

JAN/ FEB 2019

*Mackay Street
Chaplaincy
Monthly
Newsletter*



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President Report for Street Chaplaincy 2018- 2019 ;

2018 began in great trepidation for me taking on the President role. It was a little different for all of us, to have the person looking after rosters and training, also in the role of the President, and more than once there has been the question of conflict of interest.

So, I feel I'd like to begin by clarifying once again, that this role is not as boss of an organisation. It is Not – "what I say goes". It never involves making a decision in isolation and without consultation with others. And now that you know what it is not, let me say what it is.... It is as the chairperson of a committee who represent **you, our members**.

Mackay Street Chaplaincy is ever evolving, yet within that evolution we want to keep true to the founding vision of outreach and care, in the model of the Good Samaritan. And this we have been doing so well.

I am very proud of our commitment to on-going learning, and very grateful to, and proud of our Chaplains who've embraced this learning and training provided by many amazing professionals who've given time and shared valuable knowledge.

Thank-you to all who have joined us this year. It is a great encouragement to us to have new members. We still aim for a commitment of being on shift once per month, but don't actually have the numbers such that each can keep to this minimum. Fortunately we all enjoy our street chaplaincy work so much that most are more than happy to do more than this.

I am also very grateful to the Queensland Government for our funding, and the fact that many of us are being paid for what we do. Within this however, is the challenge to keep an attitude of gratitude, where there could well be an attitude of entitlement. And I'm constantly reminded of the Bible verse that exhorts us to always work as if we are working for the Lord, who freely laid down his life for us and to whom we owe everything.

2018 began a little anxiously as far as funding was concerned, and this year will be similar as our contract runs out in June. Being aware of the predicament last year meant that the committee has been striving to be aware of the consequences of operating again as a complete volunteer organisation – we hope and trust that we won't need to worry about this, but we have tried to put things in place to at least secure the premise for a period, if the funding should cease.

We try to look forward to what the future of Street Chaplaincy will be, and following on from our human services framework audit, we aim to implement all things that lead to the organisation working in an efficient and exemplary manner.

The human services framework has been an encouragement to strive for the utmost professionalism, (as much as we can from an organisation of our kind, with its ever changing and evolving peculiarities), and along with our already existing training manual for trainees, a training manual

for team leaders was also formed. This included the logistics that the Team Leaders need to know and also some formation activities that we had done throughout the year. None of the current team leaders have that manual, but they have completed that training which is now tentatively formalised for the future.

The Safe Night Precinct committee has been particularly proactive this year and we have recently seen the addition of two roving security, a taxi marshal in Victoria street and a new radio that links us and the various venues, police and security personnel. And in noting this, I'm aware that our training manuals will need to be revised again to reflect these new aspects.

We continue to be an inclusive and embracing organisation and I'm proud of our community members who bring their wide variety of giftedness to our ministry. And I use the word ministry, because I believe that this is what Street Chaplaincy is; as we serve the community of Mackay in bringing the love of God – not so much with our words, but in our actions and all that we are.

Our weekly prayer meeting has been a source of strength and encouragement for me. And prayers have been answered. And more prayers are needed as will know 2019 will bring its own challenges and changes yet to be discovered.

I am ever grateful to our talented and faithful committee members, our members and our trainee provisional members. You all bring your special flavour to make the delicious liquorice allsorts which is Mackay Street Chaplaincy ...and it is you who enable us all to enjoy this adventure. I pray that we may ever delight in our differences, remaining colourful and never merge to be a dull shade of grey.

May the Lord Bless us and keep us all through this year.
Niki

STREET CHAPLAINCY 2019 COMMITTEE -
Niki Vella-Power – President, Rob Kerruish – Vice President, Steven Morgan – Secretary, Rose Bristow – Treasurer, Ann Dittmar-McCollim, Keith McCollim, Darryl Grant, Fran Killian.

ANN AND KEITH

Greetings to you all from the wet tropics, Innisfail, (not as wet as Townsville.)

From our local rag out today.. “ 20 year old, possession of a dangerous drug, Speeding, using a mobile phone while driving, other driving offenses.”

Driver intoxicated.... Thrashing about proves costly for drunk man... etc....

Not much difference up here to Mackay! But we will be outside that scene up here.

Arrived after 10 and ½ hours driving, due to a shredded trailer tyre not even as far as Proserpine.

Very hot, today has been a recovery day ready for starting in the parish tomorrow.(Thursday)

Many thanks for your confidence for electing us to committee for another year and we look forward to being on line and then returning to take up the challenge for the coming year. With our blessings to you all and keep safe.
Ann and Keith

Rob's Report:

I take pleasure in tendering my report for the past year of operations for Mackay Street Chaplaincy. We have made great progress in the processes and procedures of the organisation, many functions have been implemented to ensure the effective running of M.S.C. The committee have worked together extremely well and the compliance and accountability of M.S.C. has been a learning curve for all of us. Behind the scenes a great deal has been accomplished by all committee members and the membership of the organisation has grown along with the changes.

I have made inroads with community leaders and media organisations that recognise and accept that we are a great asset to the Mackay community. Attending Safe night Precinct meetings with publicans, licensees and members of Police and Emergency services has improved our standing and cemented our need in the Night Club Precinct and the community as a whole.

The role of Workplace Health and Safety has been a smooth one with membership actively adopting safe

work practices and changes to make not only Chaplains safer but also the public as a whole.

It has been my privilege to serve on the committee, to work with ease with other committee members and the Chaplains.

I wish the M.S.C. every success and blessings in future.,

Yours in Christ.

Robert Kerruish

MSC Vice President.



MEETING NOTICE!

Our March meeting will be 11th of March at 6:30pm. Varying from our usual first Monday of the month due to the availability of our

awesome guest presenter, Nigel Dalton, who trains us in the basics of all things drug and alcohol related. Please invite friends who you think may like to join Street Chaplaincy and this can go towards their mandatory training.

PLEASE pass this Newsletter on to your churches and people who you think might be interested.

ON the STREET...

A new radio

Most Chaplains would have now encountered our new radio which remains at the tent base. This radio is linked to the venue, security personal and patrolling police. Police have advised that if an incidence occurs still make 000 your first call, but at the same time the 2nd Chaplain can make the call over the radio in the hope that this will result in quicker action.

NEWS & INFORMATION

- **PRAYER:** Wednesday's at the Den. All are welcome to join this very short prayer meeting which goes from 11:30am – 12 midday.
- **Contemplative Meditation:** NEW ADVENTURE - 13th March at 5:30pm DEN (21 Wood Street). – See details over page...
- **Chaplain's Monthly Meeting:** March 11th at 6:30pm.
- **Chaplaincy T-Shirts** are available for \$15 at the Den in a pink box (ask your team leader).



MACKAY STREET CHAPLAINCY

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Contemplative Meditation.



Wednesdays

at 5:30pm

Mackay

Street chaplaincy

Den

(21 Wood Street)

ALL

are welcome

Begins

13/March/2019

Aim:

To provide a weekly CHRISTIAN service to the Mackay Community where participants are given the opportunity to deliberately contemplate, meditate and rest, through the vehicle of gently led reflections.

Why:

The busyness of contemporary life leaves little time for deep and authentic reflection and connection. We believe that the best way to achieve this and revitalise, is to connect with our Creator.

BYO Cushion or floor mat if you'd prefer the floor for relaxation. Chairs provided.