



Bridging Entities

Coordinator 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. (This note does not represent the list as complete.)

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

In the Perth (WA Office) are:

- Church and Community Relations Representative: Rick Pekan 0447 973 273
- Donor Care Representative: Marcus Ngoi 0427 005 456

One of its resources provided for leaders is "[Bringing church online](#)"

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)



4. REPORTS FROM THE ORGANISATIONS

4.1 98.5 SONSHINE FM

98five.com



98five Sonshine FM has seen another amazing year of God's blessing. Not only have the listening numbers climbed to being more than 6IX and level with 6PR but our digital reach through social media and website has expanded to exceed 98five's listener numbers.

Key blessings have been:

- More testimonies of God reaching out through the radio than ever before. Only half the testimonies could be played on air during the station's recent June Appeal.
- When the impact of Covid-19 commenced in March and continued the engagement levels from listeners jumped 2 ½ times within a two week period and is still almost twice the interaction pre-Covid. This was through sonshine's social media, (@98five) website, text lines and phone calls with people feeling anxiety and engaging with Sonshine FM because of the "hope" and "constant encouraging presence" it provides.
- Despite these tough times the Christian community supported 98five Sonshine FM in its June end of financial year appeal to see the achievement of the reduced target ahead of time. The Christian community always gives "against economics" and toward those they value. "We feel humbled" says Bevan.
- Their partnership with Youthcare continues to grow with the success of Free Coffee Friday broadcasts at public primary schools so popular we have a long waiting list of Principals wanting 98five Sonshine FM to broadcast from their school. The great thing is that everything is through the Youthcare Chaplain, raising the profile and importance of the "Chappies" from Youthcare.
- The number of Uniting Churches in Perth and regionally that are connecting with us is growing. Busselton Uniting Church is a key supporter with us applying to bring Christian radio to the Geographe area. The Uniting Church in the City have been working with us to provide content about their homeless initiatives, use of space and beehives whilst partnering with us in events such as WAMfest music festival and the Wesley Lunchtime concerts. Billabong Church in Canning Vale have been very active with us in Church Unity events such as our very successful Pray Together WA on air and video streamed united prayer in May.
- St Stephen's School have been promoting their services on air for a while now. They volunteered to be an active partner in our Heart for the Homeless drive in July. The two campuses were official drop off points and they also promoted the donation of sleeping bags and toiletries through their campuses to see a whole van filled with donations to go to those sleeping rough around our city. It was our biggest homeless collection ever and St Stephens have already put their hand up to be involved next July.
- The Church communities in Geraldton and Busselton are eager to work with 98five to apply for radio broadcast licenses to bring Christian family focussed radio to their communities. Kalgoorlie are also interested. Taking Christian radio to regional WA is a key strategy and is at the heart of the Vision statement "to engage the people of WA with the positive message of hope in Jesus Christ".

"Thank you for your support and partnership as Sonshine FM moves forward in seeing God's kingdom grow in Western Australia.

God bless you all,"

Bevan Jones CEO 98five Sonshine FM

4.2 HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES LTD

hopecommunityservices.org.au



Hope Community Services (“HCS” or “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. In the past year HOPE engaged directly with 16,305 people through its services and estimates it has impacted on the lives of more than 60,000 people.

The history of Hope Community Services and its antecedents, including Drug Arm WA Inc. traces back for over 100 years, and has more than quadrupled in size over the past ten years in response to the enormous need. Hope Community Services Ltd 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 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. There is a particular emphasis on work in:

- metropolitan and outer metropolitan areas, particularly Armadale, Perth and Joondalup;
- in the Goldfields, particularly Kalgoorlie; Leonora and Esperance;
- the Pilbara, particularly Port Hedland;
- the Kimberley particularly Broome and Kununurra; and
- in the Midwest and Gascoyne,
 - in Geraldton, particularly the Hope Springs Community Farm, and
 - in Meekatharra.

A special focus is on better serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people and also providing opportunities for increasing engagement through employment by HOPE throughout the HOPE network.

