



# wesley impact!

## news

Winter 2022

# Thank you

You transformed the lives of Sarah and Elizabeth\*



Winter is here, and in the wet and cold more people in desperate need have been turning to Wesley Mission. Thanks to our kind supporters like you, we're giving them a safe, dry place to sleep along with blankets, meals, warm clothes and help to find longer-term housing.

Sarah knows the difference this can make. She experienced homelessness with her little daughter Elizabeth as they fled family violence. Now when it's raining, Sarah feels particularly thankful that she and Elizabeth have a warm and safe home, found for them by Wesley Mission.

Here is what Sarah recently shared about how happy and relieved this makes her feel:

*"Honestly, from the bottom of my heart, I thank Wesley Mission. Their help means the world to us. And to the lovely people who support them, they are making a huge difference. That's how much change they bring to this world."*

Having a stable home and ongoing support from Wesley Mission, Sarah is gradually healing from the emotional trauma of her past.

Elizabeth is growing up confident and secure, surrounded by the love and care of her mum.

It's wonderful that Sarah and Elizabeth are both doing well and thriving. But the growing housing crisis in Australia means more people can't find homes.

**Sadly, in the cold tonight many people will have nowhere to lay their heads, including mums and little children. So last-minute gifts to our Winter Appeal are very welcome. If you'd like to donate now visit: [wesleymission.org.au/winterappeal2022](https://wesleymission.org.au/winterappeal2022)**



Thank you to everyone who signed their 'house' and sent it back to us to support more housing and support for people experiencing homelessness. These will be shared with government decision-makers to raise the issue as an urgent priority.

# How you helped people affected by the floods



Your generosity has given relief to people in areas devastated by the catastrophic floods in NSW. Many lost homes, livelihoods, pets and some even lost their loved ones. So we have been inspired and grateful to see our community rally around those who are dealing with the massive clean-up and disruption to all aspects of their life and work.

**The incredibly kind donations to our Flood Appeal came to a grand total of over \$75,000!** This has helped us to provide emergency relief hampers filled with fresh fruit, vegies and store vouchers to replace essentials for people in financial difficulties. We have also deployed supplies on the ground, from bedding and baby food to cleaning equipment, to meet people's exact needs.

"People's challenges are very individual according to where they're at in their recovery journey," says Lachie Aird, our Regional Manager – Northern NSW. "At first, we were

hearing families needed food and clothing, then camping equipment like tents, gas stoves, marquees and ropes, because the only option a lot of people had was to set up a tent in the driveway of their home that had been flood affected. So many people are homeless, camping in a backyard or couchsurfing."

Our chaplains have also been regularly visiting flood regions, offering people in distress someone caring to talk to. "You can walk down the street and there's people with that look of despair," Lachie adds. "You drive down the streets in places like Woodburn and Lismore and it is still very much like a war zone. The whole community is just really struggling."

**Recovery and rebuilding will continue for many more months and even years in the areas hardest hit. So to all those who donated funds or gifts in kind including bedding and whitegoods – a huge thank you!**



Main: Northern Rivers region flooding  
Top: Volunteers loading supplies  
Bottom: Destruction in West Ballina

## Adding up the costs of gambling

Gambling doesn't just affect one person. For everyone caught in gambling at least seven others are harmed\*. And the losses are more than financial. Damage to relationships, health and psychological wellbeing are some of the common impacts\*\*.

So in May, we launched a new campaign speaking up for people hurt by gambling. The advertisement shows the slippery slope and devastation of addiction, while encouraging empathy and activism, offering help and assisting people to speak out against the bombardment of gambling messages. You can watch it online here: [www.wesleymission.org.au/gamblingsupport](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/gamblingsupport)

\* The Productivity Commission

\*\* <https://gamblershelp.com.au/learn-about-gambling/effects-of-gambling/>



**Have you had a gutful of gambling? Reach out or speak out at [wesleymission.org.au](http://wesleymission.org.au)**



As the wife of our CEO and Superintendent Rev Stu Cameron, Sue has been on a journey with him as they've settled into their ministry at Wesley Mission over the past 18 months. Previously, Stu was the Lead Minister at Newlife Church on the Gold Coast while Sue, a kindergarten teacher, ran the church playgroup. Sue says they prayed a lot together as they made the big decision to move.

It helps that their son Joel, has relocated south too and – borders allowing – Sue visits their daughter Emily in Brisbane as often as she can. The cooler climate has also rekindled the love of gardening Sue formed growing up among beautiful gardens in South Australia. Their garden is now full of gorgeous roses, most of which she grew from bare-root plants.

"I love the look of roses and the way they smell," Sue says. "You feel like you've really achieved something when you can put your own flowers inside in a vase."



