



## 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 coordinator, 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](http://youthcare.org.au)

#### **Council of Churches WA**

[churcheswa.com.au](http://churcheswa.com.au)

#### **Council of Christians and Jews Western Australia Inc.**

[ccjwa.org](http://ccjwa.org)

Reported under Media is the

#### **Australasian Religious Press Association**

[arpa.news](http://arpa.news)

Additionally:

**Bible Society Australia:** is primarily a national body ([www.biblesociety.org.au](http://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](https://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](http://98five.com)



Due to the delayed initiative of the BE convener the following is submitted as an overview, and is not provided this year by the CEO. The Uniting Church WA and its many members has (in the past) provided ongoing support.

This support comes in multiple forms:

1. Congregations and individual members provide their financial support during the year and specifically in our June Appeals and November Radiothon. As a listener supported Christian station 98.5 depends on the generosity of God's people to continue broadcasting hope in Jesus Christ 24 hours a day.
2. In 2018 we were advised that Sunshine 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, they were knocked back twice. We were asked to pray for this as Sunshine won't give up and look to broadcast Christian radio in the South West.

Part of Sunshine FM's focus over the last few years has been a presence in the schools of Western Australia. However the convenor was not able to find any program lists to confirm current practice.

The partnership with Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA), who are leasing an office in the station premises, continues. It shows churches the potential mission field that is local sporting clubs. Over 10,000 sporting clubs in Australia are asking SCA for a chaplain placement.

The website [98five.com](http://98five.com) continues to increase the content that allows people to explore God more deeply and be pointed toward local churches and ministries. Sunshine have developed their Church Finder page service to be easier for listeners to find a local church to connect with.

In the past God provided the right people at the right time for Sunshine's purpose and have enjoyed good responses to their on air team and particularly the local church inspirational content. The station is always excited to be partnering with churches in Perth to engage the community.

Sunshine's vision is to engage the people of WA with the positive message of hope in Jesus Christ, and point them to God's church. Sunshine would want to thank all who participate in making this possible.

Bevan Jones continues as CEO

### 4.2 HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES INC [hopecommunityservices.org.au](http://hopecommunityservices.org.au)



Hope Community Services Ltd (“HOPE”) was formed in 2013 when Drug Arm WA Inc. was renamed following a wide ranging process of reflection and review of its values, mission and strategic direction. Hope is a values based organisation with 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 across all regional areas of Western Australia.

The history of Hope Community Services and its antecedents, including Drug Arm WA Inc. and the City Band of Hope Temperance League was first established in 1904 so it traces its history for 115 years.

Hope Community Services has more than quadrupled in size over the past ten years in response to the enormous need and the annual budget stands at more than \$14m.

Hope Community Services is now providing an extraordinary and expanding range and breath of services for people, youth and families affected by drugs, alcohol, socioeconomic disadvantage, mental health and associated co-morbidities. Hope Community Services staff are fully engaged with local communities wherever they are, and endeavour to work with individuals, families and communities to deliver services that best meet their needs. across the state.

Apart from extensive metropolitan services there is a particular emphasis on serving rural and remote areas including Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Esperance, Port Hedland, Broome, Kununurra, Geraldton and Meekatharra.

In August 2017, HOPE formerly opened its Alcohol and Other Drugs Therapeutic Community at HOPE Spring Community Farm. This very important project was the culmination of over 5 years of dedicated work.

During the 2018 year, with part WAPHA funding, HOPE re-established a permanent base in Leonora to provide a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service to that community. HOPE also opened a WAPHA funded Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service in Geraldton and partnered with Neami to provide an AOD counselling role in the North Metropolitan area.

In January 2018, HOPE moved its Corporate Services to new leased premises in Claisebrook. In March 2018, HOPE was contracted to run the West Kimberley Youth Justice Service in Broome. In August 2017 the Board approved the creation of a HOPE Pilbara – Kimberley regional structure to enable better management of the youth Justice services operating in those areas and to aid the expansion of HOPE services in this region.

Supporting families and individuals with complex needs, highlights the reality that providers must collaborate and coordinate to be effective. What has been particularly pleasing over the course of the year, has been the maintenance and quality of collaborative partnerships that we have with other community sector organisations throughout the Regions.

HOPE commenced a Community Development Project in partnership with the Social Work Department at Curtin University in Armadale. HOPE also supported two Social Work Students placements in the project.

HOPE has been re-accredited as a Culturally Secure Practice provider in Alcohol and Other Drug services.

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

Details of the 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 [www.hopecommunityservices.org.au](http://www.hopecommunityservices.org.au). For further information on the work of Hope Community Services in this report please contact Ian Passmore Email: [ianpassmore@inet.net.au](mailto:ianpassmore@inet.net.au) M 0418932736 who is currently a member of the board of Hope Community Services Ltd.

### 4.3 EARTHWISE COMMUNITY

[earthwisewa.org](http://earthwisewa.org)

#### **Highlights - changes since the 2018 report:**

- \$24,000 spent repainting the outside of the building
- Paying a part time coordinator
- Seeking renewal of the MOU with UC for another 5 years.

