



# wesley impact!

## news

Summer 2021

## Thank you

### You gave Penny a happy Christmas

**Your steadfast financial support in challenging times allowed us to keep doing all the good we can for those in greatest need during 2020.**



Even while you were facing the COVID-19 pandemic yourselves – some of you after drought, bushfires and floods – your faithful help ensured we could continue our Christian care to the most vulnerable in our communities.

With your generosity, we walked beside families in crisis like eight-year-old Penny's\*. After her mum Chelsea, and dad Tim, lost their jobs within weeks of each other, they were terrified their family would end up on the streets. Penny and her sisters would cry themselves to sleep because they were so hungry.

When Chelsea contacted us, we were able to pay their essential bills including their mortgage arrears so they could stay in their home. Thanks to you, we provided the family with hampers of groceries to stop them going hungry. Over Christmas, their hamper contained treats like chocolate and fruit mince pies which gave them some happiness in spite of their difficult situation.

Now Tim has just found a new job, starting in February, and the family has hope again.

He recently wrote us this heartwarming update:

“We were in a crisis we never saw coming, and heading into Christmas, our very worst fear was losing our home and having nowhere to go with our three daughters. Instead, because of Wesley Mission’s generous donors, we had a roof over our heads, food to eat and the kids could still have a happy Christmas.”

“That meant the world to us and to the girls. We’re so grateful – thank you for looking after us.”

Many donors sent us messages too, describing their own job losses and financial difficulties. Some couldn't support us the way they wanted to, but they generously gave whatever they could afford. Others called to make extra donations and share their blessings with people in need.

Thank you for showing care and kindness during a challenging year.

\* Names, photos and identifying details changed for privacy.

# Celebrating a 15-year legacy: The Rev Keith Garner says farewell

It has been my privilege to lead Wesley Mission as CEO and Superintendent these past 15 years.

With generous supporters like you, together we have been able to grow Wesley Mission's capacity to respond to Australians in desperate need.

As I reflect on all we have been able to do together I want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude for your partnership in this work.

Without your financial support many of our innovative programs would have remained as ideas and dreams only.

I commend to you the incoming CEO and Superintendent of Wesley Mission, the Rev Stu Cameron and offer prayers and support as he and his wife Sue settle into life in Sydney.

I hope you will continue to support the vital work of Wesley Mission under Stu's ministry.

Warmly yours,



Rev Keith V Garner AM



## 2011-2015

Having strengthened Wesley Mission's culture, the future was the focus with programs launching for families, young people, people struggling financially and those at risk of suicide.



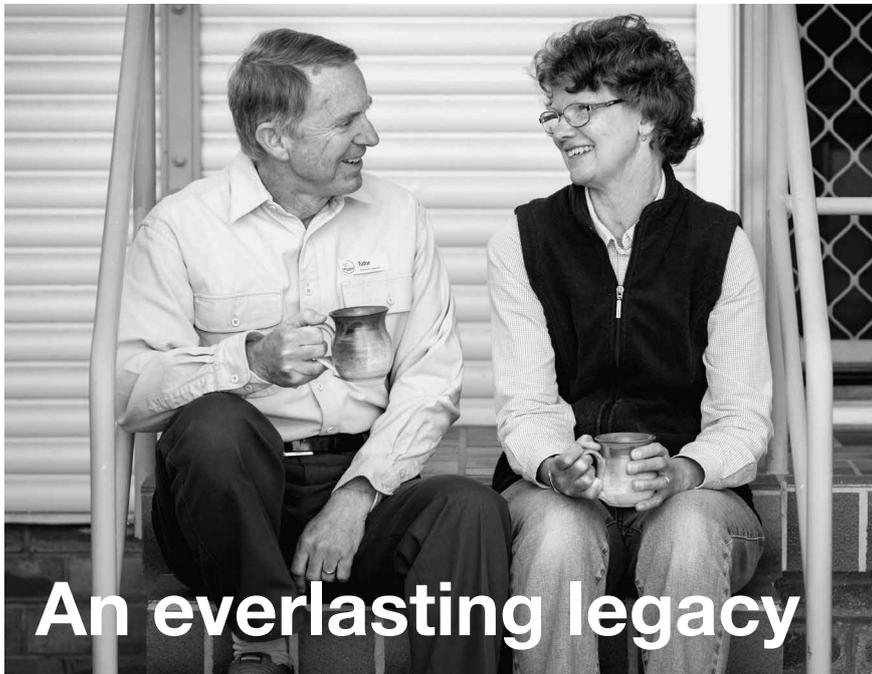
## 2006-2010

Rev Keith Garner joined Wesley Mission, defining a new vision, leading through challenges including the Global Financial Crisis, and raising awareness of social issues like mental health.



## 2016-2020

Seeing the increased needs of Australians, the Rev Keith Garner led a plan to grow by 50 per cent and support more people in most need in new locations.



## An everlasting legacy

Mark and his wife Linda's 39-year love story began with a mutual love of running – and their Christian faith. Their love for others inspires them to ease the pain they see in society with their greatest concerns being homelessness, unemployment, family violence and children from broken families. That's why they began supporting Wesley Mission's wide-reaching work as volunteers. And after discussing it with their three children, they also decided to leave Wesley Mission a gift in their Will.

Linda says it's about sharing their blessings. "It is our last opportunity to give thanks to God for what he has blessed us with ... if we can pass that blessing on through our Will, it is something special and very easy to do."

By including a gift to Wesley Mission in your own Will, no matter how large or small, you can help transform the lives of people who are vulnerable or experiencing homelessness and other issues they can't overcome alone. This is an incredible and lasting way to make a real difference for generations to come.

