

GAZETTE

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace
Official publication of the Community of Christ, Queensland



Community of Christ

Mission Conference—1 March

Mission Conference will be held via video conference at 3pm AEDT—NOTE; This is 2pm in Queensland. Following communion we will fellowship over a pot luck lunch and stay on the video conference. Our congregation special business meeting on 11th January unanimously supported the motion “that any congregation member wishing to attend be a delegate”. Brisbane has requested 12-15 copies of the conference reports and hope these will arrive in time to be distributed to those attending a week prior to the conference.

Leadership Meeting

The first Leadership team meeting for 2015 will be held after communion on 1st February. At this meeting discussion will be held regarding the format of the congregation worship experience for 2015 as well as Peter giving an update on the reunion survey. All are welcome to attend.

Apostle Susan Oxley to retire

Atached to this edition you will see there are two letters from the World Church headquarters regarding the retirement of Apostles Susan Oxley and James Poirier. Prior to retirement, Susan will be visiting Australia one last time in an official capacity from 22nd May to 1st June, along with Mareva Arnaud Tchong, who is to be the interim Apostle for the region until World Conference 2016. It is currently proposed that they will be in Brisbane on the night of the 28th of May. These details are currently only in the planning phase and will be confirmed a little closer to the date.



THIS MONTH

Feb 1 Leadership Meeting
Feb 7 HOPE to catch a fish

COMING

Mar 1 Mission Conference
Mar 29 HOPE to catch a fish
Congregation Picnic
Apr 3 Good Friday
Apr 5 Easter Sunday
Apr 13 Presidents Add.(12th US)
May 3 Leadership Meeting
Aug 2 Leadership Meeting
Aug 6-9 National Gathering
Sept 11-13 Yarrhapinni Camp
Oct 5 Presidents Add.(4th US)
Nov 1 Leadership Meeting

Request for Contributions

Last year contributions for the Gazette dropped off significantly. Please remember this is your publication, and all contributions are welcome.

Preferred format is plain text as any formatting you apply may have to be redone to fit available space.

Don't forget about sending those news and notes, as many other subscribers really enjoying reading them.
Deanna (editor)

HOPE

HOPE

To catch a fish

There are 2 more HOPE to catch a fish sessions planned for February and March.

The February event will be held at 3pm at Beachmere on Saturday 7th February, including a BYO BBQ meal. Anyone needing a ride please be at the church by 2pm. Those planning to attend, please let Greg know on 0422 089 976

The March event will be an early morning fish at Redcliffe on Sunday 29th March. The exact location is yet to be advised. Following this there will be a congregation picnic at the church. Please contact Greg for any further details or to suggest a location for a future fishing trip.

Jottings

✍ David and Shirley Judd travelled south to Kallara reunion, enjoyed Jan Kraybill's ministry and visited with David's brothers Phil and Eric. They then flew to Perth to visit with son Lee and family and also to help celebrate Vern Broadways 90th birthday. They are driving back home from Melbourne visiting son Ross and family in Sydney and Shirley's 100 yr old aunt and her sister in law. They expect to return to Brisbane January 31st .

✍ Grace Murphy of Adelaide congregation was a welcome guest in Brisbane recently. She attended Koonjearre reunion and joined with us for communion led by Daryl Unthank on January 11th. Grace had planned to visit with her son Tom, who is a skydiver, however his work location changed from Kirra Beach to Airlie Beach just prior to her arrival in Brisbane. She did however enjoy catching up with Anne and Kari Sutton and Brisbane congregation members.

✍ Walter, Megan and Deanna Scott are journeying to the south early in February to meet some recently discovered relatives. While on the road they plan to spend a night at Tiona. Deanna will then again be off for work, this time to Botany Bay.

Koonjearre—a local view

By David Porter

Last year I celebrated with some dear friends my 20th anniversary of first arriving on Springbrook. All those years ago my family took up residence at Koonjearre and thus for me began a connection and a commitment to the community that continues to this day. There has been a lot of change in the meantime...those two primary school children are now grown, and Kate is now a mother to my Granddaughter York. I am now married to my partner Trace, and all the kids from those days are grown and us parents have a lot of grey hairs to mark the passage of time. Such is life.

When I remember the trepidation I felt back in 1993 at becoming the member of a small rural community it's with respect that I hope the 'real' old timers will now consider me a local. I'm absolutely certain Pam said that 20 years is the qualifying period...and as our esteemed local historian...she is surely correct.

Not quite at a 'rounded' anniversary is Koonjearre itself. Next year will mark its first presence on Springbrook at 40 years. Opened by Russ Hinze way back then, it can now surely be recognised as a significant aspect of the Springbrook landscape.



