

25. Bridging Entities

Co-ordinator Bruce Wilson

1. INVITATION

The Co-ordinator is open to enlarging the number of organisations that are reported upon in this report, so members of the Uniting Church WA are invited to propose the addition of an organisation within future reports.

Note that each organisation reported involve, or potentially impact/involve members of the Uniting Church WA – see PURPOSE below.

2. BACKGROUND

The Bridging Entities Annual report comprises the reports of the organisations. 'During the time of the current co-ordinator, various groups/organisations have been removed from the Bridging Entities report to be reported by another group of the Uniting Church WA, with which they have meaningful links. These include some of the organisations listed under PURPOSE in this report.

3. 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 on elsewhere to the Synod.

YouthCARE

youthcare.org.au

Council of Churches WA

churcheswa.com.au

Council of Christians and Jews Western Australia Inc.

ccjwa.org

Reported under Media is the

Australasian Religious Press Association

arpa.news

Additionally:

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

GPO BOX 9874 PERTH 6001, Tel: 1300 BIBLES - 1300 242 537

Social media

Post on their Facebook wall: facebook.com/biblesocietyaus Tweet: [@biblesocietyoz](https://twitter.com/biblesocietyoz)

Follow them on Instagram: [@biblesocietyaus](https://www.instagram.com/biblesocietyaus)

There is now available a Perth (WA Office):

Church and Community Relations Representative: Rick Pekan 0447 973 273

Donor Care Representative Marcus Ngoi: 0427 005 456

4. REPORTS FROM THE ORGANISATIONS

4.1 98.5 SONSHINE FM

98five.com



August 2018: From the Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

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

This support comes in multiple forms:

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. In 2017/2018 we applied twice for a retransmission license in the Busselton/Geographe area in partnership with the local churches, with Busselton Uniting Church as one of the leading supporters. Even with the help of the local federal member, Nola Marino, we have been knocked back twice. Please pray as we won't give up and look to broadcast Christian radio in the South West.
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. Maggie Johns is supplying us with all events that engage the local community.
4. 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 six 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 Western Force and WA Rugby Roos community program, Eduplay and Melville Mitsubishi have joined us this year. We are very excited about this growth of our impact and support of School Chaplains.

We have partnered with Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA), who are leasing an office in our station premises, to show churches the potential mission field that is local sporting clubs. Over 10,000 sporting clubs in Australia are asking SCA for a chaplain placement.

Our website 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 are now developing our Church Finder page service to be easier for listeners to find a local church to connect with.

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 possible.

God bless you,



Bevan Jones – CEO

4.2 HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES INC

hopecommunityservices.org.au



Unfortunately the Bridging Entities Co-ordinator has not been able to organise a report from this group at the time of submitting the total Bridging Entities report for Synod. However:

Hope Community Services (HOPE) was formed in 2013 when Drug Arm WA Inc. was renamed.

From the website:

HOPE Community Services is dedicated to supporting people to participate in life meaningfully and successfully.

HOPE offers a range of safe, non-judgemental, and supportive services to encourage healthy individuals, families, and communities.

including:

- GCADS (Goldfields Community Alcohol and Drug Service)
hopecommunityservices.org.au/gcads-goldfields-community-alcohol-drug-service
- Headspace Kalgoorlie
hopecommunityservices.org.au/headspace-kalgoorlie
- ICLS (Individualised Community Living Strategy)
hopecommunityservices.org.au/icls-individualised-community-living-strategy
- ITC (Integrated Team Care)
hopecommunityservices.org.au/itc-integrated-team-care
- Metro Counselling Services
hopecommunityservices.org.au/metro-counselling-services
- Therapeutic Community
hopecommunityservices.org.au/therapeutic-community
- Youth outreach
hopecommunityservices.org.au/youth-outreach
- Youth justice programs
hopecommunityservices.org.au/youth-justice-programs

For over a century, Hope Community Services has been providing much needed support to people affected by alcohol and other drugs, poor mental health, and socioeconomic disadvantage in Western Australia. HOPE's dedicated staff and volunteers are fully engaged in the local communities

where they live, and work with individuals, families, and communities to deliver services that best meet their needs.

Through leadership and a collaborative approach, HOPE seeks to address the structural drivers of exclusion and disadvantage in our society, and in turn promote innovative policies and programs to support individual and community wellbeing and inclusion. Guided by our values, we focus on opportunities to support community members to participate meaningfully in their community:

4.3 EARTHWISE COMMUNITY

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 principles of reducing consumption, re-using and recycling, and caring for each other and the Earth. 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.

Earthwise regular activities include:

- Op shop (Monday to Saturday)
- Food centre, including food from Food Rescue, Foodbank, Oz Harvest, a local bread shop and a supermarket (Thursday)
- Thursday lunch (cheap lunch for anyone)
- Community Garden working bee (Friday mornings)
- Music jam night (first Friday monthly) and third Sunday afternoons.

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

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

There is also an on-going relationship between the day-care centre next door and Earthwise. The centre save all their organics for our worms and compost, they visit weekly to tour the garden and see where their scraps go, and several children bring over cakes for Thursday lunch. We also assist staff at the centre in activities for the children in the garden. Earthwise gave expertise to the centre and assisted with building several garden beds from old fridges and also reclaimed scrap wood.

Garden Allotments: There has been a strong interest by locals and Earthwise participants for allotment garden space. We have started the allotment garden space with up to 20 beds becoming available. Approval for the allotments was given by the Uniting Church Property Committee in 2016 and we have now completed the area with most beds taken by either local residents or Earthwise participants.

