



**TOYS CHANGE LIVES
MOVING INTO THEIR
OWN PREMISES**



**MAGGIE MAY
BEGINS NEW
CAREER**



**RUSSELL
~ CALLING IT
QUILTS**



**\$700,000
up for grabs**

The Northern Light

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The one thing that has been impressed on my spirit is that I cannot make any difference in this Presbytery but you can.

The words of the Rev Maggie De Lieu, who was inducted as the Presbytery’s Mission Development Officer at a meeting held in Ballina this month.

This startling revelation puts Maggie on a journey of equipping throughout the whole Presbytery.

Already she has visited with many ministers and intends to also see key lay leaders in places where there is no minister, as the beginning of this ministry.

Far North Coast Presbytery Chair, Rev Robert Griffith officiated at the ceremony which also included input from the deputy chairs, Rev Peter Boughey and James Annersley with prayers & music provided by Pastors Phil & Greer Dokmanovic.

**I CAN NOT MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE
IN THIS
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BUT YOU CAN!

TOYS CHANGE LIVES ~ OUTGROWS BACKYARD SHED

PLANS are under way to move a wooden toy business to a shop front in Casino.

Toys Change Lives is an initiative of the Uniting Chaplain at Acmena Juvenile Justice Centre in Grafton, Rev Peter Boughey.

Begun in April of this year with a grant from Uniting of around \$30,000, the project, aimed at helping young people who have never worked before, find suitable employment.

Peter reported to the Presbytery meeting this month that he still had the \$30,000 in the bank.

"I suppose I was a little hesitant to spend it, not knowing where any other support might come from."

But with another grant from Uniting we have bought a bus and now we are about to embark on moving the activity from my back yard to a shop front in Casino.

"This will cost us \$130,000

"Initially the money was to employ 3 kids on a short term programme and thus make them viable for regular employment.

But already, we have had 10 young people go through the programme.

And two of those 10 have already found regular employment

Peter said that he had received good interest from

government ~ politicians and staff.

But they want us to get some collaborative funding first, before they will assist.

Already Kyogle Uniting Church has given the project \$1,000 and at Presbytery the cry went out for other churches to match this.

At a time when the juvenile justice system in Australia is in crisis, this is a

good news story.

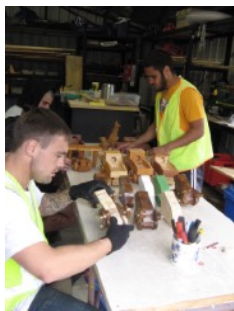
Toys Create Lives now has a website and have produced their first video (tcl.org.au)

Peter said every toy produced is an individual work of art "And we certainly have a wonderful array of artists as the latest run of toys shows."

Peter said the programme taught the guys what is expected of employees.

"Many of these boys have never seen anyone work, let alone work themselves.

So we have to make it a habit for them.



That's where the bus comes in.

We pick them up every morning and we take them home at night.

The programme deals with all facets of work employment and is open to post release 17 to 18 year olds from a detention centre who want to change their lives.

The expectation is that at the end of the course they will be referred to suitable employers

All young people entering the course will be paid up to 20 hours a week and they will also be given opportunity to undertake courses.

Peter pointed out that they not only helped the Aboriginal population but whites as well.

"We are also hoping to reach out to high school drops outs and in this way also connect with female clients, and endeavour to help them before they end up in detention.

Acmena only deals with males. The girls are sent to Sydney.

Peter said he was already seeing a ripple effect within the community.

"I can see that we can reach more than 20 families in a two year period.

This has got to be good for the community.

If you would like to donate contact Peter directly at pjboughey@optusnet.com.au

REV MAGGIE MAY BEGINS NEW MINISTRY

New Beginnings As Mission Development

AS I begin this new position I feel both excited with what lays ahead and a tad overwhelmed!
It seemed to me that the best place to begin a new ministry is in prayer. One of the beliefs I hold is that it is very easy to go about my own agenda, and miss out on what God's agenda may be. I do not want to waste time doing my own thing. I do not want to waste time being 'busy', with good things, that may not necessarily be 'God' things. I do not want to have a facade of spirituality, yet not be pressing into the One who gives the Spirit.



The more time I have spent in prayer and reflection, the more convinced I have become that something significantly important is missing in our Presbytery. We have churches made up of faithful people, who are often busy doing 'good' things. Many, following faithful service, are tiring out. We have several Spiritual leaders who are great teachers, who seek the Lord and who desire deeply to see the Kingdom of God come into their midst. Yet, most of us have not experienced much in the way of Kingdom growth in our churches or our communities. We are grateful if we have one or two new conversions in our church in a five-year period. (Some may not have had any in many more

years than that.)
Where is the power?
Where is the expectation?
Where is God in our churches?
One of the things that really took my breath away is a thought that I believe comes from God: "If God left our Presbytery, would we actually even miss Him? Would we notice any changes?"
I was afraid of the answer!
So what is lacking?
What is it that is stopping us from experiencing kingdom growth in our lives and in our communities?
There are some important questions we need to ask ourselves:
Where is transformation taking place in our Presbytery?
Where is the passion for Christ so deeply imbedded within us that our natural response is to share the reality of Christ with others?
Where are we meeting the unchurched in their place of spiritual hunger for more of life than what they are experiencing now?
One of the readings that has stayed with me, and that the Lord is unpacking for

**RUSSELL ~
TO CALL IT
QUITS ~
NEXT YEAR!**

WELL known Casino identity, Russell Playford, has announced his intention to step down as chair of UC Tours next year.

