
Bridging Entities

Coordinator (appointed by Synod)

Bruce Wilson

I. PURPOSE

This committee is established to share and maintain contact with a variety of groups in whose work Uniting Church people are involved in ministry. While some groups may not have a direct connection with the Church, there is a desire to maintain a channel of communication. This report attempts to bring the work and ministry of these groups before the Synod.

Note that there are groups on which the Church is represented and which are reported in other locations. Some of their websites are:

YouthCARE

www.youthcare.org.au

Council of Churches WA

www.churcheswa.com.au

Council of Christians and Jews Western Australia Inc.

www.ccjwa.org

Reported under Media is the

Australasian Religious Press Association

www.arpanews.org

Additionally:

Bible Society Australia: is now a national body (www.biblesociety.org.au) and is contactable through:

GPO BOX 9874 PERTH 6001

Tel: 1300 BIBLES - 1300 242 537

2. 98.5 SONSHINE FM

www.sonshinefm.ws



From the General Manager:

I would like to thank the Uniting Church of Western Australia and its many members for their continued support.

This support comes in multiple forms:

2.1 I would like to thank the Churches and individual members for their financial support during the year and specifically in our June Appeals and November Radiothon. As a listener supported Christian station we depend on the generosity of God's people to continue broadcasting hope in Jesus Christ 24 hours a day. This financial support has equipped us with a new studio to cope with the increased number of volunteer shows and trainees learning about broadcasting.

2.2 We are currently working with the Geopraphe Christian Leaders Network in Busselton as they apply to ACMA for a retransmission license to have Sunshine FM broadcast in Busselton and surrounding areas. The Uniting Church in Busselton is a key contributor with Rev Andrew Broadbent and his wife Tammy being key supporters with their time and the Church premises for meetings.

2.3 We are in discussion with three Uniting Ministers to have them contribute sermon/teaching content to be replayed on air for FM and our DAB+ channels.

2.4 The Uniting Churches in WA have been opening up their Church and other building spaces for the larger Christian community to use in many forms of ministry and outreach. We are partnering with many of these ministries and groups and I would like to compliment The Uniting Church for its efforts toward unity in Christ's body.

Part of Sunshine FM's focus over the last few years has been a presence in the schools of Western Australia. We are very deliberate about serving families in WA where they dwell.



Our “Free Coffee Friday” Breakfast Show broadcasts have grown considerably in the last 6 months with a generous supporter turning up to every school broadcast with his coffee van and donating free coffees and donuts to all parents and teachers. Youthcare WA, school chaplaincy ministry, have assisted this school ministry by funding a fully equipped broadcast van that allows us to do more school broadcasts with fewer people resources. We can now do a fortnightly school breakfast show broadcast and it has been so successful that the West Coast Eagles community program have asked to join in from August this year, as well as the Perth Wildcats. We are very excited about this growth of our impact and support of School Chaplains.

Our new website www.98five.com continues to grow in visitor numbers as we continue to increase the content that allows people to explore God more deeply and be pointed toward local Churches and ministries.

God continues to provide the right people at the right time for our purpose and we are enjoying good response to our on air team and particularly the local church inspirational content.

Our Vision is to engage the people of WA with the positive message of hope in Jesus Christ, and point them to God’s Church. We want to thank you all for making this all possible.

God bless you,



Bevan Jones

– GM 98.5 Sonshine FM

3. HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES INC (formerly DRUG ARM WA INC)

Hope Community Services (HCS) is dedicated to providing assistance to those whose lives are devastated or at risk of harm through drugs or excessive alcohol in our Western Australian community. The history of Hope Community Services and its antecedents, including Drug Arm WA, traces back for over 100 years. (Hope Community Services was formed in 2013 when Drug Arm WA Inc. was renamed following a wide ranging process of reflection and re-view of its values, mission and strategic direction. The name change occurred, and was announced, after the 2013 Synod meeting.)

