



BFSnews

October 2018

IN THIS ISSUE



Good News story



Article by
Senior Pastor Sandra Dumas



Welcome

to the October 2018
edition of BFSNews

In this edition of BFSNews we highlight Ganggalah and their ministry with the indigenous community. BFS is privileged to have been able to play a part in supporting their ministry and facilitating the purchase of a property to better equip them in their work. It is helpful to pause and recognise that this is only possible due to the support of our clients and this is achieved through our collective partnership in ministry. It is very real, tangible and practical expression of our faith. Just as Jesus was very real, tangible and practical.

I would also like to acknowledge the recent retirement of Beryl Notias, our Chief Operating Officer, who has served BFS for over 15 years. She will be well known to many of our clients who she served so faithfully over this time with a heart that shines for Jesus. We wish God's rich blessing for her, knowing she has made such a wonderful contribution to the work and development of BFS.

God Bless,

David Slinn
Chief Executive Officer

Ganggalah, Tweed Heads South, NSW

In November 2016, Ganggalah purchased a double storey multi-purpose building in the heart of the Tweed Heads South business precinct. The building was strategically situated, diagonally opposite the thriving Tweed City Shopping centre, with two car parks onsite at the front and rear of the building.

As these premises were formerly a medical imaging facility, the congregation commenced renovations immediately to remove its many small rooms. This ministry now contains a church with an auditorium that seats 150 people, a training centre, a cafe and fellowship area, upstairs children's church facilities and a main road frontage for the Aboriginal Arts Gallery.

Ganggalah is the all-encompassing name used to refer to the combined operations of the three enterprises based onsite: Ganggalah Church (GC), Ganggalah Training Centre and Ganggalah Aboriginal Arts. Ganggalah is a Bundjalung word meaning "a place of learning and wisdom".

Ganggalah held its formal opening on the 9th December 2017, also the 90th birthday of Aunty Amelia Watego, who along with her husband Pastor Alan founded the church. Unfortunately, both are no longer with us, but Aunty Amelia was fortunate to see this building shortly before her passing. Senior Pastors William and Sandra Dumas remark, "This building has been a timely answer to prayer after the loss of our original church in 1984, 34 years ago".

Ganggalah Church believes God has called them to be a family of all cultures and a place of belonging, where people are valued and loved. The current program includes Sunday

continued on page 2

“Ganggalah is a Bundjalung word meaning “a place of learning and wisdom””

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continued from page 1

morning services, mid-week services, men's and women's ministries, youth ministry, Sunday school, crèche, counselling, mentoring and training. "We have also been blessed to utilise and showcase our building to host NAIDOC services, community days, Indigenous forums, a lateral violence workshop and cultural exchange days with students from America", Pastor Sandra Dumas states.

Ganggalah Training Centre (GTC) run online courses largely targeted towards the Indigenous sector. Many students will come into the facility to complete their studies with the support of their in-house teaching staff. Their current courses are 10647NATCertificate IV and Ministry (Leadership) and HE Diploma of Ministry. GTC also provides Work and Development Orders with the Office of State Revenue and Legal Aid NSW and the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT).

Ganggalah Aboriginal Arts (GAA) social mission is in line with Australian Parliament and is designed to empower Indigenous people and communities, including equipping them with relevant skills, so that they can progressively take meaningful control of their futures and build stronger community leadership (Parliament of Australia (POA), 2013). GAA is seeking to empower, train and equip the economic and social sustainability of Indigenous artists enabling them to showcase their creative talents and their rich cultural heritage throughout the nations. GAA aims to achieve this by training, performance, exhibiting, teaching, recording, and imparting cultural knowledge and innovative designing to bridge the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians.