He made this announcement while commenting on the \$15,000 gift to the Presbytery. The gift: \$10,000 to the Presbytery Mission Strategy Fund and \$5,000 to the general fund comes from the interest earned on the money needed to be kept should there be a shortfall in revenue by UC Tours. He told the Presbytery that next year he would turn 80 and he hoped that he wouldn't be in any leadership positions by then. He called on folk who were interested in UC tours to step up and take some leadership responsibility. "Tours are becoming increasingly popular," Russell said



"Day trips are usually booked out, and the numbers on longer tours is increasing. The main support comes from

me is that of Ephesians. 1:15-19.

Read it! It is a 'WOW' experience!

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ**, the Father of glory, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you may **know what is the hope to which he has called you**, what are **the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints**, and what is the **immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe**, according to the **working of his great might.**"

I could give a whole sermon on this, if space permitted.

But let me focus very briefly on just one aspect ..

We have been given the Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation and we have been given this gift as an inheritance.

This is the inheritance for those who believe.

That is, you and me!!!!

Just think for one moment ... the Spirit who hovered over the earth at creation ... the Spirit who is authorised and empowered to create the universe ... the Spirit that Jesus himself had promised us, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the grave .. this very same Spirit reigns in us!!

Try to imagine what that would mean if that was true for you!

His power ... His creativity His love of God His oneness in Christ ... our glorious inheritance, indwelling us, transforming us and allowing us to partner with Him in what **He is already doing!!!**

Our call is not to build the church!

That role belongs to God!

Our call is to build into the Kingdom of God, so that His will be done here on earth as it is in heaven!

Our call is to love Jesus, to love others through Jesus, and to surrender to His Spirit so that we can be transformed.

This is so exciting!

Casino, Kyogle and Lismore. Travellers come from a wide sector of the community, and they receive friendship, support and Christian love, care and teaching.

The Committee had some difficulty filling the positions of Leaders and Chaplains on the tours.

Some who have been leading tours for long periods are getting older.

The Committee has shrunk and now only has members from four Congregations - Alstonville, Casino, Kyogle and Lismore.

If Presbytery considers it important that this ministry continue, it will be necessary for more younger members to be recruited to the Committee, who can be trained to take on leadership roles on Tours.

**\$70,000
up for grabs**

UNITING, the social action arm of the **Uniting Church NSW/ACT** has offered the Presbyteries \$70,000 over three years for ministry in the community.

Presbytery Chair, Rev Robert Griffith made this comment during Presbytery in Ballina this month.

Robert said it was a case of use or lose it and it was up to the Presbyteries to decide what to do with it.

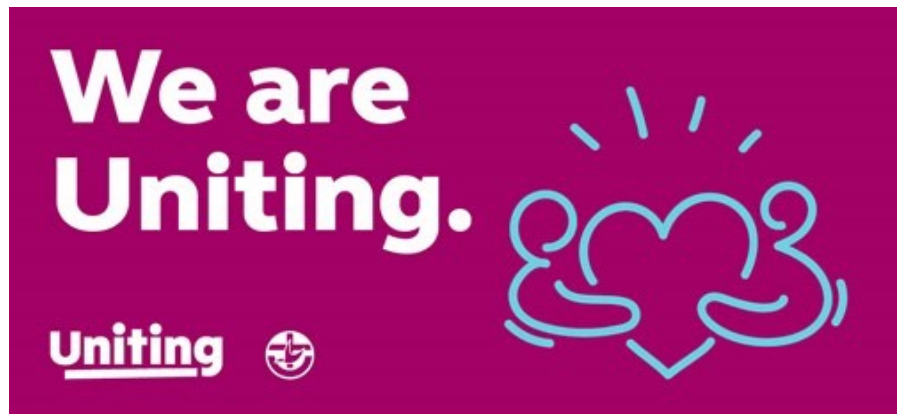
So they are seeking submissions from Congregations.

Things like food banks, literary of homeless programmes would easily fit into this grant.

Anything that is community based or has a ministry idea within the community would be considered.

Robert said the Presbytery Chairs gathering have taken the responsibility for determining the successful applicants.

That meeting will convene at the end of this month



LISMORE has a new minister in the form of Rev Robert Griffith
Robert takes up his placement in February with an induction on Saturday February 11 at Lismore following the Presbytery meeting which has been changed to that date at Casino Robert's conclusion of service at Yamba Iluka will take place on Sunday December 18 at 2pm at Yamba. Robert said it was a hard decision to make but he felt he heard God saying this was what He wanted him to do

