



Redcliffe Uniting Church  
*At the heart of the Peninsula*

**Community Fund Celebration  
2019**

Redcliffe Uniting Church  
1 Richens Street  
Redcliffe QLD 4020

Tel: 07 3283 4066  
[paul@redcliffeuniting.com.au](mailto:paul@redcliffeuniting.com.au)



# Welcome

I've just recently come back from the Uniting Church's state conference (called 'Synod'). This is where delegates from across the state come together to worship, pray and discern God's future for the church.

I was so encouraged by the number of people who came up to me and said, *"Thank you for your congregation's giving to us. You have enabled ...."* It was very humbling. We must have supported something like 50 congregations across the Uniting Church to put God's mission into action, and we have empowered 30-odd local community projects and almost ten overseas concerns.

This is the impact of the legacy left by some very special people in the name of Christ. This is the legacy we have been part of.

## **A new Era**

We are now in the process of multiplying the impact of the Redcliffe Uniting Community Fund even further.

Our Development Application for a Community Services Space to be added to our premises is about to go to Moreton Bay Regional Council. The Community Services Space will enable us to partner with like-minded Community Service agencies (who will rent space) to bring about life transformation to people across the Redcliffe Peninsula. Agencies will include Uniting Care, mental health organisations, relationship counsellors, disability services, family support, and more.

The multi-agency services will branch off from a shared reception and 'town square', which will also have a café. It is in the town square that the church and community will mix, and where referrals, conversations and prayer will happen. Here, people will discover the breadth of the church and its collaborative services, and staff will be encouraged in their work. In fact, it is already happening, and lives are being changed. We currently have Uniting Care, the Department of Communities, and the Moreton Bay Community Legal Service using our premises, and our partnerships are growing.

We want to add to the 800 or so people who already use our premises each week as we seek to be like Jesus in our community. But that's not all. Our plan is that within a few years the Community Services Space will generate enough income and impact, that we can resume our grants program for the wider community. We

hope that through this space, God will create a legacy in our church as far as 2050.

So, I want to thank all of you who have taken an interest in our vision and been part of the process. A special 'thank you' to the RUCF committee – David Brown, Deirdre McNeil, Mark Millard, Wendy Grummit (Presbytery), Rev Peter Armstrong (Synod), and Carol James, who has been doing some fantastic work as our RUCF officer.

*Paul Clark  
Senior Minister – Redcliffe Uniting*



# REDCLIFFE UNITING COMMUNITY FUND 2018

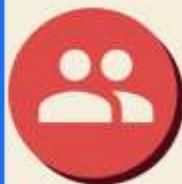


Transforming Families, Engaging Community,  
Nurturing Faith

The RUCF exists on the generous donations of past members of Redcliffe Uniting Church.

With our program we seek to Nurture Faith in People, Transform Families and encourage congregations to engage with their community in Gospel ways.

This is what we achieved in 2018



## TRANSFORMING FAMILIES

Giving from the Heart - Supporting at risk Foster kids \$5000  
Giving from the ♥ - Supporting at risk Students in schools \$2000  
Logan-Mairly UC Music Program \$1000  
School Chaplaincy Dinner \$2000

## ENGAGING COMMUNITY

Salt No Limits Inc - Garden Maintenance Project \$1000  
Redcliffe Community Christmas Lunch \$2000  
Forest Lake UC - Helping to build a community church \$5000  
Hatton Vale UC - Empowering Community Markets \$1000  
Warwick UC - Tank for Community Garden \$2000



## NURTURING FAITH



Coral Coast UC - Commence Surf Church \$2000  
Nikles Family - Discipleship in SE Asia \$8276  
Emerald Fernlees UC - Walk thru Bethlehem Event \$1500  
Seaforth UC - Live Streaming Worship to remote churches \$1000



Redcliffe Uniting Church  
Community Fund

[WWW.REDCLIFFEUNITING.COM.AU](http://WWW.REDCLIFFEUNITING.COM.AU)

# Those who have given

## **Neil James Grant**

Neil Grant passed away on 21 October 2010 and left his entire estate to Redcliffe Uniting, where he had been an active member for many years.

Neil, the youngest of three boys, was born in Ipswich on 21 May 1938. The family had no church links, but Neil was befriended by the local Methodist Minister, who led him to Christ. When he moved to Woody Point with his parents, he joined the Kate Street Congregational Church, then Griffith Road congregation. Neil faithfully served the Church as Treasurer, Elder and Councillor, and became a Life Elder.



Neil was a good athlete, representing Queensland in schoolboys' hockey, as well as playing tennis, table tennis and golf. His working life saw him take up the role of bookkeeper for the Agriculture Bank, until it closed, and then as a clerk with the Health Department, until he took early retirement to pursue his interests on the Peninsula.

Neil was active in the Masonic Lodge. He was initiated at Redcliffe, passing through the various offices until he became the Worshipful Master. He also served as treasurer for many years. He was highly respected and received the Grand Lodge Honours, which truly demonstrated the esteem in which he was held.

Shortly after retirement Neil developed a Ross River-like virus, which laid him low for two years. He then suffered a series of strokes and was in care for about four years until his death.

## Jane 'Jenny' O'Keefe

Jenny, the sixth child of George and Alice Simmons, was born in Thangool on 15 August 1926. The family ran a dairy farm and Jenny was educated at Thangool School.

Jenny married Dan O'Keefe, and they were together for 30 years. Theirs was a relationship that bore no children but endured through drought, isolation and never-ending struggle. They lived at Chinchilla before acquiring a property at Neebine, between Cunnamulla and St George. It was tough mulga country which bred tough people. Dan and Jenny's toughness, work ethic, reliability and honesty made them many friends in the area. Indeed, without the good neighbours who agisted sheep on their land they would have lost their property. Dan and Jenny's neighbours affirmed that, despite material lack, the couple were never lacking in generosity and hospitality.

