

# **April 2017**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me ....will never di - John 11:25-26.

Also in this issue: Praying for NSW Assemblies

**News from Commended Workers** 

**ECS MINISTRIES (NSW)** 

Australian Christian Heritage

**Living Thankfully** 

**Internet Corner (... and more)** 



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The NSWAEM publishes this bimonthly magazine to offer opportunities for NSW Commended Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly Activities and other kindred bodies, to share information about their ministries, to encourage others, and to encourage prayer.

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Written contributions to *Assemblies Outreach* magazine are welcome and actively sought from NSW Assemblies and any associated ministries and individuals.

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the June 2017 issue before:- 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

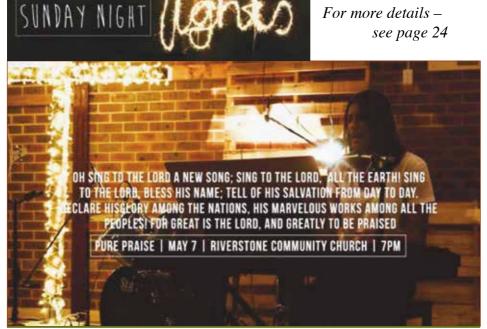
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by Colin Winrow, Editor.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this April magazine which you probably won't be reading until after Easter! Nevertheless, I would like to hope you all had a precious time remembering all that God the Father has done for us through the Son. And I hope you each can continue to share your faith with others you know who so desperately need to be saved from the wrath to come.

Many in our country are hoping and praying for Revival in Australia. Sadly, many Australians believe that our nation has been untouched by revival.

Dr Stuart Piggin (the author of the lecture on our Christian Heritage - see part 2 on page 17) would beg to differ. He has studied these matters thoroughly and has written about the revivals that have occurred in small towns like Wuddina (South Australia) in 1969, Tumbarumba in 1972, Balranald in 1975 and Broken Hill in 1982.

There was an Aboriginal revival that swept across the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia for more than a decade from 1979 onwards. For Dr Piggin, such events show that God is capable of bringing revival even to the smallest and most far flung communities when God's people seek His presence. He argues that "Revival is waking up to the reality about God. The reality is, to put it simply, that we are not at the centre of the universe, God is. Ultimately God is not here for our benefit, we are here for His."

God heals and restores to glorify Jesus and the Spirit brings revival in order to change communities and bring people into a relationship with Himself.

"Revival is concerned more with delivering a bumper harvest of the fruit of the Spirit than with any manifestations or gifts of the Spirit. Revival brings healing, saving, forgiving, refreshing, and multiplying those who flock to worship Him in our churches." he says.

Because God has brought revival in the recent past, Dr Piggin argues that Australians should expect God to bring revival in the future.

Let's all pray and work for the Lord with the same expectation!

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# 'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

compiled by Colin Winrow

If you attend a NSW assembly, or you work with any associated Christian Brethren ministry, please feel free to submit your local news or event dates to this 'Out and About' section so we can inform and encourage people in all our assemblies and churches. Short items (even if only one sentence) are welcome and can be mailed to the Mission office at PO Box 20, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715, or better still, e-mailed to:

#### outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

Also, please email your wording for **Notices** or **Coming Events** to be included on the NSW Christian Brethren website to:-

#### webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au

\* \* \*

Stewards Foundation have a Disaster Relief Fund in place and will provide funds to Churches and Schools affected by Cyclone Debbie in north Queensland and resulting storms further south and into northern NSW.

Funds contributed are distributed to the local churches and para-church ministries in the affected regions so they can connect to, and help, families in their communities.

If you would like to contribute to this Fund to help those in need, please direct gifts to the Stewards Foundation Disaster Relief Fund

BSB: 082 057 Acc No: 539 302 758

Please also email the Stewards Foundation office at:-

admin@stewardsfoundation.com.au

with your details so you can be issued with a receipt.

\* \* \*

Praise God for a great weekend at the BUILD 2017 Men's Conference at Toukley, 24 & 25 March. Daryl Bay taught from 2 Timothy 2:1-7 and encouraged the attendees to think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. A golfing theme came through as they considered what it means to be on mission for Jesus. Daryl told the story of a Scottish man who introduced golf to President Grant. He placed the golf ball on the tee, stood back and swung hard at the ball but missed. This occurred again for the next 4 or 5 attempts. President Grant addressed the Scottish man and said, "This looks like good exercise, but what is the point of the small white ball?" Daryl drew the picture of Christians as individuals expending a lot of energy swinging at life, looking very busy, and asked us to consider if we were making contact with the mission that Jesus has given us? Are we really hitting the white ball in how we live for Jesus? We were challenged about how we continue to develop as disciples, and how we can also help others develop as disciples.

At the end of the Conference each person received a golf ball and was asked to think about what their mission was. They were all asked to give the ball away to someone else, someone who they could help grow as a disciple or to someone who could help them grow in Christ.



We rejoice at the number of father -and-son combinations that attended the conference, with the fathers again winning the quad bike challenge.  We look forward to 2018 when Joe Thorn from the USA has been invited to come and speak at the Conference.  Meetings & Events  (Note: for the latest details please be sure to check on these web pages:—  www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html  www.cccaustnsw.com/events		13 May 21 May	Awake To Israel (ATI) meeting; Epping G.C; 2.30pm.  Missions Conference: West Pennant Hills, 43 Eaton Road. The theme is: "Hidden
			People in Hard Places." (see
		27 May	p.27)  'Pathfinders' at West Pennant Hills C.C; 7 pm start. Hear the Blaxland Gospel Singers.
		4 Jun	"Sunday Night Lights"; 7pm at Blacktown Faith
<b>2017:</b> 1 to 5 May	Autumn Festival Retreat for the 'over 50s' at the Lutanda Yarramundi centre. Speaker is Kevin	23-25 Jun	Christian Church.  ATI Bible Prophecy Teaching Weekend at Epping G.C., with Dr Andy Woods. (see advert on p.23)
	Rosolen. phone 1300 692 267.	16 Jul	"Sunday Night Lights"; 7pm at St Clair/Erskine
4 May	NSW Coordinating Conference; 7.30pm; venue	29 Jul	Park Christian Church. SIU CONFERENCE
5 May	TBA.  Ladies Winter Clothes Fashion Parade at Elouera Gardens Community Room, starts 10am with morning	27 jui	Theme: "Joyful Exiles – From Surviving to Thriving." Study based in 1 Peter.
	tea, \$5 donation. Clothes available to purchase.	19 Aug	"Loving the Least & the Lost"; WMC at West
6 May	Thrive 2017 – Women's Conference "Overcome", Kings Park C.C. Speakers are Sophia McCrindle (book of Ruth) & Louisa Hope (the Lindt Cafe siege).	25 Aug	Pennant Hills C.C. Time tba.  Ladies Summer Clothes Fashion Parade at Elouera Gardens Community Room, starts 10am with morning tea; \$5 donation. Clothes available to purchase.
7 May	"Sunday Night Lights"; 7pm at Riverstone Christian C.C.	26 Aug	'Pathfinders' at West Pennant Hills C.C. 7 pm start. A Variety Night.

