



Wycliffe Assist

Finding the Road Ahead *by Ross Killick*

It is rewarding being part of an organisation that is greater than ourselves. That is how we felt about the work with Wycliffe at the National Centre at Kangaroo Ground.



Form work before drains and hot mix

After retiring and spending some months travelling around Australia, we were looking to God for a way that we could contribute to mission work. While travelling we saw many retirees doing volunteer work in all sorts of places and were inspired to seek our own volunteer future. We knocked on many mission doors then saw an advertisement on the Wycliffe website and made enquiries. That was the beginning of a chain of events that led to a road upgrade project at the Wycliffe National Centre.

Drainage had been a problem for a long time, with water entering some buildings during heavy downpours. The loop road that starts at Gate 1 and finishes at Gate 3 was part gravel and part bitumen and in need of maintenance.

As a civil engineer of more than 40 years' experience I knew I could do the job, but

because we live in NSW, I had no contacts with contractors in an unfamiliar location. I prayed about this and went to council and eventually God led me to a man who was not only local but was familiar with the site having visited it as a child attending Kangaroo Ground Primary School.

I wrote up a scope for the project, did some drawings and checked out the skill set of the companies interested in the work before settling on the final choice. The contractors were a blessing to work with and the morning teas a blessing to those who were not Christian. In just four weeks new drainage pits were completed, concrete dish drains constructed and the road and top carpark were covered in hot-mix.

The road project was completed in November 2019, but that was not where we started our volunteer work with Wycliffe. We attended an orientation course in February 2019. Being part of the orientation course was a great eye opener to us. To learn how translations



Completed road and dish drain



Ross and Dianne Killick

are done was very rewarding and a blessing to be part of.

We stayed on for three months to not only plan the road project, but to help in any way we could in the period leading up to 'The Gathering', Wycliffe Australia's biennial conference. During this time we lived in our caravan on site and were greatly blessed by the people we met.

With a background in secretarial work and as a PA, Dianne slotted easily into the Personnel section where she helped with the personnel library, cataloguing and culling. She also updated the database and got involved in the roll out of the new software program 'Workday'.

Our experience showed us that it doesn't really matter what your skills are, God can use you.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2
Facelift for
Somerset House

Page 3
Spurring One Another On
Opportunities for 2020

Page 4
Never Too Old
A Ministry in Retirement



Editorial

by Max Sahl
CEO Wycliffe Australia

Hebrews 10:24 tells us to 'consider how we can spur one another on towards love and good deeds, ... and all the more as you see the day approaching.' We have all been created for good works and the Holy Spirit at work in each of us empowers and enables us to do these good works that God has ordained.

For the last 11 years Peter and Yvonne Gillespie have been encouraging others to come together and use the gifts that God has given them to bless others, and in doing so contribute to the great commission of taking His word to the ends of the earth. Wycliffe Australia would like to sincerely thank Peter and Yvonne for their leadership of our Wycliffe Assist program over this time and we continue to pray for God to raise up new leadership for this valuable ministry.

In this edition of Wycliffe Assist we want to again inspire you to use whatever talent God may have given you to serve him by blessing others. You will read about individuals who are volunteering as well as how a bunch of ordinary people came together to do an extraordinary makeover on a set of flats.

Why not create your own story for the next Wycliffe Assist newsletter?

Photos on cover page:

Stephen Brown, Peter Dedrick, Peter O'Loghlin, Dave Wake

Facelift for Somerset House by Yvonne Gillespie

The rising cost of accommodation in Australia makes getting away, whether for medical, emergency or recreational reasons, prohibitive for many missionaries. With that in mind in 2009, Wycliffe purchased a building in Kedron, with easy access to the airport, to support our missionaries in times of need. The house was large and had been divided into five flats that made it ideal for hosting families transiting through Brisbane or coming for medical needs or just needing a time of rest and recreation.

Here is what Sarah Carey said about her stay in *Somerset House*; 'The flats were such a good price and the hosts were so helpful, we were already impressed. Once we arrived, our three kids ran from room to room, exclaiming over the beautiful flat. I was very impressed with the well-stocked kitchen and clean, comfortable rooms and furniture. We loved the quiet neighbourhood, in walking distance to restaurants and a grocery store. It was just what we needed in the middle of our term — a quiet and comfortable place to get away as a family. Thank you so much for all your efforts and for providing the flats at such a reasonable price. We are truly grateful.'



Somerset House, Brisbane

Steve Christensen from the US expressed similar gratitude. 'I really appreciate coming into Brisbane and having a clean, functional, and homey place to relax and work while I transition from field to home. I also get to watch some Aussie Rules! Thank you for having such a place available to us.'