They secured a contract to deliver the Sunday Mail newspapers throughout the area, which required them to drive to Brisbane on Saturday, deliver papers overnight, before finally arriving home at lunchtime on Sunday. And they repeated this process all week!

After Dan's death in 1987, Jenny moved to Redcliffe and purchased her beloved home at 42A Ewen Street, Margate. Sadly, she suffered another tragedy with the death of her sister, Phyllis, with whom she was going to live.

Notwithstanding the tragedies of her life, Jenny always maintained a faith in God, and this was shown through her generous bequest to the Fund in her will. Jenny moved to the North Lakes Retirement Resort, then Burpengary Gardens, before her passing.



## Mercia Mead

Mercia Lily Wieland was born on 30 September 1930 and, despite a tough childhood, did well to become a school teacher. Mercia taught at Rathdownie and Haystack, but while still young, she had a car accident and injured her back, which unfortunately meant that she had to give up teaching.

However, she found work with Vic Mead, who had a Planning and Building business, and she became Vic's right hand lady in the office for 40 years! Mercia also ran a Christian Endeavour group at The Gap Methodist Church, where Vic's daughter was a member. Mercia suffered at various times from bipolar disorder. She was usually a gracious, cultured person, but when the *black-dog* bit she could be quite terse and uncouth! But Vic knew how to tame the *black dog*.

With the passing of time, Mercia needed to care for her elderly mother, and Vic Mead's health was also failing badly. Finding himself in a bind, after his wife left and struggling with poor health, Vic turned to Mercia for help. Mercia nursed and cared for Vic, and at one stage they both became so sick and ended up in the Wesley Hospital together. Since they were together, they were discharged to the same nursing home! So, Vic proposed to Mercia. Mercia was very happy, confiding that she had always loved him but had never let on. Tragically, they were only married for nine months when Vic passed away.

Mercia was well enough to move to Peninsula Park Retirement Estate, after which she joined Redcliffe Uniting. She really loved coming to church, and it was Mercia who paid for the fans in the rear of the church.

Before long, Mercia's health deteriorated and she ended up in a wheelchair. She still came to worship and was known as an evangelist in the nursing home! She wanted people to know she was a Christian and invited residents to join her in worship. She even organised *Hairy* to visit Beringa Street. '*If Hairy works with the children, he'll work in the nursing home*', she reasoned. Of course she was right!

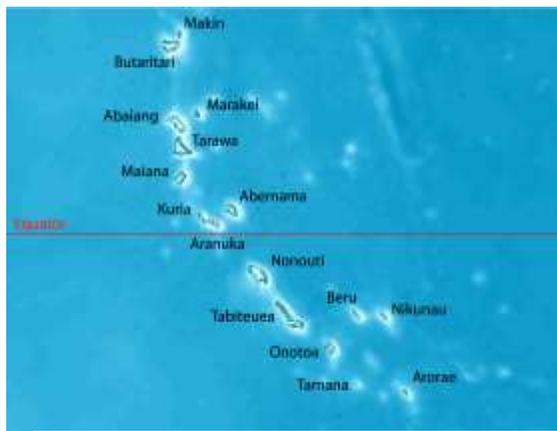
## Margaret Emlyn-Jones

Following her marriage to Rev Lyn Emlyn-Jones, Margaret lived for many years in the Gilbert Islands, where Lyn was a missionary with the London Missionary Society. Their three children – Christine, Mair and Gareth – were born during this time.

When they moved to Australia, Lyn was appointed to a co-operative parish in the Newcastle area. Then, following the church union in 1977, they moved to Warwick in Queensland, where Lyn became minister of St Andrew's Uniting Church. During this time Margaret did some relief English teaching at the Uniting Church's Scots-PGC Warwick Colleges. On retirement, the couple moved to the Sunshine Coast.

Some time after Lyn's sudden death, Margaret moved to Margate and quickly became active in Redcliffe Uniting Church. Her particular interest was Adult Fellowship and other Seniors' Ministries, where her pastoral care gifting was used to great advantage. She was elected as an Elder and was a member of the 8am Congregational Leadership Team. Because of the esteem in which Margaret was held, she was designated 'Emeritus Elder' when she retired from active Eldership.

Due to increasing frailty, Margaret eventually moved to Caboolture, where her daughter Christine and son-in-law provided a granny flat for to live in during her final years.



*Gilbert Islands*

## Jim Hooper

Jim was born at Clayfield Private Hospital on 14 November 1913, and he lived his early years in Cribb Island. At age 10, his family moved to Lower Nudgee. Then, at a Mission as a teenager, he made a personal commitment to serve Christ. Jim loved to sing and was a member of the church choir. As a young man, he worked on his father's farm. It was a hard life, with no electricity, telephone, town water or a car.

Jim married Margery Brand in 1939. They lived on the farm at Cribb Island, Nudgee, growing bananas, grapes, watermelons, rockmelons, cauliflowers, tomatoes, pumpkins. He used to plough with a horse.

Jim and Margery were Sunday School Superintendents for many years, and they enjoyed being Camp Parents at Church Camps.

When the Government bought the farms in Nudgee for the extension of Brisbane Airport in 1975, the family moved to Redcliffe. Jim took his truck with him to Woody Point, where he used it to help people by taking their rubbish to the tip. He also created vegetable and flower gardens at home and for nearby neighbours.

After moving to Woody Point, Jim and Margery became members of the Margate Methodist Church and later Redcliffe Uniting. Jim and Margery attended adult fellowship and Jim served on the Blue Nursing Committee for many years. He was also a member of the Probus Club.

Jim created gardens in the grounds of the new Redcliffe Uniting Church and tended them for many years. A special ministry was his flower arrangements for the Church. He also loved writing poetry, which many people appreciated.