# Praying for NSW Assemblies

#### mainly compiled by Bradley Scott

Please take some time-out to pray for our churches, assemblies and para-assembly ministries and the work of God in our nation.

#### **General Prayer Points:**

- ☆ Pray for our churches as Easter approaches, that people from our Communities will come to church and hear the wonderful news, that Jesus died, but was raised on the third day.
- ☆ Pray that the Spirit will be active in convicting people of their rebellion against God.
- ☆ Pray for our church elders that they will have wisdom as they lead our local churches.
- ☆ Pray for the Boards of our para church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. May we see the Boards of these organisations support and provide services that help connect churches to the community. May these boards support our local churches as they share Christ in their communities. CCCAust(NSW), Lutanda, Stewards, Emmaus, Hands and Feet, CBCS, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT.
- ☆ Pray that our churches will see people responding to the good news about Jesus.
- ☆ Pray for our churches in northern NSW which have been affected by flooding, winds and heavy rain.

#### **Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church**

☆ Pray for the church Eldership: Abram Bilbosian, Robert Grigorian, Jack Khatchoyan, Harry Kiujian.

#### **Praise Points:**

- ☆ We thank the Father for our family camp and all the blessings He has showered us with
- ☆ We praise the Lord for the unity and love that we have in Him.

#### **Prayer Points:**

- ☆ we pray for wisdom as we work with many Armenian Syrian refugees.
- ☆ we pray for the Lord to give us new visions in our ministry.

#### Avoca Beach Village Church

☆ Pray for the church Eldership: Bill Geddes, Colin Ostler, Bill Thomson.

### **Prayer Points:**

- ☆ Pray for the continued witness of this church within their community.
- ☆ Pray for the health of those who attend.
- ☆ Pray for wisdom for the Elders as they lead this church.



#### **Ballina Westside Community Church**

☆ Pray for the church Eldership: Allan Moss, John Young.

#### **Praise Points:**

- ☆ For the unity and joy we're experiencing as a Church.
- ☆ For the restoration of some believers who were struggling.
- ☆ For a couple of families who have reconnected with Church after being really discouraged in the past in other Churches. They are becoming a real blessing to us.
- ☆ For giving us believers who are gifted in pastoral care.

#### **Prayer Points:**

- ☆ For new believers to grow in the Lord.
- ☆ For more people to come to Christ.
- ☆ The recommencement of Kids Club in second term.
- ☆ For a couple of more mature Christian families to come to the Church to help with our different ministries.
- ☆ For two couples who are facing big decisions regarding future ministries.
- ☆ The involvement with some from our Church in primary school SRE, chaplaincy and brekky club.

#### **Bankstown Community Church**

☆ Pray for the church Eldership: George Fattal, Martin Kannedy, Boushra Malati.

#### **Prayer Points:**

- ☆ Pray for the upcoming Church camp as we have lots of new faces.
- ☆ Pray for our mission work in Romania and Sudan.

# Womens Mission Convention

"Loving the Least and the Lost"

Saturday, 19 August 2017

(TIme to be advised)

West Pennant Hills Community Church

Speakers: Shirley Oule, Janet Peterson, Rachel Reid, Lara, Ros & Dania.

Please submit any news items, letters, or short articles for the June 2017 magazine on, or before, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

# ECS MINISTRIES (NSW)



by Faith Connell

ECS MINISTRIES (NSW) exists to bring glory to God through the supply of free courses to inmates in the many Corrective Centres in NSW, Vic, Tas, SA and some in WA. We also sell courses to all in the general community who wish to enhance their study of the Word of God through the use of ECS courses. Courses are available for each book of the Bible and so many folk purchase them for use in their Bible Study Groups.



#### The World-wide Picture

\* In 1942 Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) had 3 courses and 137 students when it started in Toronto, Canada.

\* Today there are 1,400,000 courses distributed in 205 countries in 126 languages.



In **Australia** we have only two Registrars, Bryson Thomas in Toowoomba, Queensland, and Faith Connell in Sydney, New South Wales. We need an ECS Representative in each of the other States and Territories. In the meantime Bryson looks after Qld and NT, and in Sydney Faith looks after all the rest of Australia.

This year we distributed 21,505 Bible Gems calendars throughout Australia from Sydney. These calendars have a verse for each day and a beautiful photo for each month. The calendars also have 2 free offers of courses inserted in March and November. In the prisons we have now sent out over 200 copies of "Born to Win", our free offer to prisoners for March. It is a joy to read the comments of these students and here is an example:

'I love this Bible study and can't wait for the next one to come. It has answered many questions and given me strength, salvation and hope'.

As their courses are returned to the office they are marked and graded and a laminated certificate issued. The students are very proud of their certificates and treasure them greatly. One student commented that he was looking forward to showing his certificate to his parents as it was the first one he had ever received. He did not achieve academically at school. Many requests come to us to reprint certificates as inmates are frequently moved around without the opportunity to gather their belongings.

This is a very fruitful ministry and it's a joy to be involved and read their comments.

