

Bridging Entities

Convenor Bruce Wilson

1. 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

July 2017: 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 June Appeal we had an incredible amount of listeners sharing moving testimonies on air of how God reached out to them through 98.5 and how they are now journeying with a church family.
- 2.2 We are currently working with the Geographe Christian Leaders Network in Busselton as they apply to ACMA for a retransmission license to have Sonshine FM broadcast in Busselton and surrounding areas. The Uniting Church in Busselton is a key contributor with Deacon Andrew Broadbent and his wife Tammy being key supporters with their time and the Church premises for meetings. The Busselton committee now have the support of Federal Member of Parliament, Nola Marino, who is presenting their case to the Communications Minister this year. Pray for their success.
- 2.3 We are blessed to have more Uniting Churches partnering with us on air for FM and our DAB+ channels, as well as using our on air Sonshine Community Diary for events.
- 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 Sonshine 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 joined us this year. We are very excited about this growth of our impact and support of School Chaplains.

Our 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. We have 12 Christian bloggers who contribute to our website and social media engaging many of the public with anything from new recipes to asking bigger questions about God and faith.

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. We are so excited to be partnering with more and more Churches in Perth to engage the community.

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

Hope Community Services (HCOMMUNITY SERVICES) is a values based organisation with a



Christian ethos and a commitment to offering high quality innovative services 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. Hope has evolved to provide a growing range of services across the Perth metro, outer metro and regional areas of Western Australia.

The history of Hope Community Services and its antecedents, including Drug Arm WA Inc, traces back for over 100 years.

Hope Community Services has more than quadrupled in size over the past ten years in response to the enormous need.

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; the Kimberley and, in the Midwest and Gascoyne, particularly Geraldton.

The Rosella House centre at Geraldton 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 each can resume their lives. A renovation and upgrading program of Rosella House was completed in 2012. The Hope Springs Community Farm and therapeutic community is being established at a beautiful rural location near Geraldton in 2017.

In 2013, Hope Community Services became partners with the Bega Garnbirringu Health Services in providing the comprehensive Goldfields Community Alcohol and Drug Service, with offices in Kalgoorlie and Esperance, and in 2016 extending to Leonora

and Laverton. 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.

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.

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 Hope Community Services, 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; its partner churches, community organisations and groups it works with.

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

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

contact Ian Passmore on 0418932736 who is the chairperson of Hope Community Services to October 2012 and currently a member of the board of Hope Community Services.

Also Hope Community Services Vision, Mission and Values are available under 'Who We Are' (plus there is further information under 'What We Do') on its website.

4. EARTHWISE COMMUNITY

www.earthwisewa.org

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 and grounds 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 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 (Monday 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.

Community Garden: A small group of garden helpers continue with collecting materials each week to feed worms and compost, garden maintenance, plantings, propagation. The working bee sessions 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 started the allotment garden space with up to 20 beds becoming available. There is strong interest in our participants and we also plan to open it to the wider community shortly.

Food Centre and Thursday lunch: The food centre 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.

An additional program starting early this year has been a Work for The Dole course. We have had success with several participants assisting in the op shop and helping to set up the allotment beds.

We plan to have an Open Day at the end of October to showcase our activities and progress.

The income from the op shop sales and Outback room hire cover expenses and these include 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 DalGLISH train stations.

5. EMMAUS, AUSTRALIA

www.perth.emmaus.org.au



The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program, a retreat intended to strengthen the local church through the empowering and refreshing 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 loving dynamic servanthood. It is valuable to all Christians new and of a mature faith, especially those in a position of leadership in a church community.

The objective of each walk is to refresh, inspire, and equip the people of God for more effective discipleship in their homes, community, and church. Everyone who participates 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, Christian Discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer, special times of worship, daily celebrations of Holy Communion, surprises and good food. The Emmaus community world-wide (over 3 million people, in many countries) supports the walk in a prayer vigil. The local community prepares and serves meals, and with acts of love and self-giving guides the Walk. It typically begins 7.30pm Thursday evening and concludes about 5pm Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate live-in walks in May (See the website for more information or Google Walk to Emmaus Perth)

The Walk to Emmaus in Perth started in 1996, and has been experienced by over 1500 Christians in Perth, and about 900 in the Great Southern community. This year, Walk 62 led by Walk Lay Director Kay Eva and Spiritual Director Rev Peter Johnstone, together with a strong, compassionate team lovingly guided 25 women through the 3 day program. At the closing ceremony the "pilgrims" spoke enthusiastically of the influence of the three days; 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." Sadly, there was no men's walk this year.

At present we are preparing for the 2018 walks to be held over the last two weekends in May next year 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. To be a part of this retreat, Pilgrims need to be sponsored by a person who has been on a walk so contact us to discover a member of the community near you. A thriving community also operates in the Great Southern, based in Katanning. The 2017 Walk takes place in August.

Other offshoots are the Chrysalis Flights which are a three-day experience for young Christian people 18–25 They are a structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew

the faith of young Christians and, through them, all those with whom they come in contact. Also the Kairos Prison Ministry, which operates within prisons and Kairos Outside, which is a very special weekend specifically for those women (not necessarily Christian) who are affected by the incarceration of a family member or very close friend.

For further information on involvement or sponsorship, please go to the Perth Emmaus community website or contact Community Lay Director, Ben Bothma bennie.jennie@bigpond.com

UCA contacts:

- Rev. Peter Johnstone
perley@bigpond.com
- Rev. Narelle Collas narelle-collas@gmail.com
- Rev David De Kock is on the team for the Great Southern Walk this year.
- Past Spiritual Directors include Revs. Mervyn Jay, Lorraine Stokes, John Whaley, Mike Fawcett, Craig Collas, Greta Smith

6. WELLSRING COMMUNITY

www.wellspringcommunity.org.au



- ❖ 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 focus 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

Our annual retreats are open to any interested persons. Next Year's retreat will be held at Nathaniel's Rest in Mundaring. The 2018 theme will be 'Journeying'. Several presenters will respond to the theme, the single word 'Journeying', in a variety of ways.

Every two years folks from across the country meet together – this year in Launceston, Tasmania. Our Gathering theme is Suffering and Hope and will feature local Indigenous Elder Dr Patsy Cameron AO.

Visitors and newcomers to our community are always welcome. We meet 7 times a year.

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 November and December 2016 we presented our Christmas concerts at 5 care centres to finish off another fairly active year during which we presented a total of 15 concerts.

2017 started with our annual get-together. This was originally set to be held in Kings Park, but due to inclement weather this had to be changed. We were fortunate enough to be able to use the hall at Floreat All Saints Uniting Church. As usual we are really grateful for the use of their facilities for this and for our rehearsals which commenced on 16th February.

Our first 2 concerts for this year were in May. Unfortunately, after these our pianist

was taken ill, and being unable to find a replacement we had to cancel 2 concerts until we were able to find a pianist who was available for 1 concert only. We are currently waiting for our pianist to recover before resuming concerts or rehearsals.

We usually rehearse on Thursday mornings and try to arrange to attend concerts on Thursdays also, as most members are available on this day. Concerts are held on other days if requested, providing we have enough members available.

We currently have 16 members but would welcome a couple of altos.

Bruce Wilson

Ph: 08 9335 4974