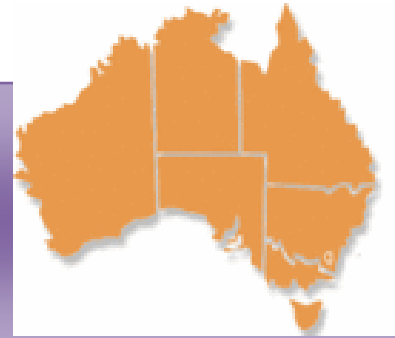


# Australian Latter-day Saints Voices

November, 2009



## Church's 30-year Anniversary in PNG

By Christopher Cooper

Church members across Papua New Guinea recently celebrated the 30-year anniversary of the Church's official establishment in this island nation of over 5.5 million people.

In 1979, Australia Brisbane Mission President Keith W. Hubbard visited Papua New Guinea where he found a few Papuans who had joined the Church while living outside of their country. On 10 October 1979, he organized the Port Moresby Branch with Athol W. Pike as president.

Australia Brisbane Mission President Dennis D. Flake assigned the first missionaries, L. Douglas and Eva Johnson, to work in Papua New Guinea beginning in August 1980. The following 19 October, the first Papuans to receive the gospel in their own country, Maria Biai, Komara Nana, Sarah Nana, and Rhoda Baka were baptized. On 4 January 1981, the Lae Branch was organized with Kelvin Horsford as president.

On 29 August 1982, Robert Goisisi and Johnson Auda were set apart as the first Papuans to serve as full-time missionaries. By October 1982, membership in Papua New Guinea had reached 475. By mid-year 1983, nine branches had been organized: Port Moresby, Lae, Arawa, Rabaul, Korobosea, Tokarara, Girabu, Konedobu, and Mt Hagen. In 1984, the first meetinghouse in Papua New Guinea was completed in Port Moresby.

By March 1987, there were 1,450 members. Many more contacts were made in remote villages. Residents of the Daru Village asked for missionaries, who arrived in July 1990. Just three months later, the Daru Branch had 160 members. By 1989 twelve Papuans were serving as full-time missionaries.

The Papua New Guinea Port Moresby Mission was created in February 1992 with Joseph J. Grigg as president. Elder V. Dallas Merrell of the Seventy created the Papua New Guinea Port Moresby Stake, the first stake on the island, on 22 October 1995, with Vaiba Rome as the first Stake President.

In 2003 there were 12,668 members. In 2005 there were 14,850 members with 1 stake, five wards, eight districts, 50 branches and its own mission. One in 399 Papuans are now LDS.

(Reference – 2007 Church Almanac)

## Stake Welfare Day

By John Millar

Recently the Eight Mile Plains Stake in Queensland held their annual Stake Welfare Day. The Cultural hall was transformed into a bazaar of stands, displays and taste-testing as members came to learn from "the experts" skills such as wheat and legume grinding, growing sprouts, beekeeping and honey usage, dehydrating, bread making, 72 hour packs, dry-pack sealing, and how to make ice cream from wheat. A free recipe book was also distributed.

Local Church Employment missionaries, Elder and Sister Cannon, assisted with information and training on employment issues. Reg Hardman and Marty Nelson, both registered HAM radio operators, demonstrated emergency communication in the form of a HAM radio, and showed how this can save lives and assist in communication efforts when the regular forms of communication are disabled. David Forde, the President of the Kuraby Lions Club and Mustafa Ally, a local Muslim leader, were particularly interested in this stand.



l to r - Mustafe Ally, David Forde, Reg Hardman and Marty Nelson demonstrating HAM radio at Stake Welfare Day

Kathy Dean, the organiser of the day, congratulated members of the stake who came to this annual event and expressed appreciation to all who assisted her on the various displays.

President Keith Walker, Stake President, said he was anxious to assist the members be better prepared for emergencies and days like the stake welfare day were just one way the stake was helping members be better prepared for emergencies.

(Picture courtesy of John Millar and used with permission)

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## Mural Brings Bush to Senior Citizens

By Lanai Carter

Youth and leaders of Rochedale Ward, Eight Mile Plains stake in Brisbane recently spent many hours painting an Australiana mural for residents at the Yurana Respite Centre at Springwood.

Lorna Ludwig, a resident of Yurana Respite Centre, expressed to Lisa Bradley of the Logan City Council that many residents had been concerned for some time about the glare of a nearby fence in the afternoons; it was very hot and hard on the residents' eyes and she suggested to Lisa that a mural would be the ideal solution. Lisa Bradley then approached the church about creating the mural.

Bishop Phillips of Rochedale ward organised members and youth leaders to commence this project. Jade Hillier, with John Friswell (artist/director) and Alex Stromilo (Counsellor in the Bishopric of the Rochedale Ward) were part of the committee. Approximately twenty youth and parents made up the 'task force' to complete this mural.

John Friswell said "Working on this project has been a great challenge. Organising and designing a picture for youth to paint is a little tricky. I'm very happy with what we have done and I'm glad to see the residents like it too. It's been a long time since I've done anything like this but it has been a very rewarding experience. We would especially like to thank all the youth for getting up on their Saturdays and helping out."

Jade Hillier stated "I have really enjoyed my involvement in the project. I've been lucky enough to deal with Lorna Ludwig and some of the other residents who have been generous with their own time and equipment, wanting to help out where they can providing biscuits, pikelets and cordial."



John Friswell (Artist); Beth Rolls; Lisa Bradley (Logan City Councilor); Jeremy Alfred; Chloe Main; Bethany Gordon; Zachary Alfred and Jade Hillier (youth leader).



l-r: President Keith Walker, Bishop Daniel Phillips, Mrs. Lorna Ludwig (local resident), Councilor Lisa Phillips (Logan City Council) with mural

It's rewarding to hear the residents call it their 'art gallery'. We're hoping we can get it to a level that deserves that praise."

