

Baptcare About



Winter 2015

Golf Day | Celebrating 5 years of Gateway | Baptcare Week in The Churches

baptcare.org.au

Message from the Chief Executive



Baptcare recently celebrated five years of providing the Gateway Services which we deliver with Mission Australia and our Alliance Partners for the Tasmanian Government. Gateway provides a visible entry, assessment and referral point for vulnerable children, young people, people living with disability and families.

Since coming into operation Gateway Services have provided support for more than 11,400 vulnerable families or people living with disability, responded to over 54,000 calls for assistance or information, assisted over 600 families facing homelessness and over 4,000 parents have received support in improving their parenting skills.

Behind these statistics lie stories of the support our staff provide, and its impact on people's lives. You can read Barry's story on page 7 to see the difference our tailored and compassionate care can make.

In this issue I'm pleased to unveil About's new look. It's an example of our fresh and vibrant new brand that's rolling out across our organisation.

Our former branding was created ten years ago. Since then the range and complexity of our services have expanded significantly with us now providing over seventy services to address need in our community. Our new look is the successful culmination of twelve months of strategic work, including extensive research with potential customers and staff to define who is Baptcare and what we stand for, from our customers' point of view.

The new logo and visual identity you see here in this issue of About clearly differentiates Baptcare and provides a fresh, modern and competitive positioning for the brand – in a way that's true to our heritage and Baptist DNA.

In light of recent National Volunteer Day celebrations I'd like to take this opportunity to once again say thank-you to the hundreds of volunteers who work with us across different services in Tasmania and Victoria. Your time, skills, hard work and passion are so important to those we work with and to our organisation.

Graham Dangerfield
Chief Executive

Baptcare's Mission

Excellence in Christian care for individuals, families and the community.

Baptcare's Vision

Caring communities for all.

Baptcare's Values

Respect: We value the inherent dignity and equality of all people, regardless of their circumstances.

Justice: We value equality of opportunity and consistency of outcome for all.

Commitment: We value dedication to meeting the challenges of our mission.

Integrity: We value consistency between word and deed.

Accountability: We value the acceptance of personal responsibility.

Co-operation: We value working together toward our goals.

Baptcare is a not-for-profit faith-based community service organisation

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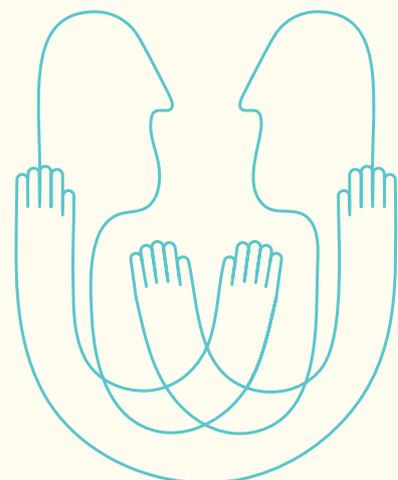
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Supporters step up to the tee



The 2015 Bapcare and CHT Architects Charity Golf Day held in May raised a record breaking \$73,000. This money will help to fund Bapcare Sanctuary which provides transitional supported accommodation to asylum seekers.

“This equates to covering 2,700 nights of accommodation for asylum seekers who would otherwise be homeless and destitute,” noted Bapcare Chairman Philip Curtis on the day.

After an initially crisp start to the day, 93 players from 30 organisations enjoyed near perfect conditions at the picturesque Heritage Golf and Country Club.

Twenty groups battled out a fiercely contested Ambrose competition, with the winning players from Smith and Tracey Architects achieving a noteworthy 23 nett under par.

Winners on the day also included the pro shop which did a brisk trade in golf balls due to the course’s stunning but brutal water hazards. One Bapcare General Manager purchased nine new Calloway balls to stay in the game – an unofficial Golf Day record. Other more conventional awards included nearest to the pin, longest drive and straightest drive, as well as a putting competition for the short game specialists.

We thank all involved, in particular the day’s sponsors for making this event so successful and enjoyable.

Hope and support for asylum seekers

Representatives from some of Melbourne’s most prominent Trusts and Foundations gathered at Bapcare’s Camberwell office in May to learn about our work.

Chief Executive Graham Dangerfield described the work of the Bapcare Sanctuary program to guests from the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation, The Myer Foundation, Gandel Philanthropy, The RE Ross Trust, Beverly Jackson Foundation and other organisations.

Established in 2008, the program provides supported accommodation for asylum seekers who are homeless or at risk of homelessness while awaiting an outcome of their visa applications.

Former resident Kashif explained to those gathered the difficulty he experienced trying to navigate the complex process of seeking a protection visa while dealing with the overwhelming day-to-day struggles of homelessness.

Bapcare is the largest provider of transitional housing to asylum seekers in Victoria and has seen a 400% increase in need over the last two years. Bapcare Sanctuary does not receive any government funding and requires support to address this critical need.