I love attracting the bees, so I've also got lots of lavender and Agapanthus."

"When I'm out there in the garden, I just feel really peaceful and close to God. It's a lovely feeling. Especially during the lockdown, I could go out into the garden to just spend time in His creation. And it was great."

Sue's favourite bible verse is Thessalonians 5:24: "For he who calls you is faithful."

### Sue's gardening tips

Prune roses in June

Try tea tree mulch, it's finer and cheaper than bark

Keep plant tags as an easy guide to care

Left: Stu and Sue. Right: Sue's beautiful garden.

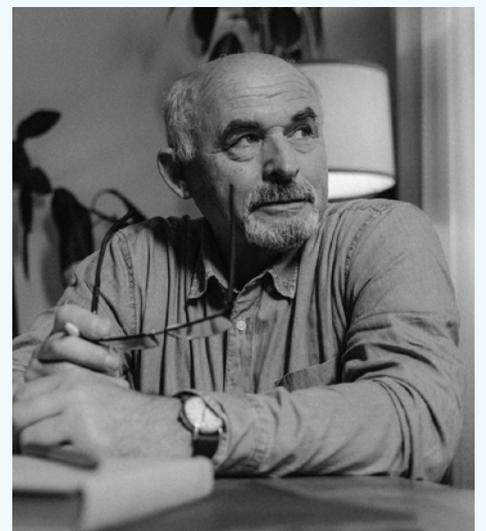
## Remembering Bob\*

Bob was a loyal supporter of Wesley Mission for nearly four decades. He left a gift in his Will to Wesley Mission upon his passing in 2021, aged in his 80s.

An only child, as a student at a Sydney boys' school he was known as quiet but clever, interesting and kind. When he finished school, he attended a local university where he subsequently became a well-respected lecturer and tutor. In his long career as an academic, he taught

many thousands of students with expertise and patience. Bob was also a highly regarded member of his local church and community clubs, and he had a passion for bushwalking, gardening and meteorology. He continued as many of his interests as he could when ill health saw him move into an aged care home.

We are grateful for Bob's legacy and inspired by his compassion that will help many people doing it tough.



**The lives of people experiencing homelessness and hardship can be transformed by everyday Australians like Bob who leave a gift to Wesley Mission in their Will. Your gift, combined with those from other Wesley Mission supporters, can have a powerful impact. It's one of the very best ways to help people most in need for generations to come. Find out more at [www.wesleymission.org.au/bequests](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/bequests) or by phoning Stephen Burfield on (02) 9263 5561.**

\*Name and photo changed for privacy.

# You spoke, we listened

Thank you to all those who took time out of their day to respond to our recent supporter survey. Your care for others inspires us every day. Here are some highlights and insights:

**81%** said our newsletter was easy to read

**75%** said it was relevant

## Your main reasons for supporting Wesley Mission:

- Belief in Wesley Mission's good work
- Feeling a responsibility to help those in need
- Belief that Wesley Mission uses donations wisely
- Your faith motivates you to help others

**Your main hobbies and interests are** reading, gardening, travel, cooking, sports, needlework, arts and crafts

## You said:

"Your work matters!"

"Seeing my fellow humans homeless in the city makes me feel powerless. Supporting Wesley Mission helps me feel less powerless. As a collective, we have the power to help!"

"I am concerned about mothers and children being forced into dangerous situations by others."

"It's good to know we have Wesley Mission in times of need."



## A home for Aisha\*

Aisha had no choice but to escape her home with her children, because of family violence. But tonight, they will be safe and warm thanks to your generous support.

"I didn't know where we were going to sleep," Aisha says of leaving the family home. "My children were scared. When Wesley Mission helped us to find a house, it felt like freedom. Thank God – and thanks for Wesley Mission. I feel like I've won the lottery."

Aisha's new home is in a small complex of villas where she and the children can stay until they are ready to find a new home. They are supported by their Wesley Mission tenancy worker, Liesa. "At Christmas we drop hampers over, we bring toys for the kids," says Liesa. "They know they can give us a call if they're struggling. It makes a difference to know we care and we're here."

**Your support helps vulnerable families like Aisha's into safe homes. Thank you!**

\*Name and photo changed for privacy.



WFA35985

## 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: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

We'd love to send you a birthday message!

Reply Paid 270, SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1234 1800 021 821 fundraising@wesleymission.org.au wesleymission.org.au ABN 42 164 655 145

Can you give monthly?

**Yes, I'd 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: \_\_\_\_\_

 **Online: [wesleymission.org.au/impactnews\\_winter2022](https://wesleymission.org.au/impactnews_winter2022)**

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

Scan here to donate now