In pursuing its mission and vision Hope Community Services is guided by the following core values:

- Person centred - the central focus for all of our activity is on the needs of the client we serve on the journey through life
- Connectedness - we will make time to build and maintain strong positive safe relationships with all those we engage with
- Trust - building trust with people through honesty, respect and following through on commitments
- Participation - being inclusive and fostering contribution from all stakeholders

- Excellence- through accountable practice, being transparent, seeking continuous improvement and innovation

This year has been one of enormous progress on many fronts. In 2018 Hope Community Services was restructured as a company limited by guarantee and further developed its strategic plan, operational plans, policies, services and systems to build for the future. Hope Community Services looks forward to the future with optimism. New possibilities for collaboration and partnerships are emerging and these promise a better outcome for those Hope Community Services 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. The organisational DNA compass is always framed by its values based ethos that Hope Community Services is dedicated to.

In 2013, Hope Community Services became partner 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, counselling, youth justice, Headspace, suicide prevention, integrated team care, individualised living strategy and diversion services in a culturally appropriate setting and practice available to families, agencies and health professionals across the region. New services commenced in the Pilbara in 2012 have extended in scope every year since then and further into the Kimberley. Also over the past year, HOPE (i) established a Youth Justice Service in Meekatharra, (ii) rehoused the Youth Transitional Accommodation Program Kelmscott, and commissioned new premises in Armadale for the Metropolitan Bail Service, (iii) installed upgraded IT connectivity for the Hope Springs Community Farm, (iv) established two new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Groups - in Kalgoorlie and Esperance, and (v) achieved a milestone in employing 25 Aboriginal employees representing 22% of its workforce.

The new strategic plan 2018-21 framed by the HOPE values is an important element in realising the collective dream of providing the best possible support and assistance to those it exists to serve. In the past year, HOPE's commitment to continuous improvement was rewarded with (i) reaccreditation with WANADA Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (Alcohol and Other Drug Sector), (ii) Renewal of accreditation against the Headspace Model Integrity Framework, and (iii) Accreditation against the ACTA Standard for Therapeutic Communities and Rehabilitation Services.

All these developments have placed heavy demands on the Chief Executive Officer Mick Geaney, the dedicated HOPE staff and volunteers, always supported by the Board, particularly through its Chair Bob Campbell, and all have 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 - a 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 and have made all this progress possible through their financial support, their encouragement and practical help. It particularly thanks the Mental Health Commission; Bega Garnbirringu Health Service; Pier Street Medical Services; Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; the WA Department of Health; Lotterywest; The Australian Department of Health; the WA Department of Justice; 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-Boulder; the Town of Port Hedland; Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation; WA Police; Tate Family Foundation;

Save the Children; Rise; City of Cockburn; Bay of Isles Community Organisation; Youth Involvement Council; Geraldton Streetwork Aboriginal Corporation; PEEDAC; MEEDAC; Headspace Armadale; Headspace Geraldton; Apollo Health; Aboriginal Health Council of WA; Neami; Communicare; Curtin University; MinterEllison; Commonwealth Bank; Australia Post; 2nd Chance Op Shop; Lumen Christi College; F45 Kalgoorlie; Bunnings Kalgoorlie; Café 312; Evolution Mining; KCGM; McDonalds; Southern Ports; Sportspower Kalgoorlie; Workpac; Grill'd Cockburn; Girl Guides WA; Yorgum; Goldfields Esperance Development Commission; and the many 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 Ltd refer to its website www.hopecommunityservices.org.au or please contact

Ian Passmore Email: ianpassmore@iinet.net.au M 0418932736 who was Chairperson of Hope Community Services and its antecedents to October 2012 and currently is a member of the board of Hope Community Services Ltd.

4.3 EARTHWISE COMMUNITY **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 have included:

- Op shop (Monday to Saturday)
- Food centre, including food from 2ndBite, 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.

Renewal of MOU

Earthwise operates at Subiaco under an MOU with the Uniting Church. The initial agreement was for 5 years.