Regarding our financial situation, the sale of calendars did not cover the cost of supplying these calendars to the prisoners. Because of the substantial drain on resources now upon us we have decided that we should seek more support for the funding of the work into the prisons.

This ministry is completely free to >



inmates, i.e. the courses, postage to and from the prison and a calendar each year.

We have assessed that on average a prisoner does one course a month.

A course average cost is \$5 and with postage per month is \$10, hence a total per annum of \$120.

We are seeking for people to join with us in this rewarding work by assuring the funding of the work for at least one prisoner - \$10 per month – 'Sponsor a Prisoner'. This can be remitted monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Because of privacy regulations we can't give you a name of who you are supporting but we will undertake to keep you informed about the work at least quarterly.

Thank you for partnering with us in this way.

Our Bank Details are: Emmaus Correspondence School (NSW)

BSB: 032 087 Account: 123703

# 'Your Word is a Lamp to my feet and a light for my path' Ps 119:105

#### **Ecourses—the future of ECS?**

We Need To Be On The Web!

Another area that funds are required for is Ecourses. ECS USA now has many of its courses on line and has given the green light for us, together with Queensland, to use them in Australia. This would require a substantial upgrade to the website and an early estimate is around \$60,000. Please pray with us about this because it would open much wider doors for study of the Scriptures for today's community.

During the latter part of 2016 we were advised that we would be a separate entity to Emmaus Bible College (EBC) and so we now order our own courses from USA and Canada and we have had a major reshuffle of the office. EBC gave us some shelving and half of their stock of courses.

These have been challenging days as we seek to adapt to these changes and also the legal status of ECS and our website.

It has been decided that we will now be known as ECS MINISTRIES (NSW). We are in the process of making these changes and would value your prayers as we deal with the various Government institutions.

We will give further details of the web address and new email address when they are changed.

Some student comments:

"Emmaus is invaluable to me. I can't get enough courses and I know a lot of Christian inmates feel that same way.

"They make me feel like I'm really achieving something when I complete them, also the encouragement our instructors give us when marking our exams. If we get it wrong they refer us back to the place in the booklet or Bible.

"They let us know that we are not alone in this journey with God and that someone is out there and praying for us."

"I just wrote to say that while I am doing your exams and learning more about our Lord I have put all my worries and happy moments in God's hands. While this was happening a fellow inmate has noticed the change in me, so >10

I have told him why I have changed and that the Lord is with me everyday. Now my friend would like to give himself to Christ as well. His name is ...... Could you please send him a starter exam booklet as he would love to learn more about the Bible."

There is much to **praise** God for as the work has faced many challenges, mainly:-

- \* 26% increase in the number of courses started and 41% in the number completed.
- \* Emmaus Bible College is no longer holding bulk stock for us and is separating its operation from the work. We are thankful to them for providing half of their stock to us and giving us some shelving.
- \* Rising postage & freight costs which have increased by 70%.
- \* Substantial increased numbers in NSW prisons.
- \* Re-opening of some Victorian prisons to take the Emmaus Bible Gems calendar with its free offer of 2 courses.
- \* From a small trial increased calendars being taken into one WA prison.
- \* A substantial increase in the numbers required in SA for its prisons.
- \* We thank the Lord that the team has been able to deal with these changes and the Lord has enabled the funds through His people to get through the year without having to call upon our reserves.

There is much to continue to **pray** about and to give thanks for:-

o The many students who have come to know the Lord this past year.

- o The number of Bible study and prayer groups operating amongst our students in the prisons.
- o A number of students who have been enquiring to do advanced theological studies with a view to full time ministry when released one is now studying a Theological degree.
- o Access to many Victorian prisons with our courses.
- Wisdom for the markers as they mark the courses and interact with their students
- o Increased support for the work as we have had to increase our stock holding from about \$3,000 to \$10,000 to ensure a smooth operation.
- o All our students that they will continue to grow in the things of the Lord and that any who don't know Him as Lord and Master will come to know Him soon.
- o Pray for the Team, markers, office staff and our IT person.
- o The Elders at West Pennant Hills Community Church in their decision re the future of the legal changes required.

If you have any enquiries we would be happy to talk to you. Our office number is (02) 9873 3152 and Faith Connell's mobile is 0412 970 446, or you can email us at:-

#### emmausnsw@iprimus.com.au

Many thanks for your interest and prayer and practical support over the last 15 or so years of our involvement with this ministry.



# **News from some Commended Workers**



#### Doug & Jenny McNaught 29 March 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thanks for your prayers, fellowship, love and support over



the last three months. We have struggled with a few health issues during that time and I haven't taken the time to write to you. We have been kept quite busy visiting assemblies during that time. However, we did manage to have a few days break in the Illawarra.

Jenny has been busy supporting her ladies. They try to get together each week for fellowship, prayer and devotions but sometimes are unable to because there are a few health concerns.

Jenny has also been looking after grandchildren on a regular basis. In the last week she has been going back down to OLMC to supervise exams and, if it is the Lord's will, she plans to go there next week as well.

We have been to various places around Sydney as well as the Blue Mountains and the Central Coast so far this year. April looks to be busy as well, if the Lord tarries. We look forward to going to Elouera Gardens, Waitara and Avoca during that time.

The football season has started again with training two nights a week and matches every Saturday from April to August. I was able to pray with the first grade team during the trial matches. Please pray that, if it is the Lord's will, I will be invited to pray with all the

teams during the course of this year. Please also continue to pray for the work of Sports Chaplains Australia (SCA). They estimate that there are over 70,000 sporting teams in Australia, and many teams are asking for a voluntary chaplain to be part of their team structure as well. The training required for this work is not arduous. However, most families in Australia have some involvement with their local sporting team and this ministry has replaced Sunday School for many families. If you would like to pray and support the ministry in some way you could visit the SCA website for more information. If you feel that you would like to become a chaplain in your local sporting community please take the time to pray about it and seek the support of your local assembly in this vital work. You may be the only person that will have a Christian input into some young person's life, to the glory of God.

