

# SHARE SNAPSHOTS

AUTUMN 2009



## Christmas Gift Appeal right on TARGET

**T**he staff, management and customers of one of Australia's leading department stores, Target Australia donated more than 100,000 gifts to the 2008 UnitingCare Christmas Gift Appeal. In its 17th year, Target Australia and UnitingCare once again worked together to collect and distribute Christmas gifts across Australia. Since the Appeal's inception, this wonderful partnership has resulted in more than 1.5 million children, teenagers and others in need receiving an unexpected present on

Christmas morning. Launched on 10 November with a televised 'Santa Race' up Bourke Street in Melbourne, the Appeal – funded by Target Australia – ran at 277 Target stores across Australia. A network of 1,500 volunteers from UnitingCare agencies and Uniting Church congregations across Australia ensured the gifts were given to local people finding times tough. Director of UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, Raoul Spackman-Williams, said that the current financial

crisis put enormous emotional and financial pressure on those already doing it tough in the lead up to Christmas. "We heard reports of parents who had unexpectedly lost their jobs feeling embarrassed about being unable to provide for their families at Christmas for the first time. "The generosity of Australians in donating gifts and gift vouchers at Target stores, helped us ensure that children in need didn't miss out on the joy of opening a Christmas gift," said Mr Spackman-Williams.

# UNITINGCARE PANCAKE DAY

## SERIOUS FUN!

Melbourne's new Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle flipped the first pancake to officially launch UnitingCare Pancake Day. The opening of this long-running annual UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania event took place in Melbourne's city square on Tuesday, 3 February. Members of Victoria's Emergency Services joined the laughter and fun of the Pancake Flipping Relay Race; all competing for the golden frying pan trophy. Director of Appeals, David Hickey said "hundreds of pancakes were cooked, topped and sold to families, to busy city workers, and to tourists."

Patron of UnitingCare Pancake Day, celebrity chef Gabriel Gaté, was again a focus of attention in the city square. He prepared a 'perfect French crepe', which Lord Mayor Robert Doyle was more than happy to taste test. "This fun event run right across Australia highlights the serious message of important role UnitingCare plays in providing practical support to more than 1.8 million Australians a year," Mr Hickey said. More than 650 events were held just around Victoria and Tasmania throughout the month of February to raise funds for Australians doing it tough.

## WHY OUR CELEBRITIES SUPPORT UNITINGCARE PANCAKE DAY

Corinne is a country girl at heart. "Having grown up in the country, the work of UnitingCare in rural areas is what attracts me. They give a hand up, not a hand out."

Gabriel comes from a fortunate family which has caused him to feel like he owes it to people to give back. "UnitingCare's compassion and dignity differentiates them from other charities."



Lord Mayor Robert Doyle and Comedienne Corinne Grant at Melbourne City Square

## Geelong UnitingCare Education Assistance Program

A \$15,000 SHARE Community Appeal grant was given to UnitingCare Geelong's Education Assistance Program.

This program assists low income families with students attending secondary school.

Families experiencing financial hardship are often not able to afford their children's schooling and associated expenses.

The Education Assistance program is designed to help these families and ensure their children's schooling is not

jeopardised. To donate to the Geelong Education Assistance Program freecall 1800 060 543

*Dear Lorraine,*

*Recently you forwarded a cheque to aid my daughter Rachel's Tasmanian school camp. I sincerely wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity. Without it I would have considerable financial difficulty in sending Rachel to Tassie. I am a single Mum working part time.*

*My children's father has dropped his job and began studying in order to avoid paying the mortgage and child support. I was fortunate enough to have a couple of friends who have hired me to house clean so I can raise the money to send Rachel. Unfortunately my other daughter Katherine missed out altogether on this trip.*

*Both my girls have been conscientious with their school work all the way through the divorce settlements and are doing very well. I am so appreciative of Rachel being able to go because being away from Mum with her friends and teachers will help Rachel to establish healthy relationships and increase her self-esteem which she needs.*

*Thank you so much Lorraine in helping to give Rachel a firm school foundation and happy school memories.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Marie.*

*Thank you to our donors for helping  
SHARE support this vital program.*

## Good from Disaster



A SHARE funded book commemorating the great Victorian Alpine fires of 2006-07 has helped raise \$35,000 in donations for the Mansfield CFA, SES and Red Cross.