**ALSO Please visit Earthwise**

**Introduction:** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>Bite, 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.

In June Earthwise was the chosen location for The West Coast Open Garden Community Day. A variety of visitors attended most who had not been to Earthwise before. This was a good opportunity to promote the venue and its activities

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. An addition to the music has been a regular group who discuss values and what is important. Earthwise continues to show itself to be a safe place for people to talk openly.

**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.

**Maintaining the buildings and grounds:** Over \$24,000 has been spent painting the outside of the Church and Outback this year.

### **Renewal of MOU**

Earthwise is due for a renewal of the MOU with the Uniting Church. The previous agreement was for 5 years and we are hoping for a further 5 year term.

### **Finances for Earthwise:**

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. This year we have been in a position to pay a part time manager for 10 hours a week. This greatly assists in the support of volunteers and community liaison.

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](http://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 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 #65 and the Ladies Walk #66, led by Greg Corlett and Jenny Jay respectively. The Spiritual Director role for the Men's Walk was performed by Rev Ross Patterson and the Women's Walk 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 having 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 Encounter program which is targeted at people over 60 years of age and who 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.

There is also an Emmaus community in the Great Southern which holds its Walks at Kobeelya in Katanning.

For further information on involvement or sponsorship, please go to the Perth Emmaus Community website or contact Community Lay Director, Julie Marshall at [kajmarshall@yahoo.com.au](mailto:kajmarshall@yahoo.com.au)

Julie Marshall, Perth Emmaus.

#### 4.5 WELLSPRING COMMUNITY



[wellspringcommunity.org.au](http://wellspringcommunity.org.au)

[wellspring-community.com](http://wellspring-community.com)

Wellspring has asked not to continue to be included in this report. However, the Bridging Entities Co-ordinator has prepared the following from the website for a final report - noting that Western Australia is strongly represented on the (national) Executive.

There are two main ways to connect with Wellspring:  
as a Friend or as a Member. (refer to the guide on their website)

#### EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

Wellspring Community: A community of followers of Jesus:  
ecumenical, Australia-wide, lay and ordained.

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

Wellspring Community is a Christian community; therefore reconciliation between people and Christ is central in our lives. Deepening Christian spirituality and evangelism are essential. Prayer and bible study are priorities. Christ is in the world.

We believe that politics and economics are essential areas for Christians to be involved. We are committed to seeking a new, just economic order. Like the Iona Community we seek to rebuild the common life, bringing together work and worship, prayer and politics, sacred and secular, both globally and in our local community.

The windmill symbolises the Wellspring Community. An Australian icon like Vegemite, the windmill expresses our desire to live an Australian Christian faith that is integral to our culture and environment.

A windmill is wind driven. The blades of the windmill, the men and women of the Community, are impelled by the wind of God. A circular rim, expressing the unity of the Community, connects the blades to each other and the mill itself. The rim evokes the circle in the Celtic cross, the circle of eternity, the Alpha and the Omega, the globe of the earth, and the centrality of Christ.

We rotate with purpose. We connect to the land. We draw Jesus' life-giving water from the vast aquifers in the depths of this ancient land. From this eternal wellspring, water gushes to fill the troughs, tanks, and wells sometimes to sustain the flourishing life of a rugged land and at other times to transform life in a harsh, arid and occasionally degraded environment.

Please note that the name is shared with other similarly-named organisations in Australia and throughout the world. Many of these share things in common with this community - including the Christian faith and the Christian metaphor used in Scripture that inspires the name "Wellspring" - but they are distinct organisations. This community is inspired by The Iona Community in the U.K. and has much in common with that community.

The quarterly publication, Pipeline (available on the website) provides stimulating articles on spirituality, justice, creation and faith. Use it to find out the latest news and information about the Wellspring community.

Annual retreats are held and are open to any interested persons. Every two years folk from across the country meet together – in 2019 the gathering is to be held during August in Queensland with the Theme: Healing and Hospitality.

The focus of this Gathering will be to explore Healing and Hospitality - two of seven "concerns" of the community.

#### **4.6 UNITING SINGERS**

During the period August to December 2018 we performed 12 concerts at various nursing homes to bring a very busy year to an end.

2019 started with our annual get-together in February followed by a period of rehearsals putting the year's musical programme together. Then we held concerts at 7 venues up to the end of July, and we have another 7 bookings for the rest of this year

We currently have 19 members – 17 singers and a pianist and conductor. We would welcome anyone who would like to be a relief pianist and/or relief conductor. Currently if either of these two people is sick we have to cancel concerts – sometimes at the last minute – which is an inconvenience for the venues concerned.

Rehearsals are on Thursday mornings since this is when most members are available. Concerts are also arranged for Thursday afternoons whenever possible, though other days may be accepted if there are enough members available.

Our rehearsals are held at Floreat All Saints Uniting Church, to whom we are extremely grateful for the use of their premises.

Initial contact for Uniting Singers is Ray Young on 9293 3228.

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