Thanks again for your support, prayers, fellowship and love during the last months. We look forward to the time when we are able to visit you again, if it is the Lord's will.

With much love.

#### Daphne & Ken Harding 19 February 2017 (by email)

To all our friends and readers of Assemblies Outreach magazine, we send you our greetings.

Please note that we have now moved into our new home at:

54 / 140 Hollinsworth Road,
Marsden Park NSW 2765. Our email ≥12

## News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 11)



address and our phone numbers remain the same.



Photo taken as we entered our new home for the first time, having just been given a welcome package!

May we also say how grateful we are to all who have supported us financially, supplementing our pension, thus enabling us to travel and minister to smaller and country assemblies. The Lord's people are wonderful in their care and love shown in this practical way.

Then we are so grateful for your prayers as we have grappled with health issues over recent years. In addition, many of you have prayed as we looked for a more suitable place to live. We set our goals and then trusted God to help us meet them. These were: 1) A smaller home with few steps for obvious reasons. 2) A much cheaper place as we had exhausted our resources. 3) A home within easy reach of Riverstone Assembly and the GLO Office. 4) somewhere close to our two daughters

to avoid them and us having to travel too far. 5) Somewhere with minimal gardening and maintenance and 6) hopefully somewhere giving us the opportunity to reach out to people who need the Lord.

Now God has answered all of these desires of our hearts. We are about 10 minutes from Riverstone, 15 minutes from our daughters, have little or no maintenance and are able to do things like visit family interstate. God is so good and now whatever time He gives us we just want to be available to Him for His service and to serve His people. Here is one specific answer to our prayers: The people who bought our home last year had leased a house and were willing for an extended settlement, which suited us to avoid a double shift. When we learned the date of the expiry of their lease as being on the 24th February 2017 we immediately visited the office of this place and asked "if we put a deposit down on a new home, when will it be ready?" The project manager looked up the file and said "on the 24th of February 2017." He wondered at our stunned silence. Another answer was the sale of our houseful of furniture but as the people who have bought our home had come from interstate they were glad to purchase most of our surplus.... Enough to still have the confidence that the God who invites us to the throne of grace still answers prayer while granting the grace and mercy we need for our daily support.

The year ahead is looking busy already with lots of meetings around Sydney, some NSW country / ACT and some



## News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 12)



interstate. Of special interest is the over 50s camp studies at Lennox Heads with the QLD Seniors group. 2017 marks the 10th year since our return to full-time service with the blessing of Riverstone Assembly and we can say that God has been so faithful throughout thirty years of serving the best Master in the world. But of course the other twenty years in secular work were just so much part of His purpose and we soon learned

that whatever we do, whether nursing, testing ears or pen pushing we must endeavour to do all for the Glory of God. We will continue to help in the preaching and pastoral care at Riverstone; Daphne too in KYB, and both of us assisting as able in the ministry of GLO.

Thank you for your loving care and for your prayers which we need more than ever.

# Aaron & Shelly Daniell 24 March 2017

Hi Friends,

A lot has been happening since the start of the year. We praise God for his ongoing faithfulness as we approach our 3rd year anniversary with Ambassadors for Christ International (AFCI) in June.

### Our gorgeous girl has turned 13!

We now have two teenagers in the house and another aspiring to be. This young lady's love for Jesus and caring nature is infectious. Her quick wit is entertaining and her determination is inspiring. We praise God for our kids and continue to pray for His wisdom as parents.

In February I travelled to Narrabri to equip the churches through teaching "Christian Life and Witness Classes" in readiness for the "Come Together Namoi" event.



Praise God for Bill Newman, the Billy Graham Association team and the churches of Narrabri as they shared the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Namoi region. ▶14

## News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 13)



Evangelism SHIFT

This year we continue Evangelism-SHIFT with six churches in three NSW groups at Crows Nest, Raymond Terrace and Wollongbar.

"As a church we are gospel focussed, but last year gave us such a practical and solid foundation that we can now build on. We are actually seeing our culture starting to shift. I'm looking forward to this year and how we can keep that momentum going". This comment was made recently by one of the key leaders at Northside Community Church involved in EvangelismSHIFT.

Through EvangelismSHIFT last year we equipped over 150 leaders from 6 different churches as witnesses for Jesus Christ. These leaders began establishing witnessing lifestyle priorities that they themselves are now passing onto their people. This year we are resourcing these same leaders to disciple and equip over 400 in their congregations as witnesses for Jesus Christ. Multiplication has begun! Whilst they do this, we continue to meet bi-monthly with over 50 Key leaders from these churches to

help them develop a practical disciple making ministry strategy based on the movement building principles Jesus demonstrated and passed onto His disciples.

God is building His movement and

making a profound impact through EvangelismSHIFT. He is changing the focus and culture of local churches. A leader from Wollongbar commented, "In a way it's nothing new but the way you guys pull these principles straight from the scriptures and make it applicable for me today is just great". A Minister who is joining in with one of our groups said, "Our whole network of churches needs this kind of teaching". Another leader admitted "My whole way of thinking about evangelism and reaching my friends has changed".

As profound as each of these comments is, such comments are frequent from every church we are working with.

God desires to see His church make



Leaders at Northside (Crows Nest)

## News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 14)

disciple makers. God's desire is for all believers to be built up in their faith, trained, equipped and sent out. God sends believers into every situation and circumstance, with every person, every day of our lives to be a witness for Him. Think about that for a minute: you have been sent by God ... today! Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 ESV

This is the heart of EvangelismSHIFT. Our vision is to see a movement of churches across Australia and beyond, whose people have a culture of witnessing for Jesus Christ in their everyday life.

Please pray for us as God continues to open doors here in Australia and across the globe. We look forward to bringing you another update soon. In the meantime would you prayerfully consider



supporting us as a family in the Lord's work? We invite you to step out in faith with us.

Yours in Christ!

Aaron, Shelly and family.

