us to drink nothing but water for the whole month of September, to raise money for safe water projects in rural Zimbabwe. You can sign up, make a team, and help change lives and transform communities – because every person deserves safe water.

Sign up at SafeWaterSeptember.org.au and take the challenge!



Farewell, and thank you!

I will always be grateful for the opportunity and privilege of serving our Conference of Churches as State Minister over the past six years. Thank you to the many people and communities who have supported and encouraged me in this role – those who have worked with me and walked alongside me, and those who have prayed with me and for me.



In particular I want to express my appreciation to those with whom I have worked most closely – in the State Board, the State Office Ministry and Administration team, Ministers and Church Boards, and the many workgroups and committees that work diligently, and often unacknowledged, in the service of our churches. I am greatly indebted to you all. You have all made contributions of inestimable value to my life, and for this I am most grateful.

And my parting words?

Never forget that as Christians our hope is always a gift from God, because it comes to us from the very *character* of God. It is not mere wishful thinking or naïve optimism. Rather, it's a deep sense of confidence in the grace-filled character of the God of Jesus who is *for us, not against us*, and who will not leave us abandoned. We have learned to know that this God loves us unconditionally and lives within us and within our communities – inviting us, leading us, accompanying us on a pilgrimage into the life of the risen Christ.

Our hope is in the character of God as grace and reconciliation, and our *experience* of hope, or our 'living hopefully', grows out of our commitment to living together as people who actually believe that, making decisions and choosing priorities and practices that testify to God's 'different way' – God's Kingdom way.

Farewell, and thank you!



Understanding and Caring...

People with Dementia and Carers

Dementia describes a collection of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. It is not one specific disease. It affects thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday tasks and it interferes with the person's normal social or working life.

So how do we care for families affected by dementia?

Facilitator: **Gail Bohrsen**: Alzheimer's Australia

Time: **12.30 pm, Wednesday 13th September**

Venue: **The CareWorks Studio**
114 Henley Beach Road,
Torrensville



Catering: **BYO lunch**—tea/ coffee provided

Enquiries: **8234 5802**

“Lunchtime @ the Studio” is an ongoing series of gatherings for Ministers and Key Church Leaders to discuss important social issues and how our church communities might respond.

www.cwsa.org.au

www.facebook.com/GivingHelpOfferingHope

Domestic Violence

Various statements on Domestic Violence have been made in recent days by church leaders in response to the recent media reports. SA Council of Churches also draws your attention to two resources:

Domestic Violence Handbook for Clergy and Pastoral Workers, updated through SA Council of Churches in 2010 and launched by LoCCSA (then known as Heads of Christian Churches of South Australia). See SA Council of Churches http://www.sacc.asn.au/_data/DV_Handbook.pdf

Each Church is encouraged to place it on its own website also.

Queensland Joint Churches Domestic Violence Prevention Project http://www.qct.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1516&Itemid=185, including CD-ROM for clergy and pastoral workers ‘Not in My Church’.