To support the program please contact Andrew in Fundraising on 03 9831 7203.

Love and marriage at Templestowe Orchards

Our kids were both saying “why don’t you just get married?”



At age 92 and 89, Leila and Stuart Fraser were not expecting to fall in love and get married at this stage of their lives.

The couple married at Mooroolbark Baptist Church on 14 February this year. The ceremony was conducted by Baptcare Chaplain and long-time friend of Leila, Geoff Ryall. Choosing the February Valentines’ Day date for their wedding was not planned – it was a happy accident, just like their first meeting.

The couple met at morning tea Baptcare Templestowe Orchards Community. Stuart had been living in the retirement community for 11 years. Leila had just moved into a new unit, after she had experienced a fall in her previous home.

“The first day I came here Stuart spoke to me. And we just started walking together and talking together,” says Leila of their instant connection.

Hoping to avoid some of the scrutiny that all developing romances can attract, the couple tried to keep a low profile at the start. “Stuart would ring me and say ‘meet me up at the point’. Then we’d pretend to bump into each other and say ... ‘oh hello there.’”

Leila’s and Stuart’s families both encouraged them to make the trip down the aisle. Leila laughs, “Our kids were both saying ‘Why don’t you just get married?’”

Nearly every one of the couple’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren flocked from around the world and across Australia to attend. Seventy-two guests attended including family travelling from America, Thailand, Singapore, France, Darwin, and Broome.

The couple share a lively and comfortable bond. Stuart gently teases Leila that he is winning in the great-grandchildren stakes with a score of 11 to seven. He also notes drily that Leila is the older woman at age 92. After some careful negotiation they have managed to sort out how to reduce two units of furniture and possessions into one.

The two share a deep interest in the Scriptures, a life-long focus for Leila. Since meeting, Stuart has become a Christian and is soon going to be Baptised – a chance for another party with their families.

“We believe that God bought us together”, says Leila, and Stuart agrees smiling.

‘Sanctuary saved my life.’ Abdul, asylum seeker

Urgent appeal

Can you help provide food, a warm bed and medical care, to a vulnerable asylum seeker?

This Winter we are asking our community of friends and supporters to donate to the crucial work of Baptcare Sanctuary.

This program provides supported accommodation for asylum seekers who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. They are not entitled to work and can not access vital services or income support while they wait for the outcome of their visa applications. The program does not receive any government funding at all.

Donate online today before 30 June at baptcare.org.au



Contemplation Corner

Responding to the frontier of God’s ‘beyond’

Life is a constant pull of our focus and energies. It’s easy to do what we always do and not be too bothered. Yet, there’s a part of each of us that wants to go beyond the accepted, the norm and the secure. Buzz Light Year in Toy Story epitomises this desire ... ‘To infinity and beyond’.

There is a place for setting our eyes and hearts to live in the beyond, and for Christians this means the more that God has for us. God creates within us a ‘Holy Discontent’ for the predictable. It’s like trying to find that little stone in our shoe that annoys us so much we are motivated to find relief and satisfaction. It becomes an itch that needs to be scratched!

As Christians, we are called to go beyond being nice. Jesus calls us to radical love, agape love that makes people sit up and pay attention. This is what the world around us is longing to hear and see – people who really care, people who really listen, people who genuinely want to help, people who get their hands dirty expecting nothing in return.

What’s the pebble in your shoe this winter?

John McLerie, Baptcare Chaplain Team Leader

Give thanks for:

- Five years of effective ministry as part of Gateway Services that provide support to vulnerable children, young people, people living with disability and families in Victoria and Tasmania.
- The hundreds of volunteers with Baptcare who sacrificially give to others in need of help and support.

Pray for:

- The success of Baptcare week Aug 23-30 where all Baptist churches are encouraged to pray, act and give.
- Ongoing financial and spiritual support for Sanctuary, especially the success of the Baptcare Sanctuary Appeal.



BaptcareWeek

...because they are our neighbours

Pray. Act. Give.

23 – 30 August 2015



As part of our 70 year celebrations we are inviting Baptist churches to be part of Baptcare Week in the Churches and share more deeply in our story.

Seventy years ago, Victorian Baptists began an ambitious project to house older people on a farm property in Melbourne's north. Today, Baptcare walks alongside thousands of people in communities across Tasmania and Victoria.

We are inviting all Baptist churches to pray, to celebrate, and to join with us in Baptcare Week and beyond. Our new prayer list will be launched; and we are offering a short DVD and visiting Baptcare staff member to every Baptist church in Tasmania and Victoria to share some of our story.

For more information, please contact Deb Christie in Baptcare Mission Development: 03 9831 7336 or mission@baptcare.org.au

Baptcare and Baptist churches work together to respond to need in local communities, helping to address poverty, disadvantage and social isolation on the ground.



