
*After many years of service to Churches of Christ in SA & NT, **Barry Grear AO** led the devotions at the State Board meeting on October 5th, which leads to Barry's retirement from the Board at Convention 2018.*

Tonight brings another chapter in my life to a close. I've had 65 years of enjoyable times in my Christian walk which hasn't ended yet. And I've met so many people who have added to the richness of experiences which are changing me. To be honest, most of these experiences have been joyful but others a little less.

I have had the privilege of being the chairman of Churches of Christ bodies such as, National Conference, SA State Conference twice, Home Missions and three local church boards.

The 15 years as chair of Overseas Mission gave me the opportunity to visit the work in Vanuatu, Fiji, and India where a storekeeper dragged me into his shop for a photo and said "I don't know who you are but you must be important". I saw firsthand the work of Indigenous Ministries both through my Christian involvement and through TAFE

Then engineering has provided the opportunity to share my faith to engineers from around 100 countries as the World President of the Federation of Engineering Organisations.

The writer of Ecclesiastes was puzzled over some of the things that happen in this life here on earth and I'm sure he would be just as

puzzled if he was writing today.

He even implied that God may be the one to blame for these burdensome things.

But what is the solution to all this meaninglessness?

A clue comes in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 Verses 11 - 13. He has set the right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does. So I realized that all we can do is to be happy and to do the best we can while we are still alive. All of us should eat and drink and enjoy what we have worked for. It is God's gift.

So, like Ecclesiastes Ch 3 Verses 1—8, everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.

So tonight it is time for me to hand over to the many people who will continue working for Him.

Barry J Grear AO



Convention 2018

Moving on in.... Faith Hope Love

November 14: *Western Communities Church of Christ—Flinders Park*
CareWorks Celebration and AGM - 6.45pm

November 15: *Tabor College*
GR Stirling Lecture - 7pm

November 16: *All events at Elizabeth Church of Christ*
Ministers' Development Day 9.30am—4.30pm. Cost: \$50 inc. catering
Ministers, Spouses & Families Dinner - 5.30 pm.
Cost: \$15/adult, \$10/child

Celebration Night - 7.30pm
*Please note that the Installation of our new President,
Grant Spangenberg, will also be held at this event.*

November 17: *Aldgate Church of Christ*
A day of reflection, prayer, discussion, connecting, reviewing, and the
AGM.
*(Please note that a pre-paid registration fee of \$15, to cover catering costs for the
day, is required.)*

Call to Pray....You are invited to join with people
across our churches in praying for one another. This
month we pray together for:

*Northern Communities of Hope; One Church-Keith,
Owen Community Church; Pt Lincoln; Salisbury East;
Seaford Uniting & C of C Combined.*

Morialta Charitable Trust Fund has been
supporting disadvantaged Children, Young People and
their families in South Australia through its annual
program of Distributions for 40 years.
To enable the Fund to continue this support through
Community Organisations in South Australia Morialta
Charitable Trust Fund seeks donations from the public.
Donations of \$2- and above are Tax Deductible and can
be forwarded to the Morialta Charitable Trust Fund at
PO Box 92, Crafers SA 5152.

Retiring State Board Members

We offer our deep thanks to **Doug Walladge**,
Janet Mugford and **Barry Grear** as they
complete their term of office on State Board at
Convention, and retire. They have all served
with commitment and a strong desire to work
for the health of the Conference of Churches of
Christ and to glorify God.

May God richly bless them all.

Great Gifts, Real Impact!

The new **Global Mission Partners** (GMP) Great Gifts Catalogue has launched for 2018! We would love if you could please promote this in your newsletters, social media and networks. Your generous support of GMP Great Gifts catalogue is vital in fighting poverty, building local Christian communities and standing with Australia's first peoples. You can buy a Cow to improve livelihoods in Bangladesh, or New Tyres for a motorbike evangelist in Zimbabwe, or Leadership Textbooks for an Indigenous leader here in Australia. Every gift you donate, invests in local solutions that will make a real

impact, changing people's lives and providing them with a better future. It's people like you whose generosity enables the ongoing work of GMP partners. Working together is what empowers our projects to have real impact. Buy a Great Gift today! www.greatgifts.org.au

We also have some great resources that you can download from the Great Gifts website including PowerPoint Slides, video clips, posters, flyers and ideas on how to run a Great Gifts Stall. For further information contact the GMP Office on 8352 3466 or info@gmp.org.au



reo relaunched!

