

2015 Wrap Up

CONNECTIONS

The Samaritans Foundation is the social welfare arm of the Anglican Church in the Hunter, Manning & Central Coast.

We're proud to share the stories that supporters like you have helped us achieve.



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TAKING A STANCE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Samaritans is taking active and effective steps forward to end violence against women by becoming an accredited White Ribbon Workplace.

Senior male staff have embraced Samaritans stance against domestic violence by becoming White Ribbon Ambassadors. Samaritans Director of Community Services and White Ribbon Ambassador, Rob Dawson, is horrified by statistics that show one woman a week dies in Australia as a result of domestic violence.

As husband and father to strong, empowered women he is passionate about the role of men in taking a proactive stance to end the

domestic violence epidemic. For Rob silence is unacceptable.

When asked about his role as a White Ribbon Ambassador Rob says he believes;

"It is contingent upon male staff to be aware and proactive in the workplace."

White Ribbon Ambassadors are men who become formal representatives of White Ribbon and who have the knowledge, skills, attributes and determination to influence Australian men to critically evaluate their attitudes and behaviours toward women.

On November 25, Samaritans recognised White Ribbon Day with male staff taking the

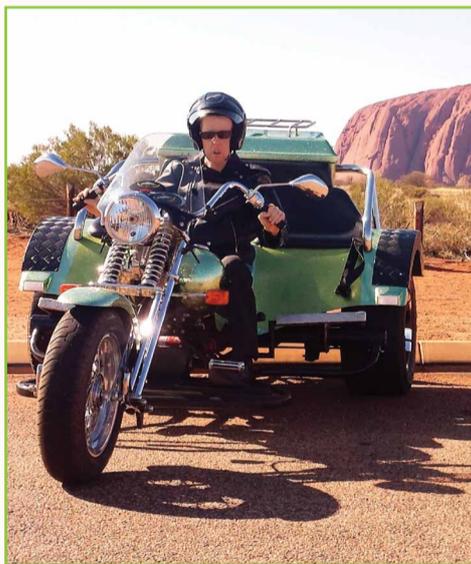


Samaritans Senior Male White Ribbon Ambassadors.

White Ribbon Oath in front of their peers; speaking about why they are passionate about preventing violence against women and updating staff about the organisation's progress towards White Ribbon accreditation.

For more information visit www.samaritans.org.au

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



At Samaritans we offer flexibility to give the people we support real choice and control. So when residents from Enhanced Living Options (ELO) wanted to go on a trip to Uluru, we made it happen. It was a very cultural experience for residents and support workers with dinner under the stars and an Indigenous performance.

"Uluru was good, I liked the train, the Ghan and I liked the motorbike ride and the Helicopter ride. I liked the Uluru holiday the best!" Andrew, ELO resident (pictured on left). ELO encompasses a number of accommodation

houses for people living with a disability. This program supports the development of living skills and provides advocacy and assistance.

Samaritans also hosted an action-packed holiday to Camp Breakaway in San Remo for men from our Community Program. The men enjoyed a dolphin cruise, dining out and although some were hesitant at first, trike riding was a highlight with everyone enjoying the challenge. Samaritans Community Program operates on the Central Coast, connecting people with a disability to social and recreational activities.

To find out more about our disability services and how we can support participants in the NDIS visit www.samaritans.org.au/ndis

TEGAN TRIUMPHS OVER HARDSHIP

Tegan, who is supported by Samaritans Student Accommodation, is bravely overcoming hardship and inspiring other youth to do the same. After leaving home at a young age to escape an abusive environment, Tegan has taken control of her life. Between school, work and studying at TAFE to become a Nurse, the Year 11 student also devotes time towards volunteering in the community.

In October, 2015 Tegan was recognised as the winner of the 2015 Hunter Volunteer Award and is a finalist for the overall NSW Volunteer of the Year Award.

Tegan is passionate about giving back to the community and said: "I hope in the near future to help Samaritans with campaigning against domestic violence. It is so close to my heart and I want to fundraise and help ensure that victims like me no longer suffer."

