

GOOD EVENING

1. ASYLUM SEEKERS

We have four, male, new tenants in the Southdown manse.

Discussions are underway with Hotham Mission to determine in what ways we can support them.

We're hoping to teach them to use the lawn mower – teach them? maybe they've never seen or used such a beast before. A helpful person in the Congregation has given us the necessary safety gear – eye & ear protection – so we won't have to buy that. This will also mean that we don't have to set up a roster of guys to cut this BIG expanse of Manse lawn. Thanks to those who did just this for the previous female tenants.

2. BAGUIA

Photo Tulla

Meagan, Ame, Laura and Bec arrived safely at Baguia, East Timor last Friday week 25th June.

Laura's spot tracker, *photo spot tracker* a GPS device, had provided progressive locations of their journey across East Timor, but had failed to show the completed journey which provided some concern at the time.

Surprisingly to the families back here, the Lowe's received an SMS on the Saturday advising the safe arrival – surprising as the mobile phone network had only just been installed for Baguia during the last week.

When Meagan, Jane & Judy visited Baguia last year the area was very dry and crops had failed again (for the third consecutive year).

Meagan reports that this year the area is so wet that it is limiting their outdoor activities.

They are spending much of their time in the local schools teaching English and also talking with local people about needs in the community.

The photo of the girls at Tulla is well out of date now. They are on their way home.

Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon, a SMS from Meagan said "Just arrived in Baucau (*Bough-Cow*)– really really long trip, waded a river, walked where the road was broken and lots more - all good though! Catching the bus to Dili in the morning. Love Meagan".

photo map That was good news as the spot tracker didn't keep sending locations again – perhaps there is a limit in the Satellite coverage.

Today's GOOD News; The Girls have arrived in Dili and by now should be on their flight to Darwin. Goon as there have been no spot tracker SPOTS today. AND

Meagan said in her message that she'd lost her Australian SIM card when she had to unload all her belongings from her pack during one of the river crossings.

Those of you who would like to welcome Meagan Amé and Bec back to Melbourne will need to be at Tulla at 5am tomorrow morning.

Laura? Is stopping off at Darwin, to meet Kaye to fly off to Vietnam!

Here's a couple of *photos* photos of desks that Meagan received before leaving home for Baguia.

They show the making of some school desks for the Bubuha primary school by local craftsmen using local materials ... WOW local craftsmen using local materials! How good is that.

The costs of these desks were sponsored by the GWUC Youth Group. The girls hoped to visit the school and to meet some of the students using the new desks.

They also hoped to visit the village of Gulari to take some measurements in preparation for building of water tanks sponsored by our Tanks for Timor project. ..
Thank for your support for both these projects.....

3. KNITTING FOR AFRICA

SLIDE

Alex Skilton (with Wal's help) is producing a "Knitting Patterns for Outreach Projects" booklet.

It will reside with Wendy in the Office, in electronic form, for anybody who is interested.

We'll advise you when this is available.

Thanks to Alex & Wal.

4. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

SLIDE

A number of people at GWUC have been supporting this organisation for some years now.

"Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit Christian based ministry seeking to make simple, safe, decent and affordable housing available to families in need"

The BRUSH WITH KINDNESS BUSHFIRE RESPONSE program, which Habitat have created, uses teams to help in affected 2009 Black Saturday fire areas by building fencing, painting and clearing sites.

It's this clearing of sites that people from GWUC have been recently helping with.

At a site in Hazeldene, the dangerous trees had been felled by the bushfire authorities and the owner has to clean up the result.

Photo We changed this impossible job *photo* for the property owners, into reality.

Photo On 29 May, a total of 35 people attended on this day, 10 from GWUC.

Photo, On 19th June, two properties in Marysville were cleared; an overgrown garden

Photo tidied up into a manageable condition

Photo another property just below the previous, OVERGROWN garden.

Photo some of the removed material.

Photo . 30 people attended this day, 16 from GWUC ages ranging from 15 to close to 70!

That's another great thing about Habitat; age is NOT relevant, it's just desire to do something for others in need.

It's certainly about "people power", "every bit counts", "many hands make light work" and "where ever two or three gathered in my name there I am in the midst of them".

We have DVD's of both days; if you would like to view them to see more about what we did, see me.