The money, presented during a Australia Day ceremony in Mansfield on 26 January, ironically came just in time to help the emergency service groups battle the recent devastating bushfires.

The idea behind the book, *Wildfire in the High Country*, was to record the stories, photographs, poems and thoughts of those who had lived through the traumatic fires that ravaged Victoria's high country communities just over two years ago.

With seed funding from the SHARE Community Appeal's Disaster Relief Fund, the Mansfield Writer's Group produced the book, with proceeds from sales being donated to local emergency services.

Director of the SHARE Appeal, David Hickey, says that the SHARE funding not only assisted in getting the concept of the book off the ground, but also helped address the emotional impacts of the fires in a tangible way. "As an added benefit, the seed funding we provided was multiplied by book sales into much needed funds for local emergency services," said Mr Hickey.

Copies of *Wildfire in the High Country* are still available through outlets in Mansfield, or contact the SHARE Community Appeal on (03) 9251 5251.

# ENGAGING KIDS, ENGAGING SCHOOLS

## UNITING THROUGH FAITH TOUR

**S**elamat datang! With these words of welcome, fourteen Indonesian religious and community leaders arrived in Australia on 26th February.

The delegates, selected for their experience in interfaith engagement in Christian and Muslim communities in Indonesia, spent the next 22 days travelling alongside Australian delegates as part of the Uniting Church, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania's "Uniting through Faith" tour.

Rev David Pargeter, Executive Director said the purpose of the Uniting through Faith project was to strengthen ties between Indonesians and Australians and to educate Christians and Muslims about each others' faiths and practices.

"The idea behind this project is the belief that through knowledge comes understanding, and only once there is understanding, can there be peace," Mr Pargeter said.

Tour highlights included receptions by the Governor of Victoria, the Indonesian Consul General, a number of Mayors and the General Secretary and Moderator of Synod of Victoria and Tasmania.

Feedback from the Indonesian par-

ticipants was extraordinary. We felt strong ties of friendship as the group flew home very, very, tired, with hundreds of photos and thousands of memories with a greater understanding of Australia.

One of the participants, Mudjibah, said "as a Muslim, I am amazed and humbled by the warmth of my welcome here into Christian families. Everywhere we go, people have prepared special Halal food for us, and prepared prayer spaces for us. This makes us feel very loved."

Another participant, Pradjarta, said "I hope that this is the beginning of a long and close relationship between the Uniting Church and the SOBAT Interfaith Forum."

Thanks to the Victorian Multicultural Commission Harmony Grant, the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, a wide number of schools, universities, congregations, individual donors and the SHARE Community Appeal for their support and funding.

More than 4000 people warmly participated in events held during the tour.

Donations for future activities are welcome on Free Call 1800 668 426

## Rohan Spackman-Williams

BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

APPRENTICESHIP

**M**oreland Senior High student Rohan Spackman-Williams has recently become a regular member of the SHARE team each Wednesday.



At only sixteen, he is undertaking a Business Administration Apprenticeship - organised by the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Rohan works on a variety of projects including UnitingCare Pancake Day and the Target Christmas Gift Appeal.

His apprenticeship takes place over one year. Upon completion, he will receive a Certificate 2 in Business and Administration. As part of his apprenticeship, he is visited by a teacher from Kangan Batman TAFE once a month, who teaches him about business administration. Rohan said that his time in the SHARE office has been "good and fun.... everyone is really nice."

He said that he was "alright" at using Excel when he first began his apprenticeship, but he is "getting better."

Rohan is currently learning about what needs to be done to keep an office running smoothly during a Bushfire Disaster Appeal.



Interfaith canoeing at Merricks UCA camp site

# Homeless and their Companion Animals project



Rev Barbara Allen works with a client

“ People have said, isn't it worse when a human dies? But that really depends on the role of the animal in someone's life. It can be their only family. I'm an advocate for those with no voice and for the clients who perhaps have no-one to help them through it ”

— Rev Barbara Allen  
Chaplain, Lort Smith Hospital

The Lort Smith Animal Hospital provides quality care for lost, abandoned, mistreated, sick and injured animals. It was established by Mrs Lort-Smith in the 1930's to provide care for animals of people with limited means. Ten thousand dollars was donated to the hospital in the form of a SHARE Community Appeal Grant in order to keep their 'Homeless and their Companion Animals' project running. This project provides vet care and emergency boarding for the companion animals of the homeless. It honours the important relationship between humans and animals, especially in times of hardship and loneliness.