The youth thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gave their time willingly to create a masterpiece. "We're giving back to the community that built Logan," said Bethany Gordon.

The mural was unveiled on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of September with both local councillor Lisa Bradley and a number of Yurana Respite Centre residents present along with a number of Church members who had been involved with the project at various stages.

Rachel Garcia president of the young women in the ward said "It's been a great experience to have the opportunity to brighten the environment for our wonderful senior citizens who have done so much."

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## Mt Isa Sisters' Blankets of Friendship

By Gail Pollard

The Sisters in the Mount Isa Branch live in a remote area of Australia 1834 km (20 hour drive) from Brisbane and are part of the Brisbane Australia Mission. Last June the Sisters donated beautiful knitted quilts to the Laura Johnson Nursing home where elderly members of the Mount Isa community with illnesses are cared for. This activity was one of compassionate service as the Sisters were able to help the elderly and add some colour and warmth to their lives. In doing so, they were also able to learn knitting and crocheting skills that benefited their families.

The sisters all enjoyed sharing with each other during the activities. Older sisters teaching younger sisters how to knit, gathering in the Relief



Society President's home when they needed further encouragement to complete their goal, meeting together at the chapel on Saturday mornings to lay out the squares so they could sew or crochet them together, and mothers and daughters helping each other to complete their quilt. It all happened under the enthusiasm of the Home, Family and Personal Enrichment Leader, Sister Lorina Coggins, who herself provided many squares. One of the most prolific knitters ended up being one of the pioneers of the branch, Sister Spath, who suffers from the challenges of Parkinson's disease.

As the sisters presented the quilts to the nursing staff and residents, many thanks were expressed and faces turned to smiles and laughter. The Relief Society sisters enjoyed the spirit of love and friendship that was felt throughout this activity and the day of the donation was a truly wonderful conclusion to a great compassionate effort.

Photograph: l – r: A resident of the Laura Johnson Nursing Home, Ann Chinyama (Laura Johnson Home Director of Nursing), Sister Hamilton, Sister Thompson, a Nursing Home Staff member, Sister Coggins, Sister Matila, Jessalia and Sabriye Matila.

(Picture courtesy of Alex Coggins, Mount Isa Branch President)

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## Real Estate Award

Real Estate agent Jay Standley was recognized as Western Australia's highest selling real estate agent during this year's REIWA awards. He won the grand master award for selling more than hundred properties and came third for the highest dollar value of properties sold in the state.

Jay said he was delighted to be Western Australia's highest selling real estate agent. The last financial year was one of the most volatile in history and Jay said winning this accolade was "testament to the fact that external factors don't have to control you".

While Real Estate work traditionally is known for long hours and weekend work, Jay prides himself on never working on Sundays.

"Success in Real Estate comes down to extremely long hours and tremendous dedication" he said, "but it is my family that makes it all worth-while, and my greatest joy is walking in the back door at the end of the day and seeing my wife and family".

Jay served a mission in the Kiribati, Central Pacific Mission and is currently 1st counselor in the Elder's quorum, institute teacher and temple preparation teacher in the Bunbury Ward in the Rockingham Stake. He is married to Malinda and they have one son named Levi.



Jay Standley receiving Real Estate award from Rob Ockerby

(Pictures courtesy of Malinda Standley and used with permission)

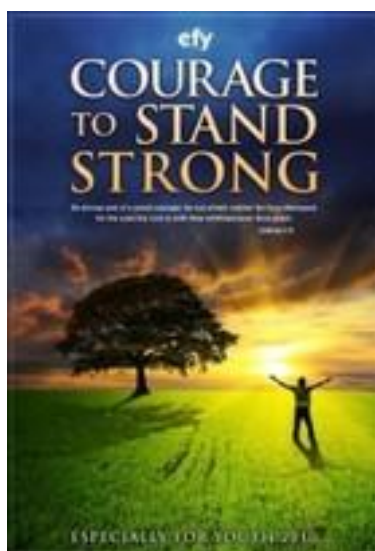
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## EFY Sydney and Perth

*Especially For Youth* is a youth program with the objectives to encourage, assist, and guide youth participants ages 14 to 18 as they strive to "come unto Christ." EFY creates a setting where youth have the opportunity to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually and socially alongside their peers.

EFY is a full, five-day, overnight program that begins on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January and concludes early Saturday morning, **23rd January 2010**. Youth have the opportunity to learn and grow together while attending classes, devotionals and firesides. Highlights of the week include Family Home Evening, dances, a musical program, games night, service projects, a variety show, and a testimony meeting. EFY camps are being held this month in Sydney and in Perth for the first time.

More information may be found at the EFY websites - <http://www.lds.org.au/conventions/efysydney10/> and <http://lds.org.au/conventions/EFYPerth10/index.html>



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We invite submissions from members, of **personal, faith-promoting experiences** - (See 'Latter-day Saint Voices' in the Ensign). Any topic may be addressed although different themes will be suggested throughout the year.

Stories should be 300 – 400 words in length. Please provide in full: Your name, age, gender, ward and stake.

Any photos provided must be accompanied by written consent from those in the picture.

Photos must also be provided with captions with full details of those in the picture & submitted separately in **.jpg format**.

### **Suggested Writing Themes:**

General Theme (for Christmas): "The Greatest Gift"

Young Single Adults (2010 Conference Theme) "Doubt Not, Fear Not".

Young adults: "Be thou an example of the believers".

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