Hope Community Services has quadrupled in size over the past nine years in response to enormous need. New services commenced in the Pilbara in 2012. In 2013, Hope Community Services became partner with the Bega Garnbirringu Health Services in providing the comprehensive Goldfields Community Alcohol and Drug Service, now with new offices in Kalgoorlie and Esperance. This service provides for a comprehensive range of professional support, information, advisory, referral, advocacy, education, capacity building, consultancy, prevention, and diversion

services in a culturally appropriate setting and practice available to families, agencies and health professionals across the region.

Hope Community Services is now providing an expanding range and breath of services across the state. There has been a particular emphasis on work in metropolitan and outer metropolitan areas, particularly Armadale, Perth and Joondalup; in the Goldfields, particularly Kalgoorlie and Esperance; the Pilbara, particularly Port Hedland; and, in the Midwest and Gascoyne, particularly Geraldton.

At Geraldton Rosella House centre (renovation and upgrading was completed in 2012) and the two transitional houses have been significant in helping people who have completed the residential rehabilitation programs and have turned their lives around so they can resume their lives.

Over the past year, Hope Community Services and the Armadale Youth Resources Centre have merged together to develop their common commitment to youth services in the Armadale and Gosnells region. In June 2012, AYRC Inc. formally joined with HCS as a strategic partner and now the two organisations are formally merged.



This year has been one of enormous progress on many fronts. Over the past year Hope Community Services has further developed its strategic plan, operational plans, policies, services and systems to build for the future. HCS looks forward to the future with optimism. New possibilities for collaboration and partnerships are emerging and these promise a better outcome for those HCS serves. Board governance guidelines and policies have been further updated reflecting best practice and our values. The governance and operational structure has been further developed so it will support a larger, more capable and better equipped HCS for the future. A new development known as Hope Springs Community Farm in the Mid West has commenced. The organisational DNA and values compass is always framed by its Christian ethos that HCS is dedicated to. The new strategic plan framed by these values is an important element in realising the collective dream of providing assistance to those it exists to serve.

All these developments have placed heavy demands on Board members, its Chair Jonathan Woolfrey and the Chief Executive Officer Mick Geaney, staff and its volunteers who have all made substantial and ongoing contributions to the daily work of HCS, often far beyond the call of duty. The work of the staff and volunteers has been inspirational and the Board deeply appreciates the deep commitment, energy and leadership - key to this story of steady progress over the past year.

Hope Community Services thanks its partners, funding bodies and donors who support its work who have made all this possible through their financial support, their encouragement and practical help. It particularly thanks the Drug and Alcohol Office, now part of the Mental Health Commission; the WA Department of Health; Lotterywest; the Commonwealth Department of Health; The Commonwealth Department of Social Services; the Department of Corrections; the WA Department of the Attorney General; The National Trust of Australia (WA); the City of Armadale; the City of Geraldton; the City of Joondalup; the City of Kalgoorlie; the Town of Port Hedland; partner churches, community organisations and groups it works with.

Hope Community Services particularly thanks the people of the Uniting Church for its ongoing support in its mission.

For further information on the work of Hope Community Services or on this report please contact:

Ian Passmore Email: ian.passmore@wa.uca.org.au M0418932736 who is a member of the board of Hope Community Services.

www.hopcommunityservices.org.au

4. EARTHWISE COMMUNITY

Earthwise Community Western Australia is a non-funded, volunteer-staffed community centre located in the heart of Subiaco, Western Australia, in the Uniting Church building at 315 Bagot Rd.

Earthwise undertakes a variety of community and environmental activities, providing an open and interactive space that is safe and encouraging and offers a connecting point for people who may be short of confidence or short of cash. It promotes sustainable living practices through the principals of reducing consumption, re-using and recycling. (Not only does Earthwise assist you make a DIY worm farm-comfy-home for the

* Community Garden working bee: A small

world's greatest workers (the worms) they sell buckets of worm castings!) Caring for each other and the earth.