I'm sure there are many residents reading this who are vaguely aware of Koonjearre and some who aren't even aware of its existence. Let me tell you the story from the perspective of someone who has been living it 'heart and soul' for almost half its history.

'Dixie Farm' (allegedly so-called because of US troop presence during the War) was purchased by a Brisbane based church as the site for their getaways and to provide for other groups to

have theirs. And anyone with even a smattering of knowledge of Springbrook will chuckle to know that these new-comers were apparently treated to their fair share of suspicion. It was already a period of change for the community as young 'hippie-types' were snapping up the dairy farms, and possibly the new 'Churchies' scared them too. Or perhaps it was their liberal use of dynamite as they moulded their new Camp.

Yes, that's how our lake next to Springbrook road was created.....and I've heard some pretty hairy stories of not only those explosions, but of the sweaty stuff being transported up the old bumpy road in beaten up trucks. No OH&S in those days...bless 'em.

In the tradition of many church communities Koonjewarre was built with the labour of volunteers. It took a while. No-one had factored in the 'special' Springbrook weather. Nevertheless they persevered and built a not for profit accommodation centre dedicated to providing affordable and comfy bunk-style facilities available to schools and other diverse groups, so they too could enjoy and appreciate the wonders of this special place.

It is estimated that over 100,000 people have been the beneficiaries in that time. They have ranged from Primary & High Schoolers to Bush-walking groups, Yoga schools, Orchestras, Family Reunions, Christian Youth and gatherings of Herpetologists. We have seen them all, and a lot more.

And one thing connects them all.....they would not have had the chance to stay and experience our mountain but for the budget prices that Koonjewarre offers as a not for profit enterprise. It embodies the egalitarian ethos that is pretty much a memory for much of our populace since the developers and entrepreneurs have usurped what Aussies of earlier generations took for granted.

And so it remains to this day... though no longer owned by the Church. For the last five years Koonjewarre has been under the stewardship of the Australian Rainforest Conservation Society (ARCS). In that time they have invested in long-overdue maintenance and have updated its fa-

cilities to the extent that all our returning customers can't help but comment that the place has never looked better.

Other important aspects of Koonjewarre are the employment it provides to a variety of local tradesmen, cleaners, handymen and labourers, as well as the work we have done to improve the environment. Whereas it once was open paddocks with a couple of trees, it is now an integral part of the re-forestation of the mountain and is a perfect example of the twin values of community accessibility and environmental sustainability. We take pride in this endeavour, and always keep in mind that the reason our visitors come to Springbrook is for the natural wonders that Nature offers. If that is neglected then we lose our 'raison d'être' and we deny future generations what we take for granted. These are all examples of what a not for profit organisation can do in a variety of ways to provide benefits to the wider community.

So next time you pass by Koonjewarre or wonder what the couple in the big white Transit Van do with their days.....it's keeping a Springbrook icon going for the benefit of the Springbrook and wider community. And next year we can look forward to a 40th Anniversary Bumper Celebration Day for the whole community to come and enjoy the grounds and facilities. So watch this space!



Official Announcement:

I am able to announce that Julie Crittenden has accepted the position of Interim Mission Centre Financial Officer for the Australia Mission Centre, effective 1 January 2015. As the interim financial officer she will undergo twelve months of ministerial training to complement both her professional financial qualifications (Masters of Commerce in Professional Accounting and Certified Public Accountant designation) as well as her work-related experience with Community of Christ and Saints Care.

A mentoring team will be assembled to assist her in developing the ministerial aptitudes needed as part of her transition into this position. While this takes place Paul Ferrett has agreed to extend his departure date from 31 December 2014 to 28 February 2015 in order to assist Julie in the initial phase of the transition. Reviews will be conducted at 6 and 12 months to assess how the transition is working for all concerned.

In light of that, it is anticipated that the accountant position she vacates as a result of accepting this role will most likely be filled on a temporary basis for the 12 month period, with a decision being made at the end of that time as to how best to proceed on a more permanent basis. Details on this have not yet been finalised.

Julie has worked for Community of Christ, and then Saints Care Ltd. for a combined total of nearly 16 years. During that time she has served with three Mission Centre financial officers and four Mission Centre Presidents. Next to Helen Taylor, she is the longest serving church employee within the Australia Mission. Up until now, the focus of her service to the church has been to attend to its' accounting needs. The "interim" nature of this position however is intended to be a time when she can begin to develop her ministerial skills more earnestly. This will mean that as a mission-wide minister she will begin to participate more fully at camps, retreats, and reunions, as well as visiting congregations on an increasingly frequent basis. In addition, where she has served as a resource person to the various boards and committees of the church in the past, as we move forward she will replace Paul as an Office-bearing Director within the corporate structure of Community of Christ Ltd. and Saints Care Ltd. respectively.