Adventurous explorations in life and faith

We are pleased to announce the relaunch of Stirling Theological College's journal of ministry and theology, **reo**, as an online publication.

reo online will include several batches of content released per year. As a subscriber, you will receive an update whenever a new batch goes live.

Batch 1: 2018 *Cross-pollination* is now available online at reojournal.com with articles from current student and minister at Thornbury Church of Christ, Sue Maric, Dr. Hery Susanto (Churches of Christ

Indonesia) and Stirling tutor Karen Yunia, plus Dr. Andrew Menzies and Dr. Sam Curkpatrick.

One of our new priorities in editing reo is to include material from different states and Churches of Christ overseas. We want reo to become a relevant and interesting journal, providing individuals and leaders within the Churches of Christ movement space for theological reflection on contemporary issues.

If you would like to receive 3-4 editions per year via email, please sign up on the website, www.reojournal.com



Page 13: A selection

Gordon Stirling's contribution to Churches of Christ in the 20th and early 21st centuries remains strikingly contemporary.

Here, for the first time, a taster of Gordon Stirling's "Page 13" articles (published on 13th page of the National Churches of Christ journal, "the Australian Christian") are made newly and readily available for Churches of Christ communities and beyond long after their initial publication in 1979-1987. G R Stirling's insights remain apt for our time and context.

This collection represents a selection from almost 200 Page 13 articles.

Copies of this booklet are available from Churches of Christ State Office for \$5.50 (plus \$3 postage)

Please contact the State Office for your copy.

8443 7573 or reception@churchesofchrist-sa.org.au



149th Church Anniversary

Strathalbyn Church of Christ
Sunday 4th November
10.30am worship
Lunch to follow
Speaker: Scott Combridge



Date claimer for 2019

150th Anniversary of Strathalbyn
Church of Christ
Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd
November

CareWorks Christmas Appeal

Each Christmas CareWorks invites our Churches to prayerfully consider supporting the Christmas Hamper project. These hampers will be distributed to people experiencing Financial Hardship and/or Domestic Violence.

Last year, CareWorks distributed 300 hampers and thousands of gifts. This is made possible by the generosity of our people and, with your support, we can once again express love and compassion to others who do not have the resources many of us do. These gifts are so gratefully received.

More details will be available in the Summer CWConnect newsletter, but in the meantime, you can donate at www.givenow.com.au/careworkssa/

Perhaps your Church could be planning to have a tree or a box in the foyer to receive gifts of toys for children.



Change of Service Time

Please note that the **Brooklyn Park Church of Christ** service time has changed to 10am (from 10.30).

**MAGILL CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMUNITY
FAIR**

10AM UNTIL 3PM

Saturday 3 November 2018
Magill Church of Christ
61 St Bernards Road Magill

Devonshire tea • Korean food • Sausage sizzle • Cakes and slices
Jams and preserves • Pre loved clothing and books Jewellery
Crafts and gifts • face painting.

Entertainment by **One50 Dance, Sing Australia,**
Korean Song n Dance Troupe and Chicago Band.

Disability parking available on site.

www.magillcoc.org.au • phone 8332 6044

Compassion and Communities

**Wednesday November 21,
12.30 pm**



Join in as we discuss a talk given by Hugh Mackay at the 2018 'Communities in Control' Conference.

Hugh Mackay calls for a renewed commitment to equality in all its forms. He believes the health of the nation depends on the health of our local neighbourhoods and communities, and he suggests we need to add compassion to the national conversation about Australia's future.

Venue: The CareWorks Studio
114 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville
BYO lunch



CareWorks SA

Celebration and AGM

**Wednesday November 14
at 6.45** with a cuppa

followed by the CareWorks Celebration. Plan to come along and catch a glimpse of the CareWorks vision.

Special Guest: Michael Edgecombe

Venue: Western Communities Flinders Park
Cnr Franklin and Drake Avenues