*Jim reached the grand old age of 101 before his passing in 2015.*



## **Jean McClintock**

Marion Jean McClintock was born on Anzac Day 1925. The day became special to her with her father having fought at Gallipoli with his four brothers, one of whom never came home. Her husband also fought during WWII while they were courting.

Jean, the youngest of three, grew up in Gympie on a bean and banana farm. She was called Jean as her older brother couldn't pronounce Marion, so Jean it was! She studied to become a teacher after winning a prestigious scholarship, and taught in many small schools. She met Ron, and they courted by writing letters while he served in the war. On his return, they married.



Jean had three children – Noela, Beth and Don – and put her brains to doing the books for the pineapple business in Dagon, running a household, and supporting the local church and school. She was also secretary of the Methodist Ladies Guild and taught Sunday School.

Jean became the matriarch of the McClintock clan. She organised everyone and made sure they were punctual. Her hospitality was legendary, to stranger and friend. She was often in the kitchen on holidays while others were on the beach, but she would have it no other way.

Eventually, the family moved to a new farm in Kallangur and into a new house. Sadly, Ron passed away soon after this move. Jean became heavily involved in Redcliffe Uniting: prayer meetings, singing, bible study, Adult Fellowship. She also greatly loved and enjoyed her grandchildren.

After a number of years of being unable to be active in the church, Jean passed away on 27 December 2015.

## **Rev Margaret Mills**

Margaret was born on 2 September 1932 to wonderful parents, Harold and Peggy Whitney, who set her on the life of faith.

Margaret trained as a nurse in Brisbane, where she met Bill, a Presbyterian theological student. He said of her, 'Heaven preserve me from a woman who talks so much!'

They were married and moved to Boonah, where Jo and Stephen were born. Little Stephen was killed in a car accident and Margaret seriously injured. Despite this tragedy, life went on, and then Susan and David were added to the family.



Bill became an Army Chaplain and the family lived in Malaysia for two years, where Katherine was born. Returning to Sydney, Bill was then posted to Vietnam, but upon his return he was diagnosed with leukaemia. Margaret went back to nursing, to make ends meet. Bill died in 1971. Margaret was 38, with four children under 14. She stoically relocated the family to Brisbane, near her extended family, and completed an Arts Degree in 1981.

In 1982 Jo was widowed and returned to the family home with Stephen, who was just five months old. The same year, Margaret entered Trinity College to train as a Deaconess, later becoming a Minister. She served in Balmoral, then at Logan, as a Blue Nursing Chaplain.

Shortly after she arrived she became the only minister in the parish and single-handedly held the parish together through 15 turbulent months. She continuing to serve until at 78 years she retired to Redcliffe. Here Margaret became a valued member of Redcliffe Uniting until her death and return to Bill in 2016.

## **Edith Joy Boustead**

Born 17 February 1929

Died 3 December 2017

Aged 88 Years

Dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Craig and Tracey, Julie and Michael, and loving Nana of Lachlan. Loving sister of Ruth (deceased) and David.



Joy was a long-time member of Redcliffe Uniting.

She lived in Margate for many years before moving to a nursing home on Bribie Island.



# Transforming Families

## Redcliffe Peninsula Chaplaincy Dinner



In 2018 the RUCF was a major sponsor of the Redcliffe Peninsula Chaplaincy Dinner, which was themed 'Let them Shine'. This dinner brought together a crowd of 240 local people to support the 11 chaplaincy services on the Redcliffe Peninsula, which serve something like 8,000 students!

At the dinner guests heard powerful stories from students, parents and a school principal about the life-saving impact of the local chaplains. The meal was provided by students of Mueller College, and was a credit to them.

Items were auctioned at the dinner, and the keynote speaker, Phil Smith, ex ABC radio presenter, mesmerised the crowd as he told the story of landing on an American aircraft carrier as a military reporter. Heart in mouth stuff!

The dinner raised \$60,000 for the Redcliffe chaplains. We are proud to have supported this event and to see our donation multiplied 30-fold, which will go to support at-risk and struggling families.

## Giving from the Heart – Supporting at risk foster kids

Here at Child Safety Redcliffe we are extremely grateful for Redcliffe Uniting Church's continuous support, which is exemplified by the selfless time and effort Joy Godfrey commits to helping families and children that are in need of support.

Life affects us all in different ways, and sometimes life events can take us to different places and cause families to fall on hard times. The donations of linen, quilts and school uniforms (to name a few) from Giving from the Heart help to relieve the daily pressures of these life events, allowing families to catch their breath and regain, in some way, a measure of dignity in their lives.

The gifts the families receive through RUC's donations are theirs and theirs alone, the families taking them wherever they go. Families take pride in owning something beautiful, such as the warm blankets and patchwork quilts that Joy and her team create for us. These beautiful things help put smiles on the faces of children when they find it hard to have a reason to smile.

A family that was very recently provided with blankets, bedding and pyjamas was extremely grateful to know that the children would be warm through the coming winter months.

Simply put, the donations from Giving from the Heart mean the world to us at Child Safety Redcliffe, but they mean even more to the families and children that are in need of a little extra help.

Thank you so much to Joy and the Giving from the Heart team at RUC for your warm hearts, generosity, amazing organisational skills and selflessness in the work you do. It means more to the families than you will ever know.

