



Chairman - Graham Barron



It is once again that time of year when we look back and reflect on the past twelve months and at the same time prepare for the Festive Season! On Sunday, 27 November, we celebrated the start of the season at the Toowoomba Hospice when we held our annual Christmas Carols evening.

Our good friends from the Toowoomba Municipal Band and High Altitude Harmony once again led us in the carol singing. Sincere thanks go to both groups for their involvement and also to Bill Fischer for providing the transport for Santa. My thanks also go to Platinum International for providing a room for Santa to prepare for his visit, as well as our valued friends who supplied food drinks and stalls.

This event continues to be popular with many families, friends and supporters. A great evening was had by all and I thank Mark Munro, Sharene Gosley, and a team of staff and volunteers who helped make the evening a success. I'm sure that all who were there would agree with me that we left the concert with a great feeling and enthusiasm for the Festive Season.



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Contributors:

- Graham Barron OAM Chairman
- Allison Leech, Director of Nursing
- Sharene Gosley, Volunteer Coordinator
- Mark Munro, Administration and Fundraising Manager
- Sue Thönell, Pastoral Care Coordinator

Editor Janice Swannell

The 2016 year has been very rewarding as we continued on our journey of providing professional, loving care to clients and their families. Thanks to Allison Leech, (Director of Nursing), Eugenie Corbett (Clinical Nurse), Sue Thönell (Pastoral Coordinator) and all our dedicated nursing staff for their outstanding efforts, ensuring that we continue to deliver palliative care to a very high standard.

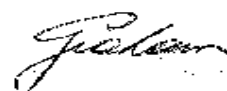
On behalf of the Management Committee, I wish to acknowledge Allison, Mark, Eugenie, Sharene, Jodie, Sue, our nursing staff, volunteers, supporters and our many friends for their dedication and support throughout 2016; it has been greatly appreciated!

I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017.



In conclusion, I hope you have the opportunity to spend quality time with your family over the festive season. This time of year is very special and Marlene and I are looking forward to enjoying our little grandson, Hayden's first Christmas together with our family.

Until next year!





PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNdraising

Coming Events

- ♦ **March 4th**
Masquerade Dinner
- ♦ **May** Darling Downs
Free Dress Challenge
- ♦ **June** Get Nailed!
- ♦ **July 15 -16th**
Camellia Show and
Garden Expo
- ♦ **August** Hang Ya
Boss Out To Dry
- ♦ **October** Trash Ya
Hair for Hospice Care
- ♦ **October 14th** Hospice
Race Day
- ♦ **November 7th**
Melbourne Cup Lunch

More details can be found on
the Hospice website or by
contacting us...(07) 4659
8500

NB If you would like to host
a fundraiser for the Hospice
please let us know so we can
try to help promote it or offer
some behind the scenes
support.

Administration and Fundraising

Mark Munro

Welcome to the Festive (Silly) Season!

We kicked off the Christmas season with our 14th annual Hospice Carols on Sunday 27th November with over 230 people attending. They braved, what I thought at one stage, could have been a 'Blowout' with the wind arriving just as Santa left. We made a snap decision to finish the evening about 6.30pm.

I love this time of year as it brings many families together who may not have seen each other for some time and allows them to enjoy each other's company. However, this is also the time of year which can be very hard for families who have lost a loved one. We at the Hospice fully understand what that is like and if you need to talk to someone please touch base with our Pastoral Care Team and ask for Sue (07 46598500). We are here to help our Hospice family...

In 2017 we will be celebrating 14 years of 'Partnership with the Community'! Yes, that's right! The Hospice has been open, providing professional palliative care with boundless love and dedicated care for 14 years on the 1st of July 2017.

I have often been asked why I sign off most of my letters with 'In partnership with the Community'. This is because the Toowoomba Hospice is based on partnerships to help our operation. Long before I started (14th April 2003) the community raised the entire amount required to build the Hospice. This was done by partnering with members, businesses, clubs, groups and organisation within our community. I am delighted to say this continues today and I thank you sincerely for believing in the Toowoomba Hospice...! Without our partnerships we would not be able to fulfil our 'Mission Statement' ***To provide care in partnership with the community for those with a terminal illness***. As I always say, *we can't do it without your continued support*.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a memorable and safe festive season and a happy 2017.

Yours in Partnership with the Community,

Mark

PS We still have some rooms that need 'Adopting'. Wouldn't that be a lovely Christmas gift for the Hospice?