Over the last decade, the flats have been gradually upgraded with new kitchens in three of the flats and other maintenance being carried out on the building. Wycliffe Assist members living in the outer Brisbane area, Peter and Dianne Whitby, have faithfully been looking after aspects of the maintenance for years.



Trevor Ingamells using his plumbing skills

In October 2019 the largest work team to converge on Brisbane undertook the biggest overhaul to date. Seven of the men came from Victoria, some travelling in the Wycliffe bus from Kangaroo Ground. Two other couples were also part of the team for the two weeks. In addition to the full time workers, seven men from the Brisbane area came on a casual basis as time permitted.

The scope of the work was extensive. The team renovated a bathroom, painted the inside of one of the flats, ground back the balustrades and repainted them, replaced broken concrete, replaced broken clotheslines and installed new kitchen wall cupboards. They also replaced old galvanised plumbing with new copper pipes. The team also stripped back and repainted over twenty casement windows, peeling paintwork was restored with fresh paint and many other maintenance and repair projects were undertaken.

The team worked well together and enjoyed great fellowship. One of the tasks was to replace an old galvanised pipe with copper pipe. The pipe ran from the front to the back of the building between the ground floor ceiling and the first floor. The process created a lot of interest in the team, with opinions on whether it would come out cleanly, being divided.



Woody Baker laying pavers



Top to bottom, wall side: Peter Dunstan, Bev Baker, Brian Devenish, Greg Hogden, Klaas Kuipers, Woody Baker, Peter Dedrick, Yvonne Gillespie. Outside T-B: Tim Gillespie, Ewen Cummings, Peter O'Loughlin, Greg Newnham, Francis Armorgan, Stephen Brown, Dave Wake.

The only access was through a small manhole in the ceiling of a cupboard in the lounge room of flat 3, so most thought that the chances of success were slim. However, praise the Lord it slid right out and the new pipe went straight in.

There was a small hiccup in the electrical work as Wycliffe resident electrician (retired) Peter Dunstan injured himself the day before the bus was due to leave Kangaroo Ground. After surgery to remove a deep splinter Peter arrived on the job a week later, but stayed on another week after most of the work team left. Peter installed new ceiling fans, smoke alarms and sensor lights. He also upgraded the switchboard and installed the new electric stoves, replacing the old gas stoves, and changed many power points. He renewed old wiring with old electrical fittings consigned to the scrap heap.

It was not all hard labour, on the weekend the team enjoyed a trip in the Brisbane River Cat. Thank you everyone — a job well done!

If you are travelling through Brisbane and need a stay over, phone Bev Baker 0478 724 832.

Spurring One Another On

The most rewarding part of being on a work team is to see how my faith in God intersects with my daily activities. I love working with other people to get a task done and enjoy the community along the way.

I have been to all sorts of places I wouldn't normally go. I have met some inspiring people and I can use some of my skills to help further God's Kingdom.

It is good for my own faith to have the concentrated time away with other Christians and having the daily devotion times and being aware of God's provision.

Trevor Ingamells

Although a retired tradesman I have never directly used my craft to support Wycliffe. To join the rest of the team was quite a joyful eye opener for me. It was a great pleasure to work together to achieve a goal which will make other servants of the Lord more comfortable.

The way everybody applied themselves to the necessary tasks and without complaint under the quiet and effective leadership from David was great.

I was much encouraged by the whole experience and enjoyed David's devotions at morning tea time.

Roger Medland

Thanks to Wycliffe, and particularly David for the opportunity to be involved in the project; it gave me the chance to rub shoulders with some of the wonderful volunteers that I had met and worked alongside on a previous work team, and to meet other like-minded new friends.

I enjoyed being able to contribute in my own small way, but was really built-up spiritually by the fellowship and the testimony of our brother David Wake as he led the devotions each morning.

I look forward to the next time.

Greg Newnham

It was great to spend a couple of weeks working with the Wycliffe Assist team. The flats were old and worn, and the work team has given them a real facelift.

For me, it was great to get out and get some physical exercise in the company of like-minded Christians. The fellowship was heart-warming, both on the job and during the breaks.

The work was tiring but the sense of satisfaction as we saw the old place transformed was rewarding. Dave Wake was encouraging and blessed us each morning with his heart-felt devotions.

Peter O'Loughlin

2020 Work Teams at Kangaroo Ground, Victoria

There are some important jobs to be completed this year at our National Centre at Kangaroo Ground. Whether you have a trade, are a handy person or just have a willing spirit and enjoy the fellowship of working with other believers — we can use you and would love your help!