*Redcliffe Child Safety*

## Logan Uniting Church – ‘Mainly Music’



Everyone, and especially children, respond to music in some way. So, following a mission evaluation, Logan Uniting Church had the desire to run a Mainly Music program for 0-4-year-olds and their caregivers. This would create a unique and valuable opportunity for the church to embrace young families who were attending the church, as well as people from the local college and surrounding community. Taking a step forward, Logan UC applied to RUCF for the funds to buy tambourines, claves, maracas, egg shakers and bells – and rather a lot of them! That successfully done, they just needed some movers and shakers! Libby Stanley, Logan UC's Mainly Music coordinator updates us:

**“They are loving the sessions, and don’t want to miss a week!”**

*“The weekly Mainly Music sessions have been very well received. By the third week our group was full, and we currently have a waiting list. We have a team of 10 adults who run the program and provide*



*pastoral care for families who come from our own and other churches, as well as for those who don’t have a church connection. We keep in touch with families when we don’t see them, and are there for them during various life events, such as celebrating children’s birthdays to make them feel very special, providing meals when a family is unwell, and offering support during times of loss and grief.*

*Over Easter this year we ran an age-appropriate session to tell about God’s amazing love gifted to us at Easter time. All the children and their caregivers received little gifts, too. As we continually challenge ourselves to find new and different ways to connect the families with other ministries at our church. After our Easter event we invited the families to our upcoming holiday program and other activities. As parents, grand-parents, carers and children get to know us, we can share our faith and bring the love of God into their lives.”*

**“All our children are budding musicians and singers”**

Logan UC is now called ‘Real Life Christian Church’ [www.rlcc.com.au](http://www.rlcc.com.au)  
You can find out more about ‘Mainly Music’ at [www.mainlymusic.org](http://www.mainlymusic.org)



## Engaging Community



### Salt No Limits – Garden Maintenance Project

Salt No Limits, Redcliffe has been operating since 2013. The organisation was founded on the Christian principle of coming alongside people, to converse with, understand and support those in need. Tracy Lech, Salt No Limits president, gave us a great insight into what the organisation has been doing:

*"So that we can provide financial support and a venue for at-risk unemployed youth and Work for the Dole adults, Salt No Limits operates a coffee and snack café at 118 Sutton Street, Redcliffe, as well soap-making, giftware, garden maintenance and pallet furniture projects. All of these projects are run with the purpose of providing employment opportunities for participants, but ultimately, Salt No Limits (SNL) provides much more than that. Our broader aim is to enable clients to live fulfilling lives and play a fuller part in their communities.*



*Our clients are often not work-ready as they are lacking in social skills, have little education for a variety of reasons, and have not had the opportunity to take responsibility for their activities and skills levels. Some have addictions, others have limited world views, many lack confidence; all need encouragement and advice on making decisions and being personally accountable.*



*Social isolation is another issue that affects our clients, but with the use of the gardening equipment community volunteers can come alongside unemployed and at-risk youth who often need the wisdom and encouragement of others. Then, through the development of skills and self-confidence, our clients can go on to develop and pursue their life goals.*

*SNL's primary gardening goals have been to link with three or more employment providers, train 20 people each year to use the equipment, develop a list of 20 regular clients, and reinvest profits in other projects, including sporting equipment*

*and family mornings. Volunteers are pivotal to the success of the projects. We are reaching 6-10 long term unemployed through our ACT NOW SERVICES every 3-6months, and in June 2019 we will have been running for over a year. One young man has secured full time work through us. We have had ups and downs helping him manage his money. Many of our clients come from addictive or oppressed backgrounds and, if they are not guided and helped to be accountable, they can just waste the money they earn or get into trouble with it.*

*So, the rewarding part for us isn't just getting our clients work, it's the conversations seasoned with 'salt' – the power of truth being spoken into their lives. This gives our clients a mind to see things differently and options to change direction, and, with our help, break the bondage they have been in.*

*We have many clients who stay around to help with the work even when they no longer have to work for the dole. We are averaging 10-15 new requests each week regarding gardening jobs, but have to turn some down because we don't have enough vehicles or trailers to schedule the extra work. We also have a contract with elderly clients who have Blue Care pay us to maintain their gardens. We would love to expand, but this would require additional funds and an additional volunteer driver to operate another run.*

*Overall, we think we are kicking our goals! Thank you so much, RUCF, for your support and getting us started with much needed equipment that is still working well.” Tracy Lech, Director*

This is but a snapshot of what Salt No Limits does. Why not take time out for a coffee at Sutton Street and encourage the workers there? You can check out their Facebook page too: <https://www.facebook.com/saltnolimits>



Redcliffe Uniting is privileged to have helped SNL achieve their goals. Tracy applied for an RUCF grant to buy garden maintenance equipment, and we were glad to gift \$1,000, with which SNL bought a second-hand trailer with ramps for their mowers, a blower and a hedger. A member of our congregation also donated a mower and some gardening equipment. (SALT currently have two mowers and two whipper snippers.)

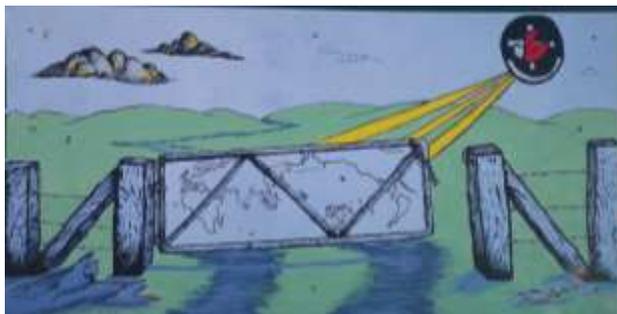
## Bracken Ridge UC – Multicultural Mural



The Bracken Ridge Uniting Church is profoundly grateful for the generosity of the Redcliffe Uniting Community Fund in the provision of a grant of \$800 towards the creation of four multicultural murals to be displayed on the paling screen on the outside of our church.

In a sense, Bracken Ridge UC has always been a multicultural church, with people coming from far and wide to be part of our fellowship. In more recent years, we have become established as a multicultural congregation, having been inspired by the vision of Rev Dr Amos and Shanthy Manoharn that the future of the Uniting Church in Australia lay in this direction, and hence their encouragement for us to see this as our way forward. We are most fortunate to have Pastor Paula and Sosefina Hurehuke and family continue this multicultural ministry with us.