[ Editor's note:

If you would like to help support the Daniell family financially, you could contact Aaron via email at "aaron@ afci.com.au" or donate online at:-

www.afci.com.au/give/aaron





Photos of groups at Wollongbar (lower) and Raymond Terrace (upper)



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## **News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 15)**



#### John Angus 22 March 2017

I write to thank AEM for the gift received today. It was an encouragement to receive it at this time since my health has not been good. I am still recovering from major surgery and have found it necessary to reduce my workload.

The ministry of CMS Inc continues with our outreach by satellite in Arabic and English across Europe, the Middle East, North and South America. Jamil Choucair carries a major load - producing five Arabic programs each week, and John Hills produces two English programs.

One consequence of the Arabic program has been a very encouraging response from Arabic speaking migrants in the Guildford district. People see the program or hear about it and then come to a mid-week meeting at Guildford.

I still produce the Video Magazine (on DVDs) four times a year and send out copies to various Assemblies and to a few individuals. This involves the initial recording and editing, duplication, packing and posting. I share in the ministry at my local Assembly at Nowra. Prior to my three months in hospital, and subsequent rehabilitation, I was active as Chaplain in two nursing homes. I would value your prayer and that of the readers for greater health in order that I may be able to resume this ministry.

Yours in His service, John.

Please submit any items for the June 2017 magazine on, or before, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Geoff & Liz Folland 26 March 2017

O-Week Follow Up...

I've been really encouraged by our student leaders this year. I (Geoff) disciple four leaders - Nick, Matt, Ruell, and Rick. Each of them took responsibility for connecting with new students in the follow up of O-Week. And each of them has had new students get involved.

- \* At the University of Notre Dame, Nick has begun discipling Matty, from the Northern Beaches. Matty isn't able to attend a small group at his church, so was looking to get involved in one on campus.
- \* At the University of Sydney, Matt met Seth, an exchange student from Des Moines, Iowa. He has been coming to weekly meetings and joined a small group.
- \* Ruell met Logan, who has also gotten involved.
- \* **Rick** met Victor, and is inviting him to start Christianity Explained.

Liz has begun co-leading a Discipleship Group for emerging student leaders. One of the girls was keen to get understanding of mission across the whole Bible, so they've begun the "Mission Impossible" series from Cru Comm studies (TheCommunityAllStudies).

I (Geoff) have now come down with a sinus infection. This has seriously impacted my preparation for speaking at the Victorian Connect Camp next weekend. Please pray that I will get well quickly, prepare efficiently, and speak well next weekend.

In His Grace, Geoff.



# Australia's Christian Heritage (part 2 of 3)

Analysing popular stereotypes on the foundation of Christianity in Australia.

This Address was given by Dr Piggin at a Church Service in Sydney at 1pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015, to commemorate the First Christian Service held in Australia. (Used by permission.)

Dr Piggin is the Director of the *Centre* for the History of Christian Thought and Experience at Macquarie University, Sydney.

(Note from Editor: Part 1 of this address was published in our February 2017 issue, but some extracts are reprinted below to give context to Part 2.)

The setting and the question

We are at the site of:

- the First Christian service on Australian soil,
- the first sermon preached,
- the first church and
- the first schoolhouse.

The preacher at that service, .... was the Rev Richard Johnson, Australia's

- first minister,
- · first educator,
- first carer for orphans,
- first carer for aboriginal children.

With all those firsts, he was quite a pioneer – and John Newton, bestowed on him the title, 'Patriarch of the Southern Hemisphere', that is, if you will, founding father of the Christian movement in Australia.

The basic question asked by the organisers of this event is: 'Does our

by Dr Stuart Piggin, Honorary Associate Professor of History, Macquarie University



heritage matter?' What they really mean is 'does our **Christian heritage** matter?'

The event we are commemorating today focuses our consideration of some of these stereotypes which bear on the relationship between national health and religious faith. It is important to know if these stereotypes are true or not.

So, answer true or false to the following stereotypes:

- 1. We are a secular nation in which Christian faith has never been central. We were settled after the Enlightenment and it was never intended that Christianity should be foundational to the new colony.
- 2. The founders of our nation were so uncaring about the Christian faith that they did not even bother to hold a church service on the first Sunday of settlement.

### Australia's Christian Heritage (cont'd from p 17)

- 3. The preacher's sermon at that first service, like many sermons, was irrelevant to the future of the nation; the Rev Johnson was out of touch.
- 4. The settlement was the work of a callous government who, no longer able to off-load their social misfits in America, now packed them off to the remotest part of the globe and forgot about them, caring next to nothing for their material welfare and nothing at all about their spiritual welfare.
- 5. The State largely ignored the Church; we prospered anyway and the separation of Church and State is clearly very desirable and should be preserved at all costs.

(Having dealt with the first two stereotypes in our last issue, we now deal with two more ...)

Stereotype 3. The preacher's sermon at that first service, like many sermons, was irrelevant to the future of the nation; Johnson was out of touch.

Lieutenant Ralph Clark, writing home to his wife: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Sunday ... 'Had a very good sermon, and prayed for you and our dear boy.' <sup>1</sup>

What did Johnson say in this 'very good sermon'? His chosen text was Psalm 116, verse 12: 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?'

Benefits? You ask. What benefits? Surely the chaplain was out of touch choosing such an insensitive text. Here these people were –

• newly arrived in an unknown very strange land –

- with shrieking cockatoos and mocking laughing jackasses, and
- distorted trees called gum trees which lacked the beautiful symmetry of European trees,
- the Indigenous Australians welcomed them with cries of warra warra "go away".
- And there was no known source of food apart from what they had brought with them –
- and there were not enough women 586 male convicts, and 192 women convicts and wives which was bad news for the men and terrible news for the women.

Benefits?? No – the convicts would surely not have been conscious of any benefits.

Perhaps then, you might suggest, Johnson did in his sermon what typical Sydney Anglican ministers do today, namely he preached an expository sermon, exegeting every verse of Psalm 116. That would make more sense – for there are verses in that Psalm which did more obviously apply to the lot of the convicts – for example, verse 3 'The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.'

But no, in those days, ministers preached textual sermons – and Johnson almost certainly dwelt on one verse only, verse 12 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?' By benefits, he meant **benefits**. What benefits could he possibly have had in mind? This brings us to the 4th stereotype.