Tegan is also supported at Samaritans Student Accommodation by her Mentor, Shelley. The Mentor Program teams each resident with a Mentor to offer guidance,



Tegan and her mentor, Shelley.

support and advice to prepare young people for the real world.

Samaritans Student Accommodation also provides supported accommodation, financial assistance and employment opportunities to young people who are pursuing an education.

To find out more about our Student Accommodation Program or becoming a mentor visit www.samaritans.org.au



It is with some sadness, and yet anticipation with my future plans in mind, that I write my last Connections. In September

I announced my plans to retire at the end of January 2016 after 25 years with Samaritans. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for such a wonderful organisation as Samaritans. Your donations have supported 1,000's in need in our local community during my time. I hope you will continue to support Samaritans in the challenging days ahead, as I will.

Thank you. Cec Shevels.

A WORD FROM CEC

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of a small child born in very humble circumstances who grew up to bring a message of hope and liberation for all people, particularly for those experiencing oppression and marginalisation in our community.

Christians have continued to promote this message over the centuries, even though our voices are sometimes drowned out by those promoting only self interest.

At Samaritans, we go the extra mile at Christmas time. Whilst we can continue

to celebrate Christmas ourselves in our churches and families, we try to ensure that the joy of Christmas reaches everyone, particularly the lonely, the homeless and the marginalised. Christmas hampers, gifts for children and our wonderful Christmas Day Luncheon in Newcastle, Wyong and Singleton ensure that the hope of Christmas is shared by all in our community.

Without this, Christmas can be a time of sadness, loss and loneliness. We are indeed fortunate at Samaritans to bring meaning to the word Christmas for so many people in our community. God's love is for everyone. This is the message we share at Christmas time.

SAMARITANS CELEBRATES THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

On Tuesday 6th October Samaritans celebrated a special milestone marking the 20th Anniversary of Friendship House, a post-release support program for men.

The program helps men exiting prison become part of the community by providing them with the support and guidance of a volunteer to assist them in meeting their goals. The recidivism rate for men who participate in the Friendship House program is below 14%, compared to a significantly higher rate of 60% in the general post-release population.

Volunteers, men we support, official guests and staff gathered to celebrate the success of the program with a special presentation and morning tea. Local MP's, Sonia Hornery and Tim Crackanthorp also attended the landmark event.

As a non-Government funded program, Samaritans is proud of the longevity of Friendship House, which has supported over 480 men in the last 20 years.

To find out more about Samaritans or how you can support visit
www.samaritans.org.au/cms/participate



Friendship House Volunteers, Chair of Samaritans Board, Bishop Peter Stuart and Samaritans Staff celebrate the 20th Anniversary.

We'd also like to thank our major corporate supporters for 2015:

With your help over 800 people will enjoy a festive lunch on the Foreshore on Christmas Day, young people supported at Samaritans Student Accommodation now have Mentors and our Collectors Care Annual Art Exhibition celebrated it's 10th year. Thank you:



Samaritans Christmas Lunches December 25, from 11am.
Newcastle Foreshore Railway Sheds;
Singleton Senior Citizens Centre;
Wyong Racecourse.

Don't be alone on Christmas Day. Join us and celebrate the day.

Want to keep up to date with Samaritans news and events?

Join our email list!
www.samaritans.org.au



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Samaritans

Compassion Integrity Justice

Christmas Appeal 2015

Support Samaritans Christmas Appeal.

Just \$25 can make a difference.

Please give what you can at www.samaritans.org.au/donate

Phone: 1300 656 336
Post: PO Box 366,
HRMC NSW 2310

Yes

I would love to bring Joy & Hope to a family in need this Christmas



Mr Mrs Ms Other | Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to donate: \$25 \$50 \$70 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed is my: Cheque Money Order MasterCard Visa

Card No.

Credit Card deduction: Once Only Monthly Quarterly

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. A receipt for your generous donation will be mailed to you. Cheques should be made payable to: **Samaritans Foundation**. Thank you.

I have previously donated to Samaritans.
 Please contact me with information on how to make a Bequest.