The artists responsible for the four individual murals are Pamellia-Ann Abel, Ray O'Brien, Finamoatauelangi and Jabiru Community College at Bracken Ridge.



The original pastoral design created by Pamellia-Ann Abel reflects our welcome to people of all nations, as indicated by the map of the world outlined by the wiring on the fence gate. Pamellia-Ann is an adult member of our congregation who has

desired to be an artist through many years on single-parenting her family and has only found opportunity to develop her potential in recent years.

The mural showing people of different cultures, with the heading 'Multicultural Church' emblazoned on it, is a succinct, superb original design by well-known local artist Ray O'Brien, who was a member of our congregation for many years. He has won several prestigious art awards and his major areas of interest are seascapes and portraitures.

The exquisite original Islander design reflecting the natural world has been completed by Finamoa Taelangi, a young adult member of our congregation. Her artistic talents have been honed through her secondary education at St John Fisher College at Bracken Ridge.



The collaborative original design depicting flags of the world was created by students and staff at Jabiru Community College at Bracken Ridge. The flags indicate countries represented within the College and in the community. There are many tall strong trees in the local landscape, thus the

central focus of the mural represents the tree of life, learning, beauty and grace. The sun symbolises the power to sustain life, give light and colour, and is a unifying factor as it rises and sets on all countries around the globe.

We give thanks to God for the gifts he has given to these artists and for their profound generosity also in the giving of their time and service freely, often in the face of hardship and difficulty. We are very proud of their efforts, their reflective expressions of their faith and understanding, and their personal dignity and strength of spirit in our midst. We believe their contribution has enabled us to connect with our community as a welcoming place of Christian worship, fellowship, growth and service for people of all cultures.



Our average attendance at Sunday Morning Worship has increased from 44 in 2018 to 50 thus far in 2019. Thanks be to God.

## Hatton Vale UC – Power Supply for Community Markets

Hatton Vale Uniting Church is situated in what Duncan Barlow, from the church, describes as a "dormitory suburb, where people live but generally travel elsewhere for work, sport and socialising". With very few amenities, it was difficult to create a community-feel for Hatton Vale, and this is what motivated Hatton Vale UC to establish twilight markets that would be held on the last Friday of each month. The project would require funding to provide additional lighting and electrical connections so that people could access the markets or set up stalls with ease and safety.

The lighting would also make the markets visible to passers-by.

Through a grant of \$1,000 from Redcliffe Uniting

Church Fund, Hatton Vale installed the power and lighting needed, and the markets soon became a hub of activity that created opportunities to connect with community members and stall holders. The church is now praying about further developing the ministry of the markets, including activities for children while their parents browse through the stalls or enjoy some locally prepared food.



The electrical supply and lighting were a great bonus at Christmastime, and in fact the Christmas lights display, coordinated by Steven Ayre, won the award for 'Best Community Group in the Spirit of the Lockyer Valley Christmas Lights and Decoration Competition 2018'. And the church appeared on the front cover of the local newspaper, of course!

But the good news doesn't stop there. Two of the people who went along to the Christmas lights were a mother and her adult daughter. The mother had been away from church for a long time and had become increasingly lonely and isolated. After visiting the Christmas lights display, the mother realised that she

wanted to reconnect with the Lord and the church family. She now comes along to church with her daughter, and has joined one of the weekly Bible studies. We fully agree with Duncan, who said, "We pray that this story will be multiplied many times, as deeper connections with our community are made and the wonderful good news of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, is shared."

**Jesus, the One who shapes our community**

**Thank you, Hatton Vale UC, for your inspiration!**

## Sailability Shorncliffe – First Aiders Keeping Sailors Safe



Sailability Shorncliffe has more than 60 regular volunteers and it takes about 35 volunteers to take 40-50 clients for an outing on the water. While the club's volunteers work together to benefit others' lives, the club also makes a difference to the volunteers' lives. Some volunteers have health and emotional issues, and by going down and helping others who have difficulties of their own, and mixing with a very friendly bunch of people, they have a great time. Here is the story of one of the volunteers.

Peter, who is confined to a wheelchair, is 42. (His mother told Sailability that when he was born, she was told he would not live to be a teen.) Peter has been skippering the boat for a couple of years now, and loves it. His parents say that he is a lot more positive at home and is making decisions for himself. This has been a great step forward for Peter, and a great help for his parents.

From Friday onwards, Peter has been in the habit of checking the weather and the tides, and begins to plan his sailing day. This gives him plenty to think and talk about. On returning from the State Conference, which challenged clubs to expand their services and try and encourage clients to participate more in the daily running of the club, Sailability Shorncliffe asked Peter if he would write up their daily weather reports on the whiteboard. Peter said he would "try". The first attempt, you could hardly read his scrawly print, but Peter, realising it needed improvement, determined to go home and practice, and said that "it would be better next week". It was! He also now has his own weather app and has asked if he can be given a volunteer's badge, because he is now part of the team.

Almost all Sailability Shorncliffe clients are happy to go along to the club and be taken for a ride in a sailing boat or just sit in the shade and enjoy a sausage sizzle and good company. No matter what clients choose to do, Sailability's aim is always to make their day as enjoyable and safe as possible.

With safety being paramount when people venture out to sea, Sailability Shorncliffe was keen that its volunteers were trained in First Aid to look after their sailors. With a direct link to our congregation through member Ian Brown, the group approached RUCF for a grant to fund their first aid training. We were glad to support them in this venture, but even more glad that sailors of all ages and abilities would be assured of a quick and competent response should any of them get into difficulties.

The club welcomes visitors (generally early in the morning, around 8:30am, before it gets really busy) to take part in the action and fun. Find them on Facebook, too!