14-29 August

The Jessie Marke building (the old pre-school) is being converted into two meeting rooms to cater for the increased demand from smaller groups.

Cost: \$250 to cover food and accommodation while at KG.

5-23 October Caravan Work Team

This team will help renovate a couple of SILA houses involving an extension to one and kitchen and bathroom renovations to other houses. If you own or can borrow a caravan and want to join with others to work on this project, you are most welcome. It will be a combination of self-catering and combined meals.

Anytime

You may not be able to come on the dates alongside but would still love to help in the upkeep of the National Centre. You are welcome anytime. The caravan park on site is always available, and on-campus accommodation may be available. Cost will vary depending on accommodation availability. Self-catered.

For more information contact Dave Wake • 0439 347 990 • dave_wake@wycliffe.org.au

Never Too Old *by Janette Browning*

'I felt the presence of God was so powerful in the room, the hair on the back of my neck stood up.' That was the experience I had when I first read a Wycliffe brochure about literacy work.

At the time of that first encounter with Wycliffe, I had been an ESL teacher in NSW for over 20 years. My initial teaching was with primary children and infants, which gave me further understanding of literacy teaching.

I joined Wycliffe in 2001 and served as a literacy worker in the Republic of Guinea, West Africa. I spent an initial ten months in Guinea in 2002-2003 as a volunteer while I sought God's will. Later I worked for three terms from 2005. At that time, I taught the children of an Australian missionary family and continued to work alongside them as a literacy worker until they returned to Australia in 2010. I retired in 2015 after a period of poor health that brought me home. In February 2018, I returned to Guinea as a retired volunteer member



Janette Browning

of Wycliffe, to see how the work was progressing and encourage the believers to keep following Jesus in a very difficult faith context.

Currently I am teaching literacy and Bible in the local prison as I had done before, working with my former local colleague, teaching and encouraging believers and distributing Scriptures in the local

language among people who do not know the truth about Jesus.

I am so grateful to the Lord for allowing me to return as a volunteer to Guinea. I retired thinking I was now too old and weak and that God had finished with me there, but as my health improved, my heart's desire was again to return and help to further the gospel while I could.

Many times, the enemy will try to convince us that we are too old, too weak, lacking the necessary skills, etc. But if God has put it in your heart to go, even for a short term, he will enable you and make you a blessing, in your weakness.

Jesus said: 'The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.' The harvest depends on a willingness to go. There is a need for labourers of all kinds and the gospel impacts lives when we respond. 'Don't waste your life,' by John Piper helped to put the wind in my sails, it may help to shine his light on your path.

A Ministry in Retirement *by Yvonne Gillespie*

'It is like doing a jigsaw puzzle, some pieces have to be solved before going on to other parts.' That is what Pamela Brooker says about working on the IT problem that has plagued Wycliffe National Centre over recent months.

Pamela was first introduced to Wycliffe while still at school. She was part of a youth group that came to Kangaroo Ground to help make mud bricks for the construction of the centre in the 70's. From then on she has maintained her interest in Bible translation through contact with members and via a prayer group focused on a small community in Africa who desire to have the Scripture in their own language.

Although Pamela's undergraduate studies were in the field of Chemistry she followed that up with a Graduate Diploma in Computer Science and has worked in that area ever since. While at university Pamela was part of the Overseas Christian Fellowship which fostered her interest in serving in the field of missions.



Pamela Brooker

She took time off from paid employment to raise three children and then returned to the workforce. In 2019 Pamela retired because of her husband's ill health and when that was resolved she wanted to volunteer with Wycliffe, not thinking that they would need an IT person, but willing to do any job that was needed.

'Pamela came along when she heard that we were desperate for help. We were trying to cope with a change

of computer programs, which had to happen because of new government requirements. Pamela is working on new finance reports, for our members and for the finance office. Her skills and experience make her ideal for this task and we are very grateful that she has committed herself to it,' says Harley Beck, Chief Financial Officer at Wycliffe.

'I do enjoy the work,' says Pamela. 'When it comes to five o'clock I don't want to go home I just want to finish what I am doing. There is a lot of personal reward in solving a problem that contributes to achieving the final goal. The other rewarding thing about working at Wycliffe is not having to be subtle about my faith, I can talk openly about it and we pray together.'

'As I reflect on my time with Wycliffe so far, I see that almost any skill can be used in the work of mission and I say to others; "If you can do it – DO IT!"'



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