Finances for Earthwise:

Historically 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 –

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.

The Earthwise report this year is abbreviated and it is hoped more detail can return in 2021

4.4 EMMAUS, AUSTRALIA

perth.emmaus.org.au

Due to the COVID-19 government health regulations now in place, all Emmaus Ministry events are either cancelled or postponed.

Some communities may provide opportunities for online group events using various forms of technology and software.

Please contact communities directly for updates. Thankyou

There are three three arms to Emmaus Ministries Australia



Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program that thousands of people around the world have undertaken to renew their heart, mind, soul and strength.

The program's approach richly models the servant hood of Jesus and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."



Chrysalis

Chrysalis is a weekend experience which takes a look at Christianity as a lifestyle.

It is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of young Christians and helping to renew the Church.

The content of the weekend focuses on God's grace, how one experiences Christ as a friend and how one is called into discipleship.



Face to Face

Face to Face is specially adapted to meet the needs of Men and Woman 60 years and over and/or those who cannot cope physically with a Walk to Emmaus program.

There are 8 sessions structured in a flexible way. Face to Face will strengthen your spiritual life as well as that of your family, friends and Church.

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).

4.5 WELLSPRING COMMUNITY



wellspringcommunity.org.au wellspring-community.com

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.

In WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Perth and surrounding areas:

Wellspring is a community of individuals who accompany each other in our individual discipleship, ministries and faith journeys. A group of us in Perth meet in odd numbered months plus December, and occasionally at particular times. We usually gather for two hours in a member's home, mostly on a Saturday. We hold a yearly Retreat, participate in yearly National events and maintain relationships across the country.

Contact Jane Robertson robjas@iinet.net.au (one of the Western Australians on the National Council)

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

When you join Wellspring Community you become part of an Australia-wide prophetic community of followers of Jesus who

- Support and encourage each other to lead lives that are transformed personally and socially.
- Are committed to transformation of our relationship with ourselves, with our communities, with society, with culture, with creation, and with God.
- Seek to live actively as disciples of Jesus and in so doing we contribute to a world (and to Australia) where
- We and all people (particularly the poor and marginalised) live at peace and with justice.
 1. We grow in spiritual practices that develop an Australian spirituality that allows us to worship God in ways that fit the diverse, and in many ways unique, Australian environment
 2. We are reconciled to God, to each other, and we work for mutual respect and recognition between Aboriginal Australians and all other Australians
 3. We lead sustainable lives in God's incredibly complex and beautiful Creation that we respect, love, and care for.
 4. We respect, value, and learn from other Christian traditions and other faiths.
 5. We are generous in our dealings with everyone we meet by offering hospitality to friends and strangers alike and bringing healing through prayer and practical action.
- Acknowledge that living as disciples in these ways will contribute to the transformation of our lives, the lives of those we meet, and the wider social and cultural structures.
- Acknowledge also that these actions are prophetic like the actions of Jesus. They will often result in a challenge to an economic or political power structure at one level or another.
- Acknowledge that these actions may well lead to resistance against the message from other citizens, from community leaders, and from government. These actions may lead to suffering for Wellspring Community. Nevertheless, as a prophetic community, we must speak the good news of Jesus and hold citizens, community leaders, and government to account by reminding them of their God-given responsibilities.

4.6 UNITING SINGERS (2020 report)

During the period August to December 2019 Uniting Singers were active, performing concerts at various nursing homes to bring a very busy year to an end.

2020 started with the annual get-together in February followed by a period of rehearsals putting the year's musical program together, and obtaining a full set of bookings for 2020. However on 22 March was their final meeting, at present, as they closed down waiting for a covid-19 phase in WA that will enable choirs to sing once more and perform at Nursing Homes and other gatherings. Rehearsals have been held at Floreat All Saints Uniting Church, to whom Uniting Singers are extremely grateful for the use of the All Saints premises.

For more information about Uniting Singers please contact Phyllis Jarvis on 9364 5271.

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