GAA highlights the spiritual and significant

importance of their rich heritage, and to elevate and make known the uniqueness of Aboriginal arts and crafts. GAA's programs are aimed at creating micro businesses, social enterprises and self-employment in areas where job opportunities are minimal. GAA were honoured to host their first Cultural Art Exhibition Event "Marmung – Lift Him Up", which ran in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games. This entity also has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status so any donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Senior Pastors William and Sandra Dumas are also the chairpersons of the Australian Christian Churches (ACC) National Indigenous Initiative. Their role is to help bridge the gap between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous by providing resources and cultural awareness training. This has opened doors of opportunity to host Indigenous Forums, most recently Juriga, ACC National Indigenous emerging leaders conference held 7-9 September.

Ganggalah's Indigenous initiative is to annually take outreach teams to remote communities of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Their purpose is to make known the uniqueness and richness of our Indigenous culture, by providing cross-cultural friendships, knowledge, networks and relationship building prospects. The church recently took a team of 47, who came from churches across the nation, to visit Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Together as a team they were able to help empower Indigenous churches, leaders and their communities, whilst being greatly impacted themselves.

"On behalf of Ganggalah we would like to thank Baptist Financial Services (BFS) for their support in helping us achieve and continue to work towards all that God has called us to do with both the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities," Pastor Sandra Dumas said in thanks to BFS. ✚

Invest with Purpose, Invest with BFS

Wolfgang Ziegelmeir, BFS NSW and ACT Relationship Manager recalls.

"When I received the loan application and started processing the paperwork with the help of the church leaders, I realised it could not have been very easy for the church to obtain finance for their property acquisition. In these instances, BFS can assist and partner with the church to find an appropriate solution as resourcing Christian Ministry is our specific purpose.

After renovations and alterations were completed, I met with Pastors Will and Sandra and other Church leaders where I had the privilege to see first-hand the impact the new facility had made. Preparations for a conference were under way in the auditorium. In the previously rented space, to hold an event of this magnitude was simply not possible.

BFS is privileged to have partnered with Ganggalah Church for this project and is looking forward to a sustained partnership over the years to come."

“ Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. ”

Zechariah 10:1

BFS farewells Beryl Notias!



It is with great sadness that we advise Beryl Notias has retired from BFS.

Beryl has served in many roles during her 15 year tenure at BFS, most recently as Chief Operations Officer, and brought with her considerable personal skills and experience from her career within the banking realm.

The BFS Directors and staff would like to thank Beryl for the valuable knowledge and wisdom she contributed so significantly to the ministry of BFS. The example she has set and the legacy she leaves provides a lasting value to BFS and the clients she has served over so many years.

Beryl once wrote the following excerpt and it seems fitting to resurrect it again here:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

(From God Knows by Minnie Louise Haskins)

I'm sure, like me, many of you grew up with the above quote. My mother recited it often and it's ringing in my ears in this little pause as...we are about to start a new era.

Beryl you will be greatly missed at BFS.



Protect your sensitive data

With data breaches becoming increasingly more frequent, and larger in number and impact, protecting your sensitive data has become imperative.

To ensure cybersecurity, here are some ways you can protect your sensitive data:

- Be careful with your computer – Use a strong password, change it regularly and don't share it with others;
- Protect your passwords, and never store them on a post-it note.
- Always install reputable internet security and anti-virus software on your computers;
- If you're disposing of a computer take care to wipe your personal data.
- Take care with installing any new software, only use reputable sources and well-known brands.
- Always be vigilant with any emails you receive. Phishing is getting more and more advanced, so take the stance of not believing anything you read, and remember that BFS will NEVER ask for your login details over the internet. For more details on phishing emails see our BFSNews April 2018 edition.
- Remember that your smart phone and tablets are little computers. Take the same precautions you would take with your big computer, such as anti-virus and internet security software.
- Take care when connecting to public WIFI networks and charging stations. Only use reputable providers and check your security settings.
- If you do store data in the cloud, only use reputable providers and do your

own research into security methods like two factor authentications, which requires 'something you have' in addition to 'something you know', providing another layer of protection for your data.