Earthwise regular activities include:

- * Op-Shop (Tuesday to Saturday);
- * Food centre (Thursday) food from Food Rescue Foodbank, local bread shop and supermarket);
- * Thursday lunch (cheap lunch for anyone);
- * Community Garden working bee (Friday mornings) ;
- * Music jam night (first Friday monthly) and twice monthly Sunday afternoons.



group of garden helpers continue with collecting materials each week to feed worms and compost, garden maintenance, plantings, propagation. The lessons are to use local, free materials and show how to change discarded materials into useful resources.

There has been several community workshops on 'gardening on the cheap', school visits and schools and other community groups visiting the garden. We had workshops for school groups at the Perth Garden Festival with very positive feedback.

There has been a strong interest by locals and EW participants for allotment garden space. We have been in negotiation with the Uniting Church and there is now approved for this to happen on site.

Food Centre and Thursday lunch: The food centre is held after the Thursday lunch. There are over 10 volunteers who help collect, unload, set-up, serve and pack away each week. This is a strenuous business and all assistance is valuable.

Op-Shop: Since 1991, Earthwise has run an op-shop. The goods for sale have been recycled from the local area. As well as being a good place for picking up a bargain, the op-shop also functions as a meeting place and a workplace. It offers a place to talk, have coffee or work in the op-shop in exchange for goods. The op-shop is also a collection point for the recycling of fluoro tubes and compact fluoro globes and small batteries. The Shop is also able to take working electrical items as we have the services of a trained tag and tester to make all goods shop ready.

The op shop social support role cannot be overstated. Many patients from King Edward, local mental health services, locals and passers by appreciate the warmth and good humour of the volunteers.

Outback Music: Earthwise's regular music sessions, the first Friday evening and second Sunday afternoon monthly continue to provide an outlet for budding musicians to explore and advance their talents in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Outback Hire: Earthwise has a room, 'Outback' (it's out the back), approximately 9m x 6m available for occasional or regular hire. The space is suitable for up to 50 people and has about 40 stackable chairs with additional comfortable seating for about 12. The space is surrounded by a permaculture garden, set back from the road and apart from neighbours. It is considered an ideal location for meetings, counselling groups and workshops.

The income from the op shop sales and Outback room hire cover the expenses of the place including maintenance of the old church building site.

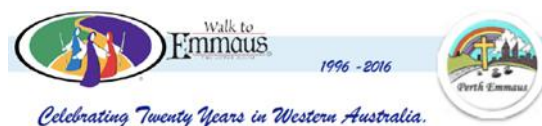
Please visit Earthwise - take a stroll through the gardens, come to lunch on a Thursday, attend a music session, grab a bargain at the Op Shop, check out the alternative technology on show.

And if you like what you see and want to be more involved, Earthwise are always ready to welcome new volunteers! earthwisewa.org

Earthwise/Outback is on a regular bus route and 8 minutes walking distance from the Subiaco or Daglish train stations.

5. EMMAUS, AUSTRALIA

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian leaders. (You do not have to walk anywhere apart from the few steps between the conference room, dining room and chapel.) The program's approach follows the model of Christ's servanthood. It encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all". It is valuable to all Christians of a mature faith disciples to act in ways appropriate to being



"a servant of all". It is valuable to all Christians of a mature faith.

The objective of each walk is to refresh, in-spire, and equip the people of God for more effective discipleship in their homes, community, and



church. Everyone who participates in a walk experiences something different.

The Walk is a 72 hour program, comprising 15 short talks given by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship, daily celebrations of Holy Communion, surprises and good food. The Emmaus community world-wide (over 3 million people, in most Christian countries) supports the 72-hour experience in a prayer vigil and the local community prepares and serves meals, and supports it with acts of love and self-giving. The Walk typically begins 7.30pm Thursday evening and concludes about 5pm Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate live-in weekends.