NEXT event on Saturday 24th July; read the Bulletin and or register your interest/attendance with Alanee

5. PERMACULTURE

Slide

We welcomed Di Greenwood to our Group meeting last week and she spoke of her passion for Permaculture and how it connects with her faith journey. My simple summary of what Di said is:

Care for people,

Care for the earth,
Ethics, Fair Trade, and Sustainable living

We don't have a plan to dig up the church lawn, plant vegetables and have big compost heaps **Well not yet anyway...** but Watch this space.

6. OUTREACH SUNDAY

Slide

Sunday 25th July, that's just 3 Sunday's off, is OUTREACH SUNDAY.

All five Services are being organised by Outreach Missional Group, aiming to share the variety of outreach ministries that are active within GWUC.

Each Service will include three people who will each share a few minutes about an outreach ministry. A further person will share a view of Outreach as given in the bible.

We will be having a "hands on offering" and we are encouraging people to bring "love in a shoe box", an initiative of Operation Christmas child, Samaritans purse.

Details of what to do & what to bring will be in the foyer & The Bulletin for the next two Sundays!

There will also be an "Expo" – displays of many Projects to view between the Services.

Dare I say it, you may want to go to more than one service that day! WOW

THANK YOU

Lyn McDonald, 04/07/10

THE COMMUNITY HUB CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 5th JULY 2010

The Hub has now been operating for 12 months, and on Tuesday next week, 13th July, we will be celebrating our 1st birthday. If you happen to call in at The Hub that day, you may be lucky enough to get some birthday cake.

In May, The Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, which was organized by The Hub in conjunction with The Body Shop, was a great success. You would have read about this in the bulletin. Over 100 people attended and \$950.55 was donated to The Cancer Council.

This really was The Hub, and our church, making a connection with the community, which is what The Hub is all about.

Many of our Hub volunteers and people from our church have said how much they appreciate The Hub and how much they benefit from The Hub. Many have enjoyed meeting people who attend a different worship service to them, and others have said how some days they just need some company and it has been really great for them to know that The Hub is there, and that they can drop in for a while.

One day a man came in and sat in the church for a few minutes, then came out to The Hub and stopped and spoke to us. He told us that his friend's daughter who lived overseas had given birth to a baby who only lived for 24 hours. His friends were on their way to visit their daughter and her family, but before they left, they asked him if he would pray for their family. He said he would, and that's what he had been doing in the church. He said to us "what better place to go and pray, but in a church." He thanked us, said goodbye, and went on his way.

You may remember at the last congregational meeting I spoke about a needy man who had been coming in regularly to The Hub – the man who loves our biscuits more than our company! He continues to come in, now on a Tuesday and a Thursday, and on a Friday he comes to Cooe and Cynthia helps him to play scrabble. I did hear that some of the words he wanted to use were questionable!

One day when this man was sitting with us at The Hub a teenage boy came in and asked to have a look at our church. He was having a close look at everything, stopping in front of the windows for a while, touching some things carefully, and so he was in the church for quite a while. There were 5 of us sitting at The Hub at this time, and Barbara said she wondered if he was O.K. or if he might want to talk to someone?

The man who loves our biscuits looked around at the teenager in the church and then looked back at us and said "He's casing the joint! Where's security?

I'll head him off, but you'll have to nab him!"

Then he got up and went and stood by the glass doors at the entrance to the church. Thankfully he didn't go in and all was well.

This story says something, doesn't it? This man who didn't use to say more than a couple of words to us, now talks a lot more, still eats lots of our biscuits, but he obviously feels more at home here, and he feels like he belongs. He was ready to protect our church.

I continue to be encouraged by these people and others who we meet at The Hub.

God is continuing to work through us, as we make that connection with the people in our community, as we engage in this mission that God has called us to do.

The COP Selection Panel has provided the following:

Assessment Table

Project	Requested	Type	Allocated	Comment
Baguia	\$3000-5000	International	\$3000	Three teachers requested, support for only two teachers due to budget limitations.
Emms	\$1000	International	\$500	Not clear just what the timing and plan for this project was, hence it received only limited support, conditional upon detailed plans being supplied at a later date.
Ermara	\$5000-6000	International	\$5500	A large number of people would be helped by this project. Not fully funded due to budget limitations
Frontier	\$3870	National	\$3870	A very specific ministry, with achievable goals and outcomes. Fully funded.
Hot ham	\$5000-6000	Local	\$3000	The project identifies a huge (almost unlimited) need, hence target only limited support, particularly for the betterment of child-related outcomes.
Kenya	\$10000	International	\$3130	Several sub-projects requested funding: the sustainable food project was the only one of these fully funded
Kids Hop e	\$800-1000	Local	\$1000	A local low-cost project, with significant outcomes. Full funding offered due to the modest amount requested and the significant encouragement it offers to the volunteers involved.
TOTAL	\$25670-27870		\$20000	

In the event that more or less than \$20,000 is raised by the Fete, the COP Selection Panel recommends that the shortfall or surplus be allocated pro rata to the difference between the requested amount and the allocated amount, with the provisos that;

- The Frontier Services amount be held at \$3,870 and
- The Kenya project requested amount be held at \$6,000 in line with the other projects.