## Warwick-Killarney UC – Water Tank for Community Garden



Warwick-Killarney UC was searching for other ways to reach out to their community. Situated at the centre of Warwick's business district, and directly opposite the courthouse, they were already offering 'Courthouse Cuppa' morning tea and a listening ear to people waiting to attend court appearances. They also regularly distributed water during local markets. All good, but they wanted to do something more to connect with their community. This was to be realised through the creation of a community garden, which "gained the enthusiastic backing of the whole church", said Rev. Ansie Leibenberg (*pictured*).

The church decided that a community garden would be an "accessible gift" to the community. It would be more than a garden, however – it was also planned to be an outlet for disaffected youth, who had to do supervised detention or community service, to learn life skills to enhance their lives and help them make healthy life choices. Other beneficiaries of the garden project would be the supervisors, local community members, local garden businesses (who generously donated their products and expertise), and the wider community as a whole – socially, economically and environmentally. These early intervention strategies are now underway, and around seven to ten young people are supervised on garden projects on Friday afternoons.



Before all of this could happen the garden had to be designed, built and set up with a water supply. Rev. Ansie applied to RUC for a grant to install a much-needed 22,500 litre water tank, and we were delighted to support this initiative. While water tanks may not generally be regarded as objects of 'beauty', we think this one is particularly stunning!

In mid-April, Rev. Ansie wrote: *Southern Downs Shire is now on extreme water restrictions, so the garden would not be possible without tank water. The tank is now full.* A good deal more has been happening, too. Read on!

## A truly community garden

A lot of time, effort, expertise, generosity and fundraising have gone into this wonderful project. Its positive vibe has radiated out to ●members of the church farming community, who built a timber fence and installed the new water tank; ●some of the young people under the supervision of the Department of Youth Justice have been working on ornamental additions to the garden and painting and decorating the structures that have already been installed; ●Southern Downs Regional Council provided a substantial grant, which enabled the building of several on-site features; ●the purchase of a growing medium from 'Enchanted Garden', a local nursery staffed by church members; and ●Bunnings, who have agreed to provide labour and teach timber skills to volunteers as well as help with construction of compost beds. ●Senior boarders from Scots College are providing the necessary 'muscle' to construct raised timber beds and will help with filling the beds when they are ready to be used; ●young aboriginal artists are being sought to paint some of the raised timber planting beds that feature 'bush tucker' foods; ●a very strong local Pilipino community has been approached to develop their traditional crops, which will likely bring together several age groups. ●A 'name this garden' article was published in the local press, and the garden is now aptly called '**God's Garden Growing Us Together**'.





## Redcliffe Community Christmas Lunch



2018 was the sixth year that Redcliffe Uniting Church, Moreton Bay Regional Council and Moreton Bay Regional Industry and Tourism came together to provide Christmas lunch on Christmas day to people doing it tough in our region.

A fantastic team of volunteers from the church and community put on a great spread for around 250 people, with great entertainment, singing, a lively quiz, puppets, Santa, and, of course, presents!

The Redcliffe Community Christmas Lunch is always a wonderful event. It is much appreciated by all who attend, and is supported by a long list of sponsors from the community, who enthusiastically get behind it!



**We hope you can join us in 2019!**

# ♥ Nurturing Faith ♥

## Coral Coast Uniting Church – SurfChurch, Barga

Since receiving the grant of \$2,000 from Redcliffe Uniting Church Fund, and launching on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the SurfChurch at Barga has held monthly SurfChurch Services, and has seen between 50-70 people coming along. The church has been very well received by the Barga community as a whole, and by the local surfing community.

Early on, SurfChurch held a memorial 'paddle-out' service for a local surfer who died, and then held another paddle-out service on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to give thanks to God for the summer season and to offer prayers for all who would enjoy the beach during summer.

Also in December the church held its first SurfChurch Movie Night, and then in January this year launched a two-day children's program called 'SurfChurch Stoked'.

With the grant, the church purchased a large beach flag with their logo printed on it; t-shirt logos for the SurfChurch crew; surfers' bibles; a battery-operated sound system and stand, and paid for some advertising.



Rev Jennifer Lynn, the resident minister, said: *"We are very grateful for the grant. It has enabled us to launch a wonderful ministry that, to date, has worked very well."*

## Montville Uniting Church – Reflection Gallery

In 2016, Montville Uniting Church had a vision to open a 'Reflection Gallery' where artists could express and share the journey of faith through their works. The vision came to fruition, and in April 2017 the Reflection Gallery celebrated its official opening. Since then, the gallery has displayed the works of many artists and welcomed thousands of visitors from near and far.

The gallery is open between 10am and 3pm (and frequently much longer) each day of the week, thanks to a dedicated group of people who take it in turns to open and close.

Displays, which include paintings, photographs, poetry, and more, usually remain in place for two months, and the church is extremely grateful to the artists who generously supply their works at no cost.



**"Time out  
from the  
world to  
reflect on  
our Saviour"**

Overwhelmingly, visitor comments have been expressions of thanks for having the church/gallery open, and about how peaceful the experience of visiting it has been. Prayer requests are regularly uplifted by the church from the prayer box, and other resources made available for visitors are replenished frequently.

The grant of \$1,500 from the Redcliffe Uniting Church Fund enabled Montville Uniting Church to advertise their gallery through the Hinterland Times Gallery Trail for its first twelve months.

Next time you are in the beautiful hinterland, take time out and visit the Reflection Gallery. You can also subscribe \$10 per year to become a 'Friend of the Gallery', which will keep you up-to-date on gallery news and upcoming exhibitions. Search for the church on Facebook, too!

