



# TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities  
and Hope Christian Homes - FEB 2024

## On the road - January family and supporters meetings

During January some of the Our Place and Hope Christian Homes teams met with families and their support network to talk through the possibilities of housing for their family member with disability and to encourage inclusion of people with disability in church life. Kirk and Rod travelled to Mittagong and Kangaroo Valley while Simon, Lisa and Mark met with a group via Zoom.

It was a time of great mutual encouragement and exciting to explore possibilities. They had practical and profound conversations about the hopes and dreams of parents and church leaders for young people and adults within these communities who have disabilities. A consistent note throughout was the willingness to engage in long-term planning strategies. In the meetings it was recognised that the next ten years are crucial. They recognised that planning and praying needed to have at least that kind of commitment. The teams came away from their conversations encouraged and challenged to continue pressing into the vision and objectives that Our Place and Hope have set for themselves.



Kirk with Jim and Melinda Good



Zoom meeting for Eastern Suburbs

Belonging Workshops can help your church start its journey to being more inclusive. Express your interest in training today via our website:

<https://ourplacecc.org.au/>



## Welcome Home Springwood News

The housemates at Welcome Home Springwood have had a very busy summer time. In December they held a Christmas party for Jerrah's support workers which was a night filled with joy, celebration and some sadness as they farewelled one of Jerrah's long time and valued support workers. The night was filled with delicious food, games and some impromptu rap!

The house has seen a continuous stream of guests who have enjoyed the hospitality of Jerrah and Simon including delicious meals and lots of fun and friendship!

Jerrah and Simon have enjoyed learning the art of puppetry and designing scripts featuring Fluffy the blue puppet and boy George the dog. We are looking forward to a performance soon - perhaps they may even feature at a future Belonging Workshop!



As many of you may already be aware, our CEO Kirk Patston has been battling Long COVID for some time. Under medical direction, Kirk will be taking leave for the period from February - April 2024. Pray for Kirk during this time and that his health will be restored!

In the interim, Jenny Bawden, our chairperson, will be overseeing the activities of OPCC and Fiona will be continuing in her role of administration and communications. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us:  
[admin@ourplacecc.org.au](mailto:admin@ourplacecc.org.au).

### OPCC Christmas Dinner



## Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 17th December the Annual General Meeting for Our Place Christian Communities was held in Springwood. It was a great chance to hear about the work of OPCC and pray together. Following the meeting the staff and members enjoyed a Christmas dinner together.

The following appointments were approved by the committee:

**Chairperson:**

Jenny Bawden,

**Secretary:**

Ian McGilvray,

**Treasurer:**

Paul Dickens.

**Committee members:**

Renee Dickens,  
Lisa Patston,  
Simon Shead.

*Thank  
you*

It is with gratitude that we farewell Sam Wan from the Our Place committee. We are thankful for his service to our organisation and encouraged by his strong desire to continue to support our work through membership.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR  
YOUR STORY.



Our organization is looking for parents of people over 18 who live with intellectual disability and/or autism and who are part of a faith community to participate in a research project. You would complete a one hour interview regarding the spiritual life of your adult child with disability.

Contact us today to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.

**EMAIL US AT:**

[admin@ourplacecc.org.au](mailto:admin@ourplacecc.org.au)

Continue to support our work by partnering in prayer with us. Our prayer points for February:



- For Kirk's health and recovery during his medical leave
- For overcoming the financial, governmental and bureaucratic challenges facing people with disability in securing stable housing options
- For visionary and generous provision for our Springwood home to continue towards the next steps.



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