



LIFEWORKS UNITING CHURCH 14th – 16th June 2024
615 Boundary Rd, Glenvale 4350

Bottle Tree Remote Area Ministry

Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the ecumenical unity in the area; may it also continue to grow so God can touch many more lives
- For more opportunities for creative ways to reach into the communities
- For volunteers to assist with times of rebuilding after fire, and times of building structures such as fencing where needed
- For many young lives to be touched by the celebrations at the unveiling of the mural at Wallumbilla State School
- For the safe delivery of Dona's Grandchild; and much recharging and refreshment for Dona

Report:

Congregational services: I continue to lead monthly (sometimes twice monthly) worship services with communion at Roma, Wallumbilla and Injune; quarterly at Arcadia Valley. Have visited the folk at Wandoan, but as yet this year have not led worship. I'm very grateful for lay leadership and support at most of these churches. Congregations are ecumenical – with folk from the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and sometimes Pentecostal traditions attending as well. It is an honour to lead worship services and be part of these congregations which have enabled connections with the community.

Funerals: This year I have led two funerals – of Christina Edmiston at St George UCA in March, that of Mrs Margaret Gloria White at "Injune Churches Together" in June.

Community Connections:

- **RCCC (Roma Combined Christian Churches)** is quite an active group where ministry leaders meet monthly and discuss the work of individual churches and plan combined services and activities. As Chairperson of this group, I lead meetings and help with activities. For Easter in the Country Celebrations, I facilitated the decoration of the float for the Easter Parade. It was great liaising with and getting to know members of other churches. On the day of the parade, A young peoples' ecumenical band played contemporary music on the back of the truck; "Life Church" helped create hundreds of paper flowers; the cross from Church of Christ stood in the centre; Mitre10 donated the bales of hay; community members chipped in with donations in a variety of ways. Roma Uniting paid for the printing of 500 postcards with church Service times

and words of Easter Blessing - all 500 were given out to the public during the parade. We were shocked and thrilled to win “Best Community Float” and were awarded \$1500 for RCCC.

- **Tara** – we continue to support some of the fire evacuees at Tara through visits and phone calls and distribution of gifts donated by groups in Brisbane. It was a pleasure to deliver quilts to the victims in Tara in February (beautifully hand made by the Craft/Quilt group of the Moggill and Karana Downs churches). They were received with astonished glee.
- **Wallumbilla** – In April/May of this year I was involved in the facilitation of a mural for the undercover area at Wallumbilla State School. The mural, measuring 1.8 X 9.6metres long, consists of drawings by 100+ school children. The designer and Artist-in-Residence, Mariangela Bonasia Lewis, is a friend of mine from Brisbane, and her unique gifting is to use the actual drawings of the children in a unified composition. Beneath the drawings is the aerial view of the catchment area, with the demarcation of each property lining Warrego Highway from East to West. Each child and most teachers participated in the painting of the mural. The unveiling will be later in the year. This was a great opportunity to offer chaplaincy in a school setting and I look forward to further engagement with the children and staff at Wallumbilla through classroom art activities.

Planned Volunteer projects in Tara and Maranoa through Frontier Services:

1. In November of this year, Frontier Services are calling for volunteers to help with clearing, painting and rebuilding 3 or 4 properties in Tara which were destroyed by fire in October 2023.
2. In September this year, volunteers from Frontier Services will be helping 4 different families in the Maranoa region (Surat, Wallum, Roma) with the clearing and cleaning of their houses and yards and helping with small structural works (eg fences).

Property Visits

- Have really enjoyed driving over back roads, visiting property owners, bearing gifts (donations from Zonta Group in Caloundra and others), leaving information about Frontier Services, and creating connections. Hope to drive many more of the roads throughout the year.

Uniting Care Agencies - Blue Care, FADS

- As Connect 100+ chaplain, I regularly visit and pastorally support Blue Care Staff , STANDBY (suicide support, funded by UnitingCare); and FADS (Family and Disability Services) staff in Roma and Injune, and join in activities which are held in the community (eg monthly BlueCare

Morning Melodies, and special events – eg promotional activities for agencies organized by the Qld Police in Injune).

- **Grief and Loss Course:** After having completed the Grief and Loss Facilitator training with Barb Betts (Blue Care) in Toowoomba in June, we are planning on offering the Grief and Loss eight week course in Roma throughout July and August , that will be co-facilitated with Riley Mole, from Roma BlueCare, and myself.

Reconciliation Week celebrations in Roma and Surat

HeadSpace Roma organized two events and invited service providers to promote and share on the two days. We joined in with the Frontier Services marquee which was also shared with Cass from STANDBY. It was great fun overseeing the creation of two paintings under the Frontier Services Tent and being with the other service providers. These paintings are being gifted to the Roma Police Station and to Headspace, Roma.

Presbytery Involvement

- I look forward to the formation and initiation of the Rural and Remote Committee which will prayerfully and practically support Bush Chaplaincy on the Downs Presbytery. It will be good to have a team with which to plan, discuss and reflect on the Bush chaplaincy Remote Area Ministry in the Bottle Tree.
- As part of PRC, I am committed to monthly meetings via zoom.

CEM Mission Coaching: Missional Hub – monthly meetings via zoom with Karina Kreminski in Sydney - a great coaching session which is engaging and visioning around mission. This has been organized by Connect 100+.

Self-Care: I continue to have sessions with my supervisor, and my Spiritual Advisor every second month and enjoy walking, swimming in the heated Roma Pool, and painting. I intend to take two weeks holiday to help my daughter after the birth of her second child, expected in mid August.

Recommendations:

1. That this report be accepted.

Report Submitted by:

Rev Dona Spencer

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If you have questions, please email before the meeting.