**"A haven  
for a  
heavy heart"**

As one visitor said, **"It's good to find a place of peace and quiet in a bustling world with so much noise."**



*'Zechariah, Father of John the Baptist' by Ron Potter*



*Guache stencil painting by Geraldine Wheeler*



*Wildflower by Gregg Nowell*



*Brooke Smith*

### God Centred Transformation in the Developing Asian World



When we set off for China in 2005, we often prayed Jabez' prayer (1 Chronicles 4:9-10) that God would increase His Kingdom influence through the three small loaves and half a fish we could offer. Currently, we have a team of around 60 part-time volunteers in 14 nations partnering with us to teach the interpersonal Living Wholeness material ([www.livingwholeness.org](http://www.livingwholeness.org)). The framework is just so good

that anyone who seriously learns it, and applies it to self, is transformed and wants to help others do likewise. Funny that – maybe because it captures the essence of the Gospel.

Earlier on (2005-2014) we primarily offered individual counselling to strategic people – mainly missionaries – plus a little training at times. Since 2014, God impressed on us to switch to primarily offering training to strategic multipliers/trainers, with a little counselling to maintain professional relevance. Earlier on, we were mainly China-focussed, occasionally training beyond. Now, God has laid it on our hearts to continue the China focus via the local team there, but also grow the regional training aspect.

We focus on walking through doors Father opens. Lately, this has been new partnerships with key Bible schools/agencies in the developing nations of Nepal, Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia. For example, commencing May 2020, we've been invited to teach the Christian Counselling subjects of both M. Div and M. Theol for a group of 8 ATA (Asian Theological Association) accredited seminaries in Nepal.

We have started a not-for-profit company in Australia to raise funds to support our ministry growth. Both the China Christian Counselling Community and the Asian Christian Counselling Association, of which David is a founding board member, continue to flourish and grow, strengthening Christian counselling broadly in both China and the Asian region. The third biannual ACCA conference is in Bali in October this year ([www.asiancca.org](http://www.asiancca.org)).

Isaiah 55 encourages us to come to our God, that our souls may delight in the richest of fare, that we may then go out with joy and live life His way to the full. Please pray for us as we seek to follow His ways, which are higher than ours, and may His word, even the prayer of Jabez, return to Him a bumper crop that eternally impacts this Asian region.

RUC, and in particular those who have bequeathed funds for RUC's missional use, we thank you.

## Metamana United Church, New Hanover PNG

### On Solid Ground



When Vakus Jotham (*pictured*), an elder of Metamana United Church in New Hanover, Papua New Guinea approached George Kendall in February 2017 about the prospect of a group in Australia supporting the completion of the cement floor of a new church being built in the village, George contacted Redcliffe United Church to apply for a Community Fund grant. The application was successful, and the Metamana United Church received the \$1,500 necessary to complete the cement floor. Then the really hard work began...

### The Power of Many Hands



Laying the cement floor was done entirely by manual labour and started with the gathering of sand, gravel and base rocks, which had to be transported uphill along a rough and often muddy 200m track. Adults of all ages, as well as children and youth, contributed according to their individual strengths and abilities to amass the necessary raw materials. Then, without the luxury of machinery, the cement was mixed by hand and laid section by section over a number of 'working bees' spanning many weeks.

As well as highlighting the accepted gender roles of the community (the male 'warrior' role and the necessary female 'supporting' roles) during the construction

process, George mentioned that health and safety during the construction was, well..., somewhat lacking: "Construction barriers were non-existent, scaffolding was often just a length of wood leaning against a wall, and safety boots were thongs at best and usually just bare feet." Injuries, however, were thankfully rare, and there seemed to be an "inherent capacity to avoid hazards". Well done, Metamana Village!

### **A lasting testament to the collective effort of the church and wider village community**

The design of the church building relies on local timber, which is strong and durable, for its beams and posts. And although the style of the church is conventionally European, there will be indigenous features in the form of decorative wall finishings and internal furnishings. The impressive new church promises to offer a welcome environment for reflection and worship, and the community is looking forward to the security and 'dry-floor' comfort of the new building.

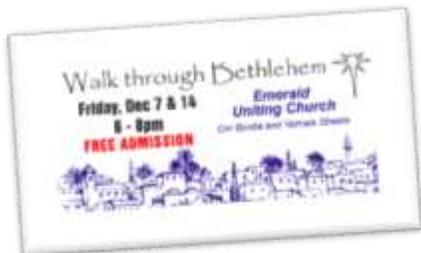


A plaque acknowledging the contribution of Redcliffe Uniting Church Funding has been attached to the church. The worshipping community of Metamana Uniting Church is grateful for the contribution received and will continue to remember RUCF support through ongoing prayer and reflection.

*Metamana Uniting Church welcomes visitors! If you are interested, George Kendall can help you plan your trip.*

**George Kendall's contact details are available from RUC office.**

## Emerald Fernlees UC – Walk Thru Bethlehem



An RUCF grant of \$1,500 helped Emerald Uniting Church pool their creative and organisational resources to plan an interactive Christmas community event in 2018. The church wanted people to experience 'Bethlehem', and they did this by:

- ❖ buying a banner to advertise this annual event (the banner will be used for many years...)
- ❖ setting up a very popular animal petting zoo, which they hope to repeat
- ❖ setting up photo boards – lots of fun was had painting those!, and
- ❖ buying clay for the potters' table, as well as other craft items.



"We cannot thank Redcliffe Uniting Church enough", said Elize Le Roux, chairperson of Emerald UC. "The grant was a tremendous help to reach out to the community once again, and with new activities. We are truly grateful for your support."

## Northside Uniting Church – Mackay and Seaforth

### Live Streaming Worship to Remote Churches

The Central Queensland Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia is big! Distances between some of the presbytery's churches is measured in hours, and isolation is a big issue. Added to this is the difficulty that many of the congregations inland, being small, are often unable to find or support a ministry agent.