Animals have access to basic vet care as well as emergency boarding at times when their owners cannot stay with their animal. Some of the time, the animal is their only companion. The Lort Smith Animal Hospital wants to ensure this relationship is nurtured and the well being for both parties is looked after. Working in partnership with agencies, The Lort Smith Animal Hospital endeavours to educate the public about the important connection between humans and animals. They aim to support the homeless and their companions during a time that is extremely difficult and lonely.

## FOOD SECURITY

### EMERGENCY RELIEF MAKES A DIFFERENCE...

UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania agencies provide emergency relief (ER) to people in thirteen municipalities across the four metropolitan regions in Melbourne, and ten regional and rural shires in Victoria. In Tasmania, they provide emergency relief in three of the most disadvantaged suburbs. ER often requires providing income support for people living below the poverty line. Preliminary data from UnitingCare's Emergency Relief Project shows that most ER providers are servicing an increasing number of people

seeking emergency relief for the first time. They service people experiencing social isolation, depression and loneliness, and drug and alcohol dependence. UnitingCare is distributing more assistance than it was three years ago. The amount of emergency relief distributed by the network of agencies has increased by approximately 50% (\$500,000) in the three years since 2005/06. In contrast, the percentage of the share of total money distributed by the UnitingCare network received from the Commonwealth

Emergency Relief Program decreased by 5.3% in the same period. Most UnitingCare emergency relief providers reported rationing funds to ensure as equitable distribution as possible in relation to need. In half of the agencies, 50-100% of the work done in ER is dependent on volunteers. SHARE Community Appeal Grants for Emergency Relief in 2008 totalled \$186,530 in direct distributions through community agencies.

### CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS – FRESH FOOD COMMUNITY MARKET PROJECT

The Church of All Nations Fresh Food Community Market is designed to assist the disadvantaged living in Carlton. The market takes place one day per week and offers nutritious and culturally sensitive food requested by the African community. A large percentage of those needing assistance are from the Horn of Africa. They now reside in the Carlton public housing estate and can't afford nor have access to cheap, culturally akin vegetables and fruit. \$15,000 was donated to the project by means of a SHARE Community Appeal grant to ensure those within the community are able to eat nutritiously and make food in line with their cultural heritage. The Church of All Nations in Carlton hopes to achieve a healthier and more social community. Most of those in need are isolated and are raising many children. They don't have the resources available to them to edu-

cate their children in healthy, culturally sensitive eating practices. The fresh food community market helps low income disadvantaged individuals connect and build relationships. By respecting different cultures and encouraging the development of these differences, individuals' lives are being transformed.



### SHARE COMMUNITY APPEAL GRANT APPLICATIONS 2009

Applications for SHARE Community Appeal Grants in 2009 have been received from across Victoria and Tasmania. This year, we have already received 45 applications, valued at a total of \$651,000. The most significant pressure on funds is in the area of emergency relief, food and shelter and education assistance to disadvantaged families. In view of the recent Victorian bush-fire disaster and the current economic climate, our efforts are also directed towards projects that provide on counselling and family support across Victoria and Tasmania. The SHARE Community Appeal would like to thank all our very generous donors and urge them to give generously to our Winter Appeal to help us fund as many urgent and desperately needed programs as possible.

# NOTICEBOARD

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR

SHARE is embarking on an exciting new project involving the sale of Christmas cards and requires a volunteer to assist with the coordination.

Located at 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, the role of Volunteer Merchandising Coordinator will be responsible for receiving orders for Christmas cards, coordinating the fulfilment of orders, supervising fulfilment volunteers, collating payments for receipting, monitoring stock and project evaluation.

It is envisaged that the role will involve 2- 3 days per week from late October until the third week in December.

To apply, please contact Pip Sorel, Donor Relations Manager, SHARE Community Appeal on 9251 5484 (Mon – Wed).

## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Amanda Sullivan on her recent wedding to Mark.

### FAREWELL ROSEMARY

Rosemary Wilcox retired in January after three years with SHARE. Rosemary worked in the fundraising industry for over thirty years and was a wonderful asset to the SHARE team with her vast knowledge of fundraising and the church. Rosemary will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best for the future.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO SHARE'S CASUAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the many casual staff that helped with Uniting-Care Pancake Day, the Target Christmas Gift Appeal and the Bushfire Disaster Appeal. Being a small team, it would be impossible to run our events and appeals without the help of casual staff and volunteers.

## WELCOME PIP AND LUCIAN!

Philipa Sorel and Lucian Danila have both joined the SHARE team; Pip as Donor Relations Manager and Lucian as Trusts Foundations and Grants Officer.

## ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE MELDRUM FAMILY

Staff member Mariska Meldrum is on maternity leave following the birth of her 2nd child.



*Thank you for welcoming  
our daughter  
Elliana Elizabeth Meldrum  
Born at 10:32am  
on 22nd January 2009  
10 lb 403 and 50cm long  
A beautiful gift from God*

# Yes, I would like to support the SHARE Community Appeal

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Rev), First Name ..... Surname .....

Address .....

P/Code ..... Phone ..... Email .....

Please accept my donation of \$ .....

I enclose my cheque/money order

Please debit my  MASTERCARD  VISA EXPIRY DATE ..... / .....

NUMBER

NAME ON CARD .....

SIGNATURE .....

# ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT

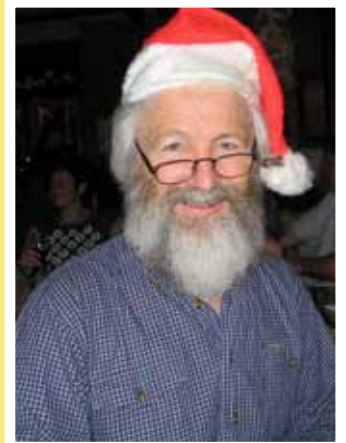
## GIFT VOUCHERS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Asylum Seekers Centre was established in 1997 to meet the needs of asylum seekers in metropolitan Melbourne. Over time the centre has grown and developed to meet the changing needs within the community. The centre now focuses on helping those in the South Eastern suburbs by providing material aid such as food, metcards and phone cards. \$10,000 was donated to the

Asylum Seeker Project by means of a SHARE Community Appeal grant. This grant enabled the centre to distribute supermarket vouchers to eligible clients within the community on a quarterly basis. Previously, the centre was only able to do this on special occasions. Many seeking residency are on a Bridging Visa E which permits them from working. Thus, they rely solely on the support of charities to help

them pay for their daily living expenses. This initiative by the Asylum Seeker Project met an urgent need within a community of people that had very little control. It provided them with material aid and assisted them in achieving some elements of dignity in their lives. To donate to the Asylum Seeker Project freecall 1800 060 543

## Jim's Big Shave



Mothers Day is going to be one to remember for June Milne, who hasn't seen her son, Jim, without a beard for nearly three decades.

Jim Milne, Manager of Budgets and Shared Services at the Uniting Church in Australia, confesses to not having shaved in nearly 30 years. Despite growing quite fond of resembling some of the wizard greats—Dumbledore, Merlin and Gandalf are characters he is regularly mistaken for – Jim is

finally giving in to his mother's endless pleas, and will lose the lot, for a good cause.

On Wednesday 6 May, Jim is giving people the opportunity to see the man behind the beard. The SHARE Appeal is supporting Jim in his efforts to make his Mum happy this Mothers Day by hosting 'Jim's Big Shave'. Jim's family and friends are being encouraged to sponsor his Shave with all funds going to the SHARE Appeal. Jim will only go totally fuzz-free if we raise \$10,000 for SHARE. If we

raise \$1,500 he'll clip his beard to a number 3; \$3,000 and his hair will also be clipped to a number 3; \$6,000 and he'll totally shave his beard, but only if we raise \$10,000 will he get rid of the lot.

To donate or sponsor Jim contact Amanda Sullivan on 03 9251 5252

Look out for photos of Jim's new look in the Spring edition of Snapshots.