This is to make sure that surplus funds are not allocated disproportionately to the Kenya project, due to the much higher ceiling they requested.

In arriving at these recommendations, the COP Selection Panel recognised that not all projects could be fully funded, and hence not all projects received the full amount requested.

All projects were checked that they met the COP guidelines, and it was felt by the Panel that all were deserving of some support. Hence every project has been at least partly funded.

All applicants were asked to give “ a brief summary of the way the money requested would be used by the recipient organisation/group/individual”.

A summary of the replies are as follows:

FRIENDS OF BAGUIA

.... This school is currently entirely staffed by voluntary teachers and receives no government funding. A teacher's salary is approximately USD \$100 per month and we would like to fund salaries for the 3 teachers for one year at a total cost of USD \$3,600.

The people of Baguia see education as a key way to provide their children with a way of achieving a better life and forging their new nation. In this nation where 46% of adults have had no schooling at all, lack of education and jobs are two of the biggest problems facing the country.

CHERYL EMMS, "SERVING IN MISSION"

Cheryl is planning to serve as a missionary in China as a Physiotherapist from early 2011 for 6-12 months in partnership with **Serving in Mission**.

Airfares to Sydney for training prior to departure in early 2011.

Accommodation and living expenses in China for the 6-12month period.

Medical checks prior to departure, VISA's, flights to China and other travel expenses.

FRIENDS OF ERMERA

.... Berwick Rotary Club .. have agreed to fund the \$14,000 (US\$13150) required to rehabilitate the building that has been provided by the district for a women's centre. leaving \$11,000 (US\$9,929) required to fund the furnishing and equipping of the cafe, meeting and training room, the kitchen and lounge room and the accommodation.

Friends of Ermera are asking GWUC to consider donating \$5000 to \$6000.... . They ... will then have a more manageable amount of \$5000 to \$6000 still to raise.

Once this building is available it will be used for a range of additional programs. There are many training programs available to the women, including literacy, reading to children, writing down their stories, a community library managed by the women, financial management and book keeping....

FRONTIER SERVICES (An Agency and Charity of the Uniting Church's National Assembly

TERRACE GARDENS Palmerston N,T, caters for 58 frail elderly and younger disabled people. About half the residents are indigenous Australians. Of the 58, 24 live in two specially designed houses for people living with dementia. In 2010 several commode chairs at \$324 each and a mobile shower chair at \$998 are urgently required.

OLD TIMERS in Alice Springs is the aged care facility started by the Rev John Flynn in 1949. It caters for self care, hostel and nursing home residents. A Tilt Chair, valued at \$1,900 is needed to help those with profound mobility issues.

PROPOSAL	3 x commode chairs	\$972
	Mobile shower c hair	\$998
	Tilt chair	\$1,900

TOTAL

\$3,870

HOTHAM MISSION, ASSYLUM SEEKERS PROJECT

In consulting with Hotham ASP about their current most pressing needs, they identified the most vulnerable of their clients as “humanitarian appellant” children. These are children of families who are lawfully appealing to the Minister for Immigration for leave to remain in Australia on humanitarian grounds, subsequent to a rejected refugee claim. They are no longer eligible for government assistance through the Red Cross after having their first application to the Minister refused. Those whose parents have not been able to get work may be completely without income and vulnerable to destitution.

Hotham Mission ASP has just published a major research report on *The Convention on the Rights of the Child as it applies to Humanitarian Appellant Children* and is leading negotiations with the Government to reform existing programs so that children will not be vulnerable to destitution. The Commonwealth Government is interested to ensure children do not suffer destitution, but they have not yet extended the assistance scheme (Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme – ASAS – administered by the Red Cross) to provide for these families. Meanwhile, Hotham Mission ASP urgently needs funds to support these families to ensure that these children have their basic social, health and educational needs met. It is unlikely, in an election year, that the necessary legislation will be brought before parliament.