The idea of streaming and conferencing using the internet was pursued, and Northside Mackay are already into the early implementation stage of the project. *"The trick,"* said Rev Wayne McHugh (pictured), *"was how to get started. First, there was the question of what technologies should be used, then the options had to be assessed, and finally the chosen plan implemented. The church is now set up as a supplier of streamed church services and events, and this was achieved with funding assistance from the Genesis Foundation."*

A challenge arose with the issue of assessing various equipment options to be used in the remote sites. The problem was there were several options, and the church needed to acquire equipment for testing to make sure they made the right decisions. This is where the \$1,000 grant from Redcliffe Uniting helped. It gave Northside Uniting the freedom to buy the equipment they needed to test, and then run tests onsite.

Wayne reported: *"I'm pleased to say that all the equipment we tested will serve its purpose. It was a great relief to have the money made available to us by Redcliffe UC so that we could get that step right. As things stand, the church has tested and installed the equipment in two congregations – Biloela and Barcaldine. People in the presbytery who can't make it to church, because of distance, mobility or health, are tuning in weekly. One of our Northside people, Margaret Berry, often says: "This has been a real life-saver for me."*

There is additional equipment available for five more installations, and the presbytery is working on those connections now. Well done Northside Mackay and CQ Presbytery.

## Regional Youth Worker

In 2019, Redcliffe Uniting employed Fritz Venzke as our 12-hour-a-week youth leader. Fritz works across the Region, in Redcliffe, Deception Bay and North Lakes Uniting Churches. He coordinates Youth Group and is engaged in regional camps and youth worship. He's been a great addition to our team.

Here is Fritz's latest report about the ministry.



### Youth Group

It's been a very good, very busy first term at United Youth!



We started the term with a special night by making sure everyone was absolutely soaked during our various water games. Fa, from the Moreton Rivers Presbytery youth office, spent the evening with us and led us in a very cool devotion. A few

weeks later, we gave the lady at the 7/11 a real surprise when we showed up in her shop to buy slurpees... in our formal wear. Oh, and it was raining cats and dogs, which made the whole sight even funnier. She couldn't stop remarking how respectful and well-behaved all our teenagers were – something to be very proud of.

At the beginning of March, Deception Bay UC hosted our first combined youth service, and it was a great event with many different role players going above and beyond to turn it into a special night. We had teens from youth group leading the worship, conducting a drama, playing interactive games with the audience, and conducting three short sermons on the topic of 'can loving your neighbour change the world?'



A special evening service was held in April, with Uncle Nate (a comedian) the guest speaker. A small but enthusiastic and appreciated crowd were there.

Term 2 has started well. We are getting consistently between 15-20 kids each week. It's great to see the three churches working so well together and encouraging our youth.

Youth bible study continues to run on Monday evenings, ably led by Jenny Clark and Milly MacPherson. A small, but committed group regularly attends.

*Fritz Venzke*





## Redcliffe Uniting Church Community Hub



Redcliffe Uniting Church's mission is to be 'the Heart of the Peninsula'. With this heart for mission, we have a vision of a Community Hub that brings together the Church and the community, and we have a desire to partner with like-minded service organisations to bring whole-of-life transformation to people on the Peninsula.

Moreton Bay region statistics highlight significant pockets of disadvantage. Redcliffe Peninsula has higher unemployment than Moreton Bay, Queensland and Australia, and societal trends of more single person households and an increasingly ageing population are creating more social isolation and the need for meaningful connection. As a Christian community, we are compelled to love the 'least of these'.

There are currently approximately 800 people who visit 1 Richens Street each week. The Community Hub will raise awareness of the many programs we already have in place. We have something for gardeners, quilters, men, children, the elderly, indigenous women, and so much more. Our outdoor play area and resident chickens make this a wonderful place for families, and we are so excited to share it with our wider neighbourhood.



RUC are grateful to Neil James Grant who is one of our passed church family. Neil left us a generous bequest, and it is these funds that are making the hub project possible. The Community Services Hub aligns with the desire of Neil James Grant to see local mission carried out through RUC.

After many hours of research and work, we are excited to be on the brink of submitting our Development Application. RUC are anticipating the community coming together in one place to grow in every area of their lives. This will be a Hub of transformation, changing lives for many future generations. The on-site café will provide a beautiful meeting place for our community during the week and our church congregation on Sundays. Our desire is to provide varied community services in a location where we are motivated by love to support every life that comes on site.

*Fiona McPherson - Business Services Manager RUC*

*"This is not a building project, it's a Becoming process. It is us creating opportunities for people to experience God's love: Welcome - Experience - Belong - Believe - Become!"*

*(Rev. Paul Clark, July 2018)*



# You can join us

## Become a Donor

Anyone can give to the legacy of the Redcliffe Uniting Community Fund.

Donations of \$2,000 and over can be made to the fund by individuals and groups. Following your donation, we will keep you informed of the actions and activities of the fund and invite you to key events.

If a loved one has passed away recently, and you would like to make a donation to the fund of \$2,000 and over, we will be privileged to add their name to the Honour Board in the foyer of the church. Your loved one's story will become part of the RUCF legacy for God's work in and beyond Redcliffe.

If you would like to leave a portion of your estate for the beneficial use of Redcliffe Uniting Church of \$2,000 or over, we will be glad to add your name to the Honour Board as a benefactor of the fund. Your story, too, will become part of the legacy of the fund.

When you are having your Will drafted, we suggest including the below paragraph. It is important to leave the wording as given below and insert the amount you want to leave Redcliffe Uniting Church for God's work.

'I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH the sum of ..... to THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA PROPERTY TRUST (Q.) for the general work and activities of the **Redcliffe Uniting Church** of The Uniting Church in Australia provided that should that work or activity of the said Church have ceased prior to my death or thereafter cease, the said sum shall be used in such other manner as determined by The Uniting Church Foundation.'

Please contact us if you would like more information.

1 Richens St, Redcliffe 4020  
Ph (07) 3283 4066  
paul@redcliffeuniting.com.au