Remember that security is not just a technical thing, it is a social thing as well. Be careful when you receive unsolicited phone calls, and even if they claim to be from a Government institution like Centrelink or the ATO, it is OK to ask questions and even say you'll call them back. Then you can research the publicly listed number and use that to call back. Remember that a professional organisation should never threaten or pressure you on the phone.

Cyber security can seem daunting and complicated but it is really worth learning about so you can protect yourself and your family. The more you know, the more protected you are.

- Learn about privacy settings on your social media accounts and be cognisant of what personal information you are revealing. And remember, once it is 'out there' it is almost impossible to bring back!
- Stay abreast of the latest cyber security threats, sites such as <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/> can be helpful.
- Finally, always consult an IT professional if you are unsure.

AFCA to replace Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS)

From the 1 November 2018 you will be able to use the newly created External Dispute Resolution scheme. The Australian Financial Complaints Authority or 'AFCA' will replace the old scheme currently managed by the Financial Ombudsman (FOS). AFCA is operated by a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee authorised by the Minister of Revenue and Financial Services. As a member of the scheme you will note changes in reference to FOS on our website and offer documents that will be made available to you from the 1 November 2018.

See our website www.bfs.org.au to find out more.

Invest with Purpose

Are you aware that every dollar you invest with BFS enables us to further finance the growth of God's Kingdom so that churches can buy new buildings after outgrowing smaller ones, start up new church plants, and create missionally-minded schools, early learning centres and aged care services all across Australia?

Currently many of you invest with us, for which we are so grateful. Did you know that not only churches but also individuals, other ministries and businesses can also invest funds with BFS so that we can increase our capacity to resource Christian ministry? We have many flexible investment options starting with as little as \$1, for terms from 31 days to 3 years. Our interest rates, disclosure documents and relevant terms and conditions are all available on our website.

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BFS CEO David Slinn shares BFS' ethos: "At BFS we strive to keep Christ and the mission of the Church central in all aspects of our ministry – our purpose, mission and values impact everything we do."

Should you wish to discuss any of our products and services further, please contact our friendly Client Services Team on 1300 650 542 or clients@bfs.org.au or contact your local Relationship Manager, who would be more than happy to assist you.

Invest with Purpose, Invest with BFS!

BFS farewells Stephanie O'Byrne and Daniela Vittor

BFS would like to thank Stephanie O'Byrne (BFS Operations Manager) and Daniela Vittor (Marketing and Communications Officer) for their time at BFS.



Stephanie O'Byrne

Stephanie leaves a lasting impact at BFS from her very much valued and appreciated contributions within the specialist areas of change management, capability development and training implementation.

In the time Stephanie has worked with BFS, December 2017-September 2018, she has worked in two different states, moving from WA to Sydney in January. We thank Stephanie for her valuable contribution.



Daniela Vittor

Since Daniela joined BFS in 2012, she has been an integral, valuable and cheerful member of our team and we appreciate her contribution through the many developments at BFS.

Daniela looks forward to enjoying more time with her family.

We thank Stephanie and Daniela for being part of the BFS family. And wish them well and God's blessing.



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New Projects enabled by your support of BFS

Banora Point Community Baptist Church	NSW	Church Building Project
The Macedonian Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria	VIC	New Cultural Center Building Project
Thornleigh Community Baptist Church	NSW	Purchase Property
iSEE Church Ltd	QLD	Campus Building Project
Banora Point Community Baptist Church	NSW	Church Building Project
Arabic Baptist Church	VIC	Church Building Project
Surfers Paradise Assembly of God	QLD	Finance
Perth Revival	WA	Purchase Property
Werribee Karen Baptist Church	VIC	Purchase Property
Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Sydney	NSW	Purchase Property
Wellard Community Church	WA	Purchase Property
Raymond Terrace	NSW	Church Building Project
The Mar Thoma Parish Perth	WA	Purchase Property
Ulverstone Baptist Church	TAS	Purchase Property
Living Alternatives Ltd	WA	Property Purchase
St Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church	SA	Church Building Purchase
Restoration Hour Ministries Inc	SA	Property Purchase