The requested funds would be directly used for these humanitarian appellant children.

.....

KENYA OUTREACH GROUP

A group of young people similar to the group that travelled to Kenya last year wish to support the work of Mission in Action and to be able to disperse funds where need is identified. We wish to organize a truck to take food hampers out to a rural community and Mrs. Pastor (the evangelist from Mission in Action) in her work in identifying families in need.

\$5000 - dispersing on a needs basis (medical treatments, food supplies, clothing, bedding, etc).

\$2500 – truck delivery and food for a rural community.

\$2500 – implementation of sustainable food practices to promote community growth and local supply of fresh food (Permaculture).

KIDS HOPE AUS

An annual affiliation fee is paid to World Vision who provide support, newsletters, monthly resources and training updates for mentors.

We are currently in need of games, art materials and activities to do during the mentoring hour and hope to set up a “resource box” at the school for mentors to use.

Elders Report for Congregational Meeting 5 July 2010

The Elders meet monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our meetings are not business meetings, but are times of sharing. Our pattern over the past few months has been to share pastoral joys and concerns and to receive updates from the Ministerial Team, the four Missional Groups and Church Council. Our meetings also begin with some learning time which can take the form of hearing each others stories or studying formal material such as an article. Our learning segments have included:

- An introduction to Brian McLaren's book *Everything Must Change* (Herb Fleming)
- The Tanks for Timor project (Judy Lowe)
- A study of the prayers from *Carmina Gadelica* (Songs of the Gaels) (Ross Mackinnon)
- The Kenyan Experience (Alanee Hearnshaw and friends)
- The UCAF Revealed (Geraldine Fleming)
- Eradicating World Poverty (Alison Dingwall & Brian Clarkson)
- A study of the article *The Public Witness of Worship* (Rev Greg Fry)

The Public Witness of Worship is a chapter from the book *Treasure in Clay Jars*. It generated animated and engaging discussion amongst the elders, so much so that it extended over two meetings! The valuable insights in this article also stimulated the deliberations of the Community of Faith Missional Group when considering what sort of worship we should be offering at Glen Waverley. Further, Church Council has asked the Ministry Team to introduce the total congregation to the insights this article has to offer. The article is readily available from Rev Greg Fry or Ross Mackinnon or from the Elders Agenda 12 May 2010 on the Congregation's Wiki Page. We would urge as many people as possible to read it.

Ross Mackinnon
Elders Convenor
20 June 2010

Community of Faith Missional Group (MoFMG)

Report for Congregational Meeting 5 July 2010

The Community of Faith Missional Group meets on the first Thursday of each month, usually at Mirini Lang's home. Members of the congregation are invited to submit items for discussion and to attend meetings. Current group members are – Mark Easton, Herb Fleming, Rev Greg Fry, Mirini Lang, Ross Mackinnon (Convenor), Dean Mann, Jit Tan.

Since the last Congregational Meeting, this group has been dealing with these issues:

Times and Styles of Worship

Following a suggestion from a Church Councillor that we should move permanently to two morning services instead of the current three morning services, Church Council asked MoFMG to discuss this. The Group considered all of the five services held each Sunday and asked - What are the essential characteristics of each of these services? What sort of styles should we offer? What about resources to operate these services? We concluded that:

- (a) We are offering the following styles of worship which are meeting various needs – reflective communion (8.00am), traditional (11.00am), family friendly (4.30pm) and youth friendly (7.00pm).
- (b) The 9.00am service which was originally meant to be "All Age" has become largely a second traditional service with some modern music on occasions.
- (c) We are not offering "experimental, participative" worship in the morning and should be. The Group recommended the introduction of such a service on Sunday mornings to Church Council. Church Council is currently considering this proposal.
- (d) Combined services on 5th Sundays and special occasions should be affirmed and continued.

Easter Event

A meeting convened by Rev Greg Fry determined we should run the Easter Event for local primary schools in 2011.

Small Study Groups

There are several study groups running each week – we feel these are not well enough known and need to be publicised.

Confirmation Class

The Group is delighted to know that a Confirmation Class is running at present largely under Alanee's care. The Confirmation service is set for 15th August 2010 at 9.00am.

Study Material and Conferences

Valuable study materials and Conferences are available from a variety of sources, local and international. These need to be publicised.

Ross Mackinnon
Convenor
20 June 2010