Editor's Note

Our founder, Sister Frances, always said that the Hospice is owned by the community and, of course, she was correct! Her guidance and the generous support of the community allows us to accept any client who needs our care without discrimination.

This is a strong belief of the Toowoomba Hospice Association, a group of nearly 50 members who are the *official* owners. Many of these members are also volunteers, friends of Sr. Frances, or just supporters of the work we do. Like the staff and volunteers and others connected with the Hospice, they are vital to our continuing service. They elect the Management Committee, provide the Constitutional guidelines and support us in many other ways.

We wish them all a Merry Christmas and thank them for their support and guidance.

Janice Secretary, Toowoomba Hospice Association

Director of Nursing

Allison Leech

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing my first Christmas newsletter for the Hospice - and Christmas is upon us again! 2016 has been a very big year for everyone at the Hospice, particularly achieving our ongoing accreditation with the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.

Lots of changes have occurred within the facility this year - new vinyl flooring in the client rooms and treatment areas, new painting inside and out, relocation of the Clinical Nurse office from Admin to the Hospice area, new storeroom area for clinical equipment, new storage for the Boardroom all done with minimum disruption to the important work of the Hospice.

I am very grateful to our exceptional team of staff and volunteers, who give their time and talents so generously to the Hospice. So many wonderful people who provide care and dignity in a variety of ways to the clients, their families and carers!

I would also like to thank the members of our Medical Advisory/Credentials and Clinical Privileges Committee who provide outstanding clinical support during the year by reviewing admitting rights for our medical practitioners, and generally providing advice on our care delivery in the facility. Dr. George Tucker OAM, Dr. John Gillett, Dr. David Van Gend, Dr. Hume Rendell-Short, Dr. Pungu Mwilambwe, Dr. Luke Gaffney and Sonja Venzke (Scott Street Pharmacy) are sincerely thanked for the assistance and support they give to the Hospice on a daily basis.

Thank you to all our visiting doctors, therapists and to all the staff at Scott Street Pharmacy who are valuable members of our multidisciplinary team, along with our Palliative Outreach Network partners.

The end of year calendar is getting fuller by the second— it's not called 'the Silly Season' for nothing... Don't forget our staff and volunteers Hospice Christmas party on Saturday, 17th December at the City Bowls Club!

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Safe start to 2017.

Thanks again, EVERYONE!

Allison



Pastoral Care

Sue Thönell



Blessings to you all for a Merry Christmas.

With family and friends let us join as one community to celebrate our uniqueness regardless of our Faith and Culture. In diversity lies our greatest strength as well as our weakness.

Wishing you fun, laughter, good company, safe travels, lots of surprises and a Prosperous New Year 2017.

Sue



*Anthony and Emma
enjoyed Santa's visit to the
Christmas Carol Evening*



*Narelle Maddison
and Bernie
Trimingham*

*Mrs. Von Prowse,
Mary-Ann and
Peter Bisdee enjoyed
the sunshine —
before the storm!*



Volunteer Coordinator

Sharene Gosley



Well here we are, our last newsletter for the year!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteer team for all the great work they have done throughout the year. I am always amazed by the passion and enthusiasm that our volunteers put into everything that they do. Nothing is ever too much trouble, your willingness to step in and help whenever needed is so appreciated. I know the staff value the assistance you provide, we truly couldn't do without you all. So, a huge thank you to each and every one of you, no matter what area you work in, we are thankful for you and are glad you are here to help us provide this valuable service to our community.

I wish all our wonderful Hospice volunteers, staff and supporters a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to working with you all again in 2017.



Merry Christmas

&

Happy New

Year to you all

Sharene



This beautiful cake is the SECOND prize in our Christmas Raffle! First prize is a wheelbarrow loaded with goodies and needs more space than we can spare here! Tickets (\$1 or 6 for \$5) are available until the 20th December. Buy some quickly!!!!





Winner of this beautiful Quilt Yasmine Allan (center) was present when a \$7000 Cheque was donated to the Hospice by Toowoomba Quilters Club. Carol Bateman and Betty Fawcett from the club are pictured with Yasmine.

Allison and Mark receive a very generous donation from the 'Allora Craft Group'



*The Toowoomba Hospice
wishes
all its staff, volunteers,
members and friends
a
Happy and Peaceful Christmas*