Wesley Mission holds regular Wills Days where independent solicitors can prepare your simple Will for a fraction of the cost. The next events are 19 March 2021 at Club Liverpool and 20 May 2021 at Wesley Mission Centre, Sydney.

**For more information about our Wills Days or to order your free Guide to Gifts in Wills, call Stephen Burfield on (02) 9263 5548.**



## Opera star surprises aged care residents

Opera Australia's principal soprano, Jane Ede, surprised residents of Alan Walker Village with a special performance to lift the spirits of those who'd been isolating in their homes.

"When we were approached to sing for the residents here, I couldn't believe we hadn't thought of it before," Jane said. "We're all these performers sitting around missing performing, and particularly with the restrictions, we also have a lot of people who might be feeling a bit isolated. So this brilliant idea brought us both together."

Residents gathered in one of the courtyards for a socially distanced performance. For some, it was the first time in several months they could invite over a friend.

**"The performance for me raised my spirits and reinforced the benefits of music," said Gordon, a resident. "The outdoor location also helped me to understand the quality of Jane's superb voice."**

Alan Walker Village is one of three Wesley Retirement Living Villages offering daily social activities, modern accommodation and a welcoming community for an active, independent and fulfilling lifestyle.

## Your impact on people in need in 2019/20

Your generosity helped us support **161,438** people including:

**28,759** calls answered by **Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland** – 73 per cent related to suicide

**1,483** people completed **community suicide prevention training**

**114** suicide prevention networks supported across **Australia**

**471** people received targeted **mental health support**

**3,601** people supported by **Wesley Homeless Services**

**3,759** food hampers supplied by **Wesley Emergency Relief** supporting **3,586** people

**193,683** nights of accommodation provided to those needing shelter

# Messages of hope

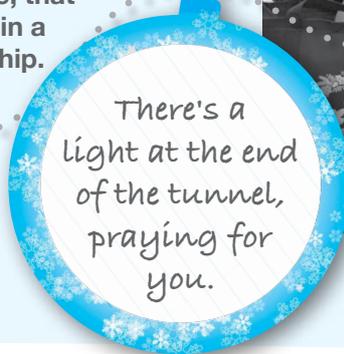
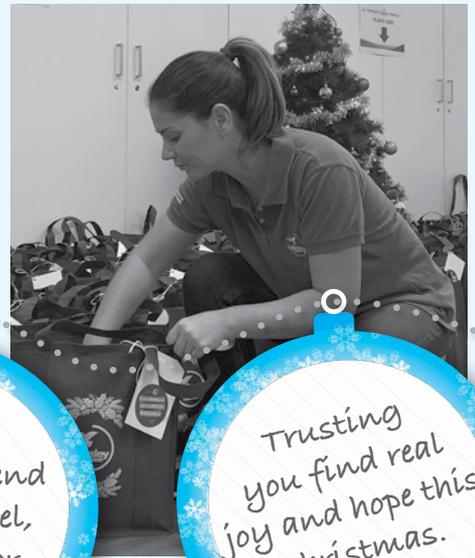
We're so grateful for the beautiful messages of hope you returned to Wesley Mission in the post and online with your Christmas appeal donations.

Your notes were put into 300 food hampers for people experiencing homelessness and families in crisis – helping us nourish them in body and spirit.

The hampers included

essential groceries, along with some special treats like ham, fruit mince pies, custard and chocolates and shortbread to see people through the Christmas period.

**We're so thankful for your lovely thoughts like these, that gave people joy in a time of hardship.**



## Faith, freedom and helping others

At just 17 years old, Christie Mokotupu reached the peak of elite sport, competing in beach volleyball at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. But in her early 20s, a split-second decision to try an ecstasy pill led her into years of addiction to alcohol and drugs. Then one day her sister invited her to church. Just when she'd felt that all was lost, she found Jesus and began to heal. Her choice to share the story of her journey was another tough experience, but it too became a pathway to recovery.

Christie's new freedom, found through her faith, ignited a passion within her to help others, especially those experiencing homelessness



and mental health issues. So she decided to join Wesley Mission's generous monthly donors.

Regular donations are an easy and convenient way to support those in need, and an annual receipt helps with claiming any tax deductions.

"With so many charities to support I wanted to pick one with a one

stop shop," says Christie. "Wesley Mission does that from the cradle all the way to aged care. It's got a huge credibility with 200 plus years of serving our nation, that's why I am a monthly donor."

**"I love Wesley Mission and I encourage other people to become a monthly donor to support this great charity."**

**Regular, monthly donations help care for the most vulnerable people in our community. By becoming a regular donor you can have a powerful impact on people in need and give them hope again. Sign up now at [wesleymission.org.au/regulargiving\\_IN21](http://wesleymission.org.au/regulargiving_IN21) or fill in the coupon below and return it to us.**

Wesley Mission collects your details for fundraising purposes and to keep you up to date on our activities. All information collected is covered by our privacy policy (reviewed and updated from time to time), see [wesleymission.org.au/privacy](http://wesleymission.org.au/privacy). Please contact us if you wish to change your contact preferences. Photos and names have been changed to protect identity and privacy.

## Yes, I'll give practical support to people in desperate need.

### Please accept my gift of:

\$25  \$50  \$100  My choice \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### My contact details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My date of birth is: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

So we can send you happy birthday messages.

### Can you give monthly?

**Yes, I would like to change lives every day with a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- Please debit the credit card below.  
 Please contact me to set up direct debit.

### My payment details:

- Cheque/money order made out to Wesley Mission OR  
 Please debit my credit card:  Visa  MasterCard  Amex

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 [www.wesleymission.org.au/impactnews\\_summer21](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/impactnews_summer21)

**Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.**

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