Stereotype 4. The settlement was the work of a callous government who, no longer able to off-load their social misfits in America, now packed them off to the remotest part of the globe and forgot about them, caring next to nothing for their material welfare and nothing at all about their spiritual welfare.

So we tell ourselves, 'The Poms, you know, they have never loved us - all they wanted to do was to get rid of us and forget about us.' Some historians have fostered this stereotype. One has complained of:

"The inefficiency, carelessness and idleness of the masters and servants of the ministries which all had a finger in the pie called the First Fleet... [he went on to say its] arrival in New South Wales rested more with an illchosen, ill-organised, contentious and unwilling body of what passed for public servants in a dozen ministries and institutions, and a venal and corrupt body of private contractors." <sup>2</sup>

That view should be no part of our heritage. For quite the opposite is true. The First Fleet was one of the great maritime achievements of modern history and the first settlement was an extremely visionary reform experiment. Johnson was aware of both, and he would have included both among all the benefits for which he thanked God in that first service.

The First Fleet - a great Maritime achievement

The Fleet left Plymouth on 13th May 1787.3 After a 252 day, 16,000 mile voyage, made at the speed of a man walking, Phillip arrived in Botany Bay on 18 January 1788, and all 11 ships arrived within 2 days of each other. There was hardly any loss of life. In fact the convicts arrived in Sydney in better health (or at least they were heavier) than when they left England.

How do we explain such astonishing success? It was a success with a surprisingly long pedigree in Christian history and Johnson would have been well aware of that, too. The reason for the astonishingly generous provisioning of convicts on the First Fleet may be traced directly back through the abolition of the slave trade movement to the Evangelical Revival under John Wesley and George Whitefield. And it may be traced to a woman. One converted under Whitefield's impassioned preaching during the revival was Margaret Gambier who came from a family of Huguenot émigrés, devout French Protestants.

She transfused her faith into a midshipman, Charles Middleton (1726-1813), whom she married. He became Comptroller of the Navy Board. On Prime Minister William Pitt's instructions, Middleton built up the Royal Navy so that it became stronger than it had ever been before. Pitt considered him 'the best man of business' he knew. There was no doubting Middleton's contribution to the professionalization of the public service, using religion as his instrument. 'Without religion there can >≥20

### Australia's Christian Heritage (cont'd from p 19)

be no public principle', was his stated belief. As Comptroller, Middleton was responsible for finding the eleven ships of the First Fleet, only one of which was more than six years old, and he supervised their fitting out and their equipping with stores and provisions. He was passionate about doing this properly to maximise its chances of success.

Middleton's spiritual guide, apart from his wife, was his minister, the Rev James Ramsay. It was he who started the movement for the abolition of the slave trade. Ramsay was known as 'the pioneer abolitionist'. And it was Ramsay (who had been a surgeon) who was responsible for selecting the team of surgeons for the voyage and for establishing medical facilities in the new colony to ensure that the population of the new settlement remained alive and healthy.

The contractor for the First Fleet was William Richards Jr, a friend of Middleton and a devout Presbyterian. Far from being 'venal' and 'corrupt', he honoured his contract with the government both in spirit and in the letter. He ensured that convicts and marines on the First Fleet were so well provisioned. He was subsequently engaged to transport 100 convict women on the Lady Juliana, and they arrived 'healthier and happier than they had ever been in their lives'.

For the second and third fleets, by contrast, the contractor was Camden, Calvert and King, a firm engaged in the slave trade. They were both disasters: 267 of the 1006 convicts on the second

fleet perished. So William Richards was re-engaged as the contractor for the three ships which arrived in 1792 after the third fleet, when only one life was lost.

The First Fleet, then, was a quite magnificent Maritime and humanitarian achievement, and deserves to be understood as part of our Christian heritage.

#### **Endnotes:**

- 1. G.A. Wood, 'The Reverend Richard Johnson. Australia's First Clergyman', *RAHSJ*, 12.5, 1926, p.248n.
- 2. Charles Wilson, Australia: the Creation of a Nation, 1987
- 3. It reached Santa Cruz, Teneriffe, Canary Islands, West of Morocco, on 3 June and stayed there until 10 June, replenishing stores. About a week later, the Fleet passed the Cape Verde Islands, and Phillip decided not to call in as it was all going so well with the prevailing winds behind them. From early August to 3 September they were in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, stocking up oranges, lemons, pineapples, bananas, guavas (all of which = vitamin C). The Fleet was in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13 October to 11 November. They took on animals in pairs, each ship becoming another Noah's Ark. Then they left the known world, sailing for Botany Bay. On 26 January 1788 Phillip came across a cove which, he said, had a good spring of water (the tank stream) and which was so deep that ships could anchor 'so close to the shore that at a very small expense quays may be made at which the largest ships may unload'. He added: 'This cove which I honoured with the name of Sydney is about a quarter of a mile across and half a mile in length'.

[Note: In the last part of this Address – to be published (DV) in June – Dr Piggin analyses the fifth stereotype, and draws some conclusions.]

# CBCS Annual Thanksgiving Service - 2017

photos by George Hawke

In recent years CBCS has chosen to have its Annual Thanksgiving Service at a different facility each year, rather than always at Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village in Cherrybrook. Last year it was held at Glenhaven Gardens Retirement Village and this year it was held in Groves House, Cardiff Heights, which is next to the Lynden Grove Retirement Village.

The Service was held at 2pm on Saturday, 11 March 2017, on a lovely mild day. The main Common Room was full with residents, family members, Board members, staff, and a coach-full of residents from Elouera Gardens.



General Manager, Martin Watkins welcomed everyone including the musicians and speaker Chris Thomas from Raymond Terrace Community Church, which has a 'pastoral connection' with Groves House and an elder, Matt Blanch, is a Director of CBCS. Martin then asked Eric Reid to open in prayer.

The musicians led the singing of several lovely praise and worship hymns, before Ms Danae Jenkins spoke about the ministry of Groves House, where she has been the Facility Manager since before it opened in 2010.