There continues to be daily positive comments to Earthwise volunteers from the local residents and other passers-by as to additions we have made to the garden and buildings.

Food Centre and Thursday lunch: The food centre is held before 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.

There is a regular group of up to 8 volunteers that assist in preparing for a substantial lunch for between 40 and 45 meals each week. For many it is the culinary highlight of their weekly meal intake. The meal is only one aspect of the Thursday gathering. For many it is an easy and non-threatening opportunity to meet others. An afternoon sing-song with up to a dozen people has also grown out of the time together on Thursdays.

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 social support role cannot be overstated. Many patients from King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, local mental health services, locals and passers-by appreciate the warmth and good humour of the volunteers. The op shop is often the initial meeting point for people to become involved with other Earthwise activities.

Outback Music: Earthwise's regular music sessions, the first Friday evening and third 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 building is now being used for at least half of every day, all week long, by a wide range of organisations and groups, in addition to Earthwise's own usage.

Work for the Dole Program: We trialled a Work for the Dole (WFD) Program in 2016 and 2017 and commenced a WFD activity in May 2017 with 16 participants to work in the op shop and develop the allotment bed area of the gardens.

We had great success with this activity as we had a 90% attendance rate. We were informed this was completely against the norm for WFD. The WFD coordinator believed that it was due to Earthwise being an understanding, accepting place that allowed participants to learn, grow and have an opportunity to create a wonderful garden and be part of something.

Earthwise received many great compliments towards the volunteers and grounds.

Open Day: We had an Open Day at the end of October to showcase our activities and progress. Several hundred people came and for many it was the first opportunity they had to see what goes on at Earthwise.

Maintaining the buildings and grounds: Over \$20,000 has been spent on the building and grounds in the past year. According to the lease agreement with the church, major maintenance was undertaken. In addition, ceiling fans and with low energy lighting were installed in the op shop area.

The income from the op shop sales, worm sales, workshops 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 and 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.

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

4.4 EMMAUS, AUSTRALIA

perth.emmaus.org.au

The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of church members as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ. Emmaus expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their discipleship, and rekindles their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches and communities. These aims are accomplished not only during the three-day Emmaus Walk, but also through participation in group reunions and community gatherings, sponsorship and support of Walks, and service on teams. Persons whose spiritual lives are renewed and strengthened through Emmaus are called to share the grace they receive in their community and to be leavening influences in their local churches. The purpose of Emmaus is not fully realised during the three days of the event itself, but, rather, in the fourth day (the days after the Walk).

Attendance is open to all Christians in local churches who are recommended (or 'sponsored') by someone who has already attended a Walk. Ministers, pastors and church leaders are especially invited to attend so that they may have confidence in recommending the program to other members of their fellowships.

The weekend comprises of 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 at 7.30pm on Thursday evening and concludes about 5.00pm on Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate live-in walks in May.

Perth Emmaus has been going since 1996 with over 1000 Christians experiencing the Walk. This year we had the Men's Walk #63 and the Ladies Walk #64, led by Alf Standen and Heather Haggerty respectively. The Spiritual Director role for both weekends was led by Rev Peter Johnstone.

The biggest challenge at the moment for Perth Emmaus is having pilgrims (guests) to attend the Walks and also clergy to serve on the Walks. We have over the last few years had to cancel a couple of Walks after not enough guests. We would normally have at least four clergy on the Walk but over the last couple of Walks we have only had two or three and then these team members have to take on the roles of the missing clergy.

Emmaus Ministries have started a few other programs which Perth Emmaus are considering running, such as the Face-2-Face program which is targeted at people over 60 years of age and that are not able to physically attend a weekend Walk. The program is run in 3-hour sessions over 8 weeks with a similar format to the Emmaus Walk.

We then have the youth version of Emmaus, called Chrysalis which is run specifically for 18–25-year olds. With a program designed to strengthen and renew the faith of young Christians and, through them, all those with whom they come in contact.

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

Ben Bothma, Perth Emmaus.

4.5 WELLSRING COMMUNITY



wellspringcommunity.org.au

Unfortunately the Bridging Entities Co-ordinator has not been able to organise a report from this group at the time of submitting the total Bridging Entities report for Synod. However, from the website:

The Wellspring Community is an ecumenical community of lay and ordained men and women, who are seeking new ways of living the Gospel. We are a dispersed ecumenical community in Australia. We aim to live prophetically, see God's presence in each moment and person, work for reconciliation and practise peace.

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

Annual retreats are held and are open to any interested persons. The 2018 theme is 'Journeying'. Every two years folks from across the country meet together – 2019 is the next year for this. Visitors and newcomers to the community are always welcome. It meets 7 times a year.

4.6 UNITING SINGERS

During the last 2 months of 2017 Uniting Singers only performed 4 concerts at nursing homes to bring to an end a very trying year with our pianist out of action for medical reasons.

2018 started with the annual get-together in February followed by a period of rehearsals putting the year's musical program together. Then concerts at 4 venues were performed, Uniting Singers have another 11 concert bookings for the rest of this year. Currently there are 17 members and the group would welcome a couple of Altos and maybe even a couple of Sopranos. If anyone is capable and willing to be our Musical Director he/she would also be most welcome.

Rehearsals are on Thursday mornings since this is when most members are available. Concerts are arranged for Thursday afternoons whenever possible. Other days may be possible providing there are enough members available.

Rehearsals are held at Floreat All Saints Uniting Church, to whom Uniting Singers are extremely grateful for the use of these premises.

Uniting Singers is always open for more voices. Contact Ray Young on 9293 3228.

Bruce Wilson
<mailto:bruce.m.wilson@bigpond.com>