Born Julie Walshe, she is the daughter of Allan and Ruth Walshe, both long-time church members serving in various roles across the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Prior to beginning her work with the church she attended the Newcastle congregation and, before that, Port Macquarie and Wingham. She and her husband Adam were married in 1997. Together they have one daughter, Sarah, age 12. Julie has recently accepted a priesthood call to the office of Elder, which will be presented to the upcoming Mission video conference in March.

Julie brings to this position a growing personal awareness of God's call in her life and a willingness to respond more fully. I uphold her in this and would ask for prayers on her behalf as she embarks on this journey of learning and expanded service to the church in Australia.

Ken Barrows
Mission President



Reunion at Koonjewarre

Once again a group of members and friends gathered at Koonjewarre under the cover of cloud. Special guest ministry was provided by Mission President Ken Barrows and Open Door Pastor Susan Palmer. Other travellers in attendance were Peter and Lyn Davis from Sydney, the Gillard's and McLaughlin's from Hervey Bay and Nugent's and Patterson's from Toowoomba.

After a cold wet start, campers enjoyed a spectacular sunny day to finish camp. Hopefully in the next edition we will be able to publish reports from some of those who attended. Due to the proposed government sell off

This may be the last reunion held at the campgrounds. Peter Lawson has been in contact with many church members who have attended reunions in the past to seek their opinion on dates and locations that camp might be held in the future.

Koonjewarre is still booked for family camp at the end of May. We look forward to seeing as many there as possible.

Photos: most of the campers—excluding the unlucky few who had to return to work, and right 3 separate groups of bushwalkers all met on the path beside the Antarctic Beech trees on near Best of All lookout on the only sunny afternoon of camp!



Congregation Activities - Brisbane Branch - 21-23 Safari Street Chermside West
 Co-Pastors: Anne Sutton 3844 0747 or 0410 061 210 and Peter Lawson 3374 1669
 Congregation Support Minister - Seventy Robert Thompson: 5419 1066 or 0414 353 523
 Gazette Contributions: email CoC.bris.gazette@gmail.com or see below

Past Gazette Editions can be found at the Queensland State Library at www.slg.qld.gov.au
 All editions are lodged with the library and can be searched on their website.

Date	Theme	Activity
February 1st	Love God 1 Corinthians 8:1–13	9:30am Communion - David Judd <i>Please arrive early and quietly enter the sanctuary</i> 11:00am Leadership Meeting
February 8th	Come and be Healed Mark 1:29–39	9:30am Study - Living the Questions Social Justice: Realising God's Vision Children's Classes with Anna Anderson
February 15th	Listen to the Beloved Mark 9:2–9	9:30am Breakfast Church - Kari Sutton
February 22nd	God Is Near Mark 1:9–15	9:30am God Bytes / Children's Church
March 1st	Be a Covenant People Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16	9:30am Communion - Harry Fielding <i>Please arrive early and quietly enter the sanctuary</i> <i>Pot Luck Lunch</i> 2:00pm Mission Conference— via video link up
March 8th	Revive My Soul Psalms 19	9:30am Study - Living the Questions Incarnation: Divinely Human—TBA Children's Classes with Anna Anderson
March 15th	Confess my Impatience Numbers 21:4-9	9:30am Breakfast Church - Deanna & Ruth
March 22nd	We are Forgiven Jeremiah 31:31-34	9:30am God Bytes / Children's Church
March 29th	Walk the Via Dolorosa (Way of Grief) Mark 14:1-15:47	HOPE to catch a Fish—Early morning at Redcliffe 10:00am Picnic at the Church
April 5th	Resurrected! - Easter Sunday Mark 16:1-8	9:30am Communion - David Judd <i>Please arrive early and quietly enter the sanctuary</i>

Prayer Requests: Robert Thompson, Aimee (from Open Door), Ruth Clarke, Mission Conference Preparation, Bushfire victims across the southern states and WA, more typhoons have hit the same region of the Philippines, so many acts of terrorism across the globe (not just the ones with all the media attention in Sydney and France) and many more. Pray for peace!

Requests for prayers are always welcome and can be sent to this publication at CoC.bris.gazette@gmail.com or by phone to Deanna on 07 3133 4247, mailing address 39 Baudin Street, Boronia Heights Qld 4124