The Chairman of the CBCS Board, Mr Derek Sinclair gave some personal reflections on the ministry of aged care both now and in the future.



## CBCS Thanksgiving Service 2017 (cont'd from p 21)



The musicians from Raymond Terrace then brought another worship song and the pastor Chris Thomas gave a short but appropriate message on "God's Care & Love".





Approximately half of those who attended ......

We all sang the lovely hymn of worship 'How Great Thou Art' with passion and meaning, and then Martin closed the service with a Benediction. He thanked everyone for coming to praise God for what He has done, and then a lovely afternoon tea was served for everyone.

A great day of thanks to the Great God Almighty.



... and the other half.





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  - Middle East meltdown and the timing of Ezekiel ch's 38 -39
  - The role of Babylon in Bible prophecy
    - Overview of the Book of Ezekiel
  - Are the Biblical signs occuring today?



# **Background:**

"Sunday Night Lights" is a monthly combined churches Sunday Night service 'run by Young Adults for Young Adults' that incorporates:

# rich contemporary Worship,

# relevant Bible Teaching,

# real social Networking.

# **Event Details for next month:**

Time: 7 pm Sunday, 7th May, 2017

**Venue: Riverstone Community Church** 

15 Hamilton St. Riverstone NSW 2765

**Event:** Pure Praise

A night of praise, worship, and sharing, culminating in celebrating the Lord's

Supper together.

**Target Group: Year 11 to late 30s** 

# Lutanda

# Changing the lives of disadvantaged kids and adults

# **Outreach Camps update**

Join us in praising God for His work through Lutanda as we bring the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ to underprivileged kids in NSW.

We have the following camps coming up at Lutanda:-

April Primary Camp @ Camp Toukley - our primary aged camp for children 8 to 13 years of age in the first week of the school holidays;

Camp David @ Yarramundi - for adults with an intellectual disability - starts on 8th May;

July FORGED Camp - our teenager camp held at Camp Toukley in the second week of the school holidays; and

July @ Yarramundi - an exciting camp for children in years 3 to 10 at school. Camp starts on the 3rd of July.

Please pray for our campers, that their hearts may be open to receive the gospel. Pray for our leaders, for their strength and unity throughout the week whilst serving. Please also pray for nice weather and God's hand over the children and leaders so they may be fit and well!

We are always looking for more volunteers, either as leaders in the camp or to support us in the "behind the scenes" work (kitchen, activities, etc). To get more information about volunteering, visit:-

http://volunteer.lutanda.org.au

**April 2017** 

I've borrowed this phrase from a well known author, Gordon McDonald. He says that we were taught to say Please and Thank-you by our parents long before we ever knew the value of those words.

Recently my wife and I visited a friend that we had largely lost touch with. He has post-polio syndrome and is now unable to walk anymore, and is susceptible to chest infections and pneumonia, amongst other things. We had a great couple of hours reminiscing. I was also able to take him back to the time when Jesus became very real to him. His depression was suddenly released and he began to show his old form. Despite his disability he had achieved much in his life.

I could go on counting these achievements, but that is not the purpose of this story. You see he sent a text, not once but twice, thanking me for taking the time to go and see him, recounting that his days had since taken on much more meaning.

You see, saying 'Thank you' is an exchange. Not only was he blessed but so was I. It was an exchange that lifted the hearts and spirits of both of us.

It reminds me of the one leper who returned to say Thank-you to Jesus after being healed.

Don't undervalue the expression of **Thank-you**, it may do much more than you think!

National Thanksgiving Day 27 May 2017

http://www.austhanks.org.au

#### How Thankful Are You?

A very good friend of mine said he was talking to a psychologist recently who said that grateful people's brains function differently. He said anyone who can think of three things to be thankful for begins to rewire their brain and therefore affects attitudes to life.

Apparently, he said, if we stretch ourselves to think of five things to be thankful for, then we will be changed even more.

No wonder the Bible says,

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for it is the will of the Father for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess 5:18 NIV)

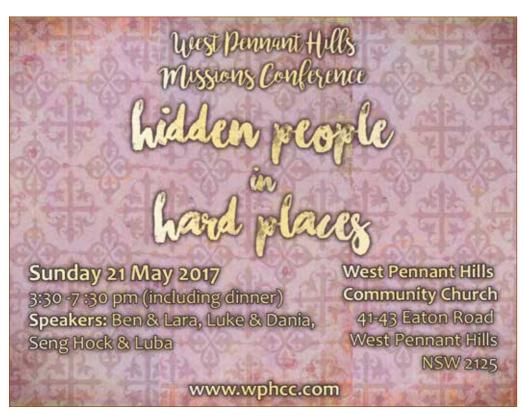
What a great idea!!

Can you right now think of three things that you are grateful for, or even five things? It will change your life.

Why not start Now?

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

- Philippians 4:6



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Please submit any items for the June 2017 magazine on, or before, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

# Is Religion Dying Across the World?

from 'Daily Nudge' by Karl Faase

If you listen to many secular humanists and the new atheists, you get the impression that religion is dying across the globe. The media is fond of giving high profile atheists plenty of airtime and it leads to a completely false view of the world.

Research quoted by Rodney Stark in his book *The Triumph of Faith* actually demonstrates that the world is more religious than it has ever been. Around the globe, 4 out of every 5 people claim to belong to an organised faith. There are more churchgoing Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else in the world, and China may soon become the home of the most Christians.

The sad reality for atheists is that they make up a tiny percentage of the population, as few as 5 percent.

Faith and belief are not dying; they have never been stronger.

# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

- Under this banner two groups meet each month, except January.
- The weekly Global Prayer Matters issued by AMT form the basis
- for focussed prayer. These points are amplified by information from personal letters received from missionaries.
- Whenever a missionary on furlough is available, as many as possible
- from both groups meet at Eastwood Chapel, and after the prayer time
- continue fellowship at Page's Cafe (in Koorong Bookshop, West Ryde)
  - over lunch. More information may be obtained from:-

#### Lillian Fleming 9858 5436 or Jackie Sardar 9785 3439

## Meetings to be held in 2017

The time slot is 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, with a cuppa available from 10am. Tea and coffee are provided.