A Baptcare Community Grant helped the Bacchus Marsh Baptist Church to redevelop their busy courtyard. It's now an attractive and welcoming space that enhances the popular community programs including the Grandparents Playgroup, Op Shop and Community Gardens.

The project was made possible by the dedication and enthusiasm of a team of volunteers. Senior Pastor, Jeremy Van Langenberg, commented, "We're excited that years of persistence of reaching out to our community is reaping rewards...happier, better connected people, safer children and a grateful church community because of the input, sacrifice and financial generosity of others."

For more information contact David Barker, Baptcare Community Engagement Coordinator on 03 9831 7269



Gateway celebrates 5 years

Baptcare together with Mission Australia provides a visible entry, assessment and referral point for vulnerable children, young people, people living with disability and families in Tasmania. In April Gateway celebrated five years of service.

The anniversary was marked by the launch of a commemorative book, launched by the Minister for Human Services Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP. The book *Together We Achieve* features stories of families who have accessed the service, highlighting the strength and success of the program.

What support means to Barry



Barry always had a clear idea of what he wanted from married life. "If you can try as much as possible to live a normal life, to keep a regular routine, it's how I have always operated here."

When Barry married Maree in 1985, he did so with the full knowledge of the condition that would require him to increasingly care for her. Maree has lived with the increasingly debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis for the past 30 years.

So when case manager Amber helped access funding to allow a weekend trip away to Launceston from his Hobart home, it was another small step along that road to maintaining a normal lifestyle.

The disability funding allowed full time care for Maria while Barry visited some old stomping grounds and went out to the pub for a meal with old friends. Barry has waited 10 years for the short break from his life as a full time carer. Of course the road has not always been an easy one, not because of Maree's multiple sclerosis, but because accessing the right services at the right time has not always been forthcoming.

"When I married Maree she was in a wheelchair with MS, I knew what I had to deal with", Barry says at the kitchen table of the Glenorchy home that they share.

Having worked for 17 years as an orderly at the Royal Hobart Hospital, Barry had some idea of the services available, but experienced a lot of 'knocking on doors' to try and access them.

But a lot of that has changed since 2010 as the variety and level of support began to increase to match their specific needs.

Barry proudly shows off his garden flowers as he describes the pleasure Maree gets from sitting in the sun on their balcony looking at the colours. They are now assisted by a team of support staff through a package put in place by Gateway.

"The ones we've got, who rotate in and out, I cannot speak highly enough of them." It is important for Barry and Maree to have their own home to ensure the privacy, security and comfort that goes with maintaining a normal married life.

Since becoming part of their lives, Amber has assisted with one-off and ongoing funding applications, appropriate care assistance, referrals and that all important friendly face.

"Working with Barry, I have made another referral for respite care that has resulted in funding that will allow another well deserved holiday." This time it's off to Melbourne for a weekend, something Barry could not have contemplated if he did not feel confident that his wife's needs were being met.

Barry knows that his thirty-year marriage to Maree has been a journey of challenges and change for both of them, but he has the quiet determination to continue doing things his way, with a little support from an understanding team.

"I wouldn't change a thing – I've got everything I want right here."

This story is an excerpt from *Together We Achieve*. To view the full book online visit: issuu.com/missionaustralia/docs/together_we_achieve_-_celebrating_5

Government announces \$7.25 million funding for Norlane project



On Wednesday 14 May Baptcare was successfully selected by Government in Round One of the National Stronger Regions Fund Allocations. Government will contribute \$7.25 million towards Baptcare's \$40 million Norlane Project.

The funding announcement is a tremendous outcome that will help the project become a reality. In developing the Robin Avenue site, Baptcare is responding to community needs for affordable housing, social housing, aged care and employment generation.

Project plans have developed through extensive community consultation and support from passionate local individuals and groups. It includes a 90 bed residential aged care facility, 52 affordable housing units and a Community hub and well-being centre.

The development will welcome and support residents, their family members and local groups to strengthen existing community ties and services. The Community Hub will provide a single point for services for people with disabilities and others in the community and will include a café, men's shed, communal kitchen and three multi-purpose rooms.

Baptcare is extremely grateful to the many extraordinary groups and individuals who have supported the initiative and is looking forward to working in partnership on this transformative project.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the project subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter. Email us at communications@baptcare.org.au

Strathalan display villa open for visitors



In May, Baptcare officially opened the retirement villa display suite at the Strathalan Community in Macleod. Exclusive viewings of the villa took place for existing residents as well as those who have purchased a villa or registered their interest.

If you are starting to think about your retirement living options we invite you to visit the display suite and learn more about the exciting new facilities in this vibrant community.

For further information please visit: baptcareliving.com.au or call 03 8458 2201