The Walk to Emmaus community in Perth started in 1986, and been experienced by over 1375 Christians in Perth, and about 800 in the Great Southern community. This year, strong teams led by Walk Lay Directors Trevor Taylor, Walk 59 and Colleen Webster, Walk 60, and with Rev Peter Johnstone and Rev Narelle Collas as Walk Spiritual Directors, lovingly guided 18 men and 17 women through the 3 day program. At the closing ceremony the "pilgrims" spoke positively of the influence the three days had on them. They spoke of the refreshment of their faith, renewal of plans for service, and the love of God they had experienced through the teams; a once in a life-time experience.

As this has been the 20th year anniversary of our first walks (one year we missed), we have gathered each month to celebrate a set of ten walks, and worship together at various venues around Perth. It has been a year of renewal and celebration.

At present we are preparing for the walks to be held in May 2017 at the Advent Village on Kalamunda Rd. We would encourage those who have not participated in an Emmaus weekend to become a pilgrim and experience it themselves or to sponsor others and build up their church leadership community. Pilgrims need to be sponsored by a person who has been on a walk so contact us if you do not know a member of the community.

A Chrysalis Flight (for young Christian people 17–25) is a three-day experience that takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of young Christians and, through them, all those with whom they come in contact.

Other offshoots are the Kairos Prison Ministry, which works within prisons and Kairos Outside, which is a very special weekend specifically for those women who are affected by the incarceration of a family member or very close friend.

For further information on involvement or sponsorship, please contact the Perth Community Lay Director, Madeleine Read at gemread@iinet.net.au or go to the Perth Emmaus community website.

www.perth.emmaus.org.au

6. WELLSPRING COMMUNITY

Wellspring Community (Where spirituality and justice meet) is a dispersed ecumenical community in Australia:

- * **Open to God** reading the bible, prayer and reflection are foundational
- * **Responding to Christ** listening to stories, living responsively
- * **Living in the Spirit** being aware of God in all people and all creation

Members and Friends actively support each other as they work to connect their spirituality with the justice issues that are focused on:

- * **Justice and Peace** both locally and globally
- * **Spirituality and Worship** in our Australian setting
- * **Reconciliation** between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians
- * **Sustainability** promoting sustainable living for all creation
- * **Ecumenical and Inter-Faith relationships** sharing truths and building trust across churches and faiths
- * **Hospitality and Healing** within community and society



New members and friends are very welcome at Wellspring get-togethers. The Community is for those who wish to share the quiet of reflection, the companionship of those who seek to meet God in the everyday, and to express their faith in spirituality and worship, justice and peace-building. Wellspring is a lifestyle that members share in Community, caring for each other in WA, and growing relationships nationally through our Prayer regime, hospitality, and conversations within our peace and justice topics.

This year, our WA group has welcomed new members and friends. Our April retreat was based on a lectio divina and responses with mediation and mandalas. We continue to advocate for reform of the Australian Constitution to recognise First Peoples, and we are committed to 'breathing peace'.

For more detail about Wellspring Community visit www.wellspringcommunity.org.au/ or email the WA Contact, Janelle Macgregor abbeypathways@gmail.com

7. UNITING SINGERS

Contact: Ray Young - 9293 3228

During 2015-16 Uniting Singers continued to provide concerts in retirement centres, nursing homes and hostels. Choir members travel at their own expense from their homes to venues all around the metro area. Some venues have limited parking so members often travel together. Uniting Singers continue to have new requests for concerts.

They are grateful to Floreat Uniting Church for the use of their facilities for rehearsals.

Uniting Singers commenced rehearsals on February 4th 2016. These were somewhat interrupted due to the unavailability of our pianist, so they were unable to commence concert performances until June 2nd.

Concert programmes include a broad range of music including solos and duets. Song sheets are handed out, and it is always a pleasure to invite our audiences to join the group in their sing-alongs.

Currently Uniting Singers has 19 members but would welcome a couple more altos. Ray Young (contact 9293 3228) is the acting Musical Director, but would welcome a more experienced person to take over.

Bruce Wilson
Ph: 08 9335 4974