Cherrybrook Christian
Care Centre
(on Fridays)

Catley Gospel
Chapel
(also on Fridays)

12 May 9 June 14 July 11 August 9 September 14 October 11 November 9 December

# **Internet Corner**

#### compiled by C.H.Winrow



Here are some more items on the Internet and World Wide Web which readers may find interesting or helpful, and worth a visit via their own computer, smart-phone or other device.

Please Note: to make it easier to visit these websites they have been included as 'hot-links' in the PDF version of this magazine. They are also included as 'hot-links' on the NSW Christian Brethren website at this web-page:-

www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html

\* \* \*

The Registrar of ECS Ministries (NSW), Faith Connell, has advised that this ministry has changed its email address to:-

emmausnsw@iprimus.com.au effective from 1st April, 2017.

### 8 Tips for an Effective Church Blog

Blogging is an amazing digital tool! Developing a church blog with excellence will enable you to better communicate and inspire your church family. The people that haven't made it as far as your church yet, as well as the wider communities in which your church lives, can also be impacted by your church blog. In short, blogging can become a huge method of influence for your church if harnessed properly.

The author of these tips has just celebrated ten years of blogging and hopes that these eight tips of blogging advice are tried and tested and, ultimately, helpful for you doing the same!

http://christianmediamagazine.com/8-tips-effective-church-blog/

#### Freedom of Speech In Social Media

The relatively new frontier of social media offers both great opportunity and potential damage. This is displayed every day from the sharing of positive stories of human endeavour to appalling examples of hate & racism. Many have commented on this, as did Sydney Morning Herald writer Aubrey Perry.

Perry wrote:

"Freedom of speech is a freedom of choice and self-governance. The Internet offers a new frontier where we have the freedom to watch, record, post, share, write and say almost anything. But we also have the freedom, and the responsibility to the preservation of a civilised planet, to know when not to."

Before you next post or tweet, ask yourself: Is this helpful? Does this add to our community? Is this about building up or tearing down?

Let us each be thoughtful and godly in how we use our freedom!

The Bible Society in Australia is celebrating 200 years of ministry this year and there was a National Celebration of this on 5<sup>th</sup> March at the Hills Campus in Sydney. Visit:-

www.biblesociety.org.au to see videos of that event and more. ≥30

Read more about the Bible Society's work over those 200 years and why this best selling book, the Bible, transforms society for good. Also discover what you can do to be part of the story in the future.

There are several videos to explain various aspects of the work, plus other resources to help churches, youth groups, etc, in our ministry.

The Bible Society has made a lot of resources available on its website and you can sign-up there to access a wealth of material, some of which can be emailed to you on a regular basis.

One example is their collection of "200 stories". The Bible Society asked people to submit their personal story of how the Bible, and a particular verse, has had major impact on their life.

The aim is to have 200 Stories before the year is over. The present selection of Bible verses and stories numbers about 50 and each is in the form of a short video of the verse being read, and a corresponding 2 or 3 minute video of the person telling their story. These can be viewed via the web-page:-

#### www.bible.com.au/story

I think you will find these Bible verses and stories will be personally helpful and, I'm guessing, you may be able to use some to help other people.

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the June 2017 magazine on, or before, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Don Stanton & the Maranatha Revival Crusade (MRC) organisation have a web site at:-

http://www.maranathaMRC.com email MRC in WA at:

mrcwa@ maranathaMRC.com

Last minute news:

**Stewart Moar** (who was the Secretary of the Ministry Support NSW Committee) died on April 4<sup>th</sup>, aged 66. Stewart lost his fight with cancer and has gone to be with our Lord.

Dave Thompson writes:

"On Tuesday (April 11th) we will remember and give thanks for the life of my father-in-law, Stewart Paul Moar. I loved him and I miss him and the world seems a little less certain without his humble confidence, his gentle spirit and his wise counsel. But I pray that at his memorial service, as in his life, we who have been influenced by him will be drawn to consider the unique hope there is to be had in Jesus so that God might be praised."

Our condolences go to his widow Sue and all his family and friends.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

Anyone wishing to share a memory or express their condolence can do so at this web-page:—

http://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/ smh-au/obituary.aspx?n=stewart-paulmoar&pid=

185012171#sthash.vMrm0U4j.dpuf



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#### **AIMS**

- To support the expansion of evangelism and church growth, primarily among Christian Brethren Assemblies.
- To offer opportunities in this Assemblies Outreach Magazine for Commended Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly Activities and other kindred bodies, to publicise and explain their ministries.
- To generate funds, through the Christian Outreach Book Service and other means, toward the support of NSW Commended Workers.
- To provide appropriate teaching for Christians.

Further information about the Mission can be obtained from its website at:— www.nswaem.org.au





# **Christian Brethren Community Services**

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#### Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook NSW

Elouera Gardens comprises 75 independent living units with 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units, surrounded by pleasant gardens. It offers a wide variety of styles and sizes of units and a supportive Christian community.

#### Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW

Set in well established gardens, and with an enviable reputation for delivering a high standard of care, the 120 bed Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre provides high and low level care and special support for people living with dementia.

#### Glenhaven Gardens Retirement Village, Glenhaven, NSW

Glenhaven Gardens offers modern and spacious 2 and 3 bedroom villas. The village comprises 24 air-conditioned and private units, with either a garage or carport. All units are wheelchair accessible for those who need a little extra room to help with their mobility.

#### Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW

Carinya House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care support in a setting where residents enjoy the tranquil bushland setting and partake in a very full and stimulating recreational program. It includes a secure dementia support area and also offers ageing-in-place.

#### Lynden Grove Retirement Village, Cardiff Heights, NSW

Lynden Grove has 44 modern 2 and 3 bedroom villas. It has a semi-rural outlook with picturesque Mount Sugarloaf as a back drop. It is in a pleasant and quiet bushland setting, yet close to local shopping centres.

#### **Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW**

Set on a ridge with panoramic views to the mountains, Groves House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care, dementia care and ageing-in-place to the people of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the surrounding districts.

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