



Storehouse seasons

The Kogarah Storehouse and its name

Any visitor to the suburb of Kogarah, located just 14 kms south of Sydney CBD, cannot help but notice the imposing presence of the St George Hospital, one of Sydney's larger teaching hospitals. Founded in 1894 it has steadily grown in size and in the process, by necessity, has resumed many properties around it. Two such properties resumed in 1986 were the Kogarah Methodist and Congregational churches who had become, only some few years earlier, the Uniting Church in Kogarah. Consequently, dispossessed of their buildings, the parishioners had to find a new place of worship. After a lot of prayer and trust in God, they felt led to a derelict, 100 year old factory on the corner of Gray and Kensington St. With its open spaces.

This "New" Uniting Church in Kogarah, was not going to be your typical traditional church, rather it had a

vision to be a centre which was open and welcoming to the community. The congregation wanted to 'share God's love with its local community' This was to be a humble place which expressed the love of God in tangible, practical ways helping people in our community.

This simple vision, now with a new mission to reach out to the community, reminded us of the biblical passage Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

And so **The Kogarah Storehouse** found its name and God kept his word in that he continues to bless the people and work being done here.



Lala's Greetings

2017 marked the 25th year since the inception of The Kogarah Storehouse. It is fitting then to take a moment to reflect from where we have come and the many who have helped along the way.

I have not been involved myself all of that time but I have heard stories of those who have gone before me, working tirelessly for The Storehouse, and have helped make it the success it has become. I have previously acknowledged the tremendous help The Storehouse gets from our many current supporters, benefactors and our great group of volunteers. But at this time I want to say a great big THANK YOU to so many others who, in the past 25 years, made selfless contributions to the work here. I wish I had the time and space to name each and every person and organisation individually who generously supported the vision that has propelled The Kogarah Storehouse over 25 years. However, you know who you are and please know your past efforts are very much appreciated.

But, I think our story on Pat Nankivell and her years of dedication is typical of many stories of devotion we have witnessed over the years. Pat's contribution was long and exemplary but now she resides in beautiful Queensland with a warm sun on her back as she basks in God's glory.

Till next time

Lala Noronha
Manager



PAT'S ROOM

Recently, the food pantry at the Kogarah Storehouse was named "Pat's Room" in honour of Patricia Nankivell who gave many years of voluntary service to the Kogarah Storehouse and the Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church. Pat was in Sydney recently and we snapped a picture of her with Lala beside the plaque that dedicates the room in her honour. Pat Nankivell has been associated with The Kogarah Storehouse since its inception in 1992. Pat came



in most days during the week to attend to property matters and would offer her help in the office whenever it was needed.

As the services of the Storehouse grew Pat took more of an active role in assisting with helping people. She gave out food hampers to families in need and

assisted with the Energy Accounts Payments Assistance (EAPA), writing and handing out vouchers to those experiencing difficulty paying their energy bills.

There is no doubt that all the staff at The Storehouse both past and present are grateful to God for Pat who so selflessly gave so much of her time to the work of the Storehouse and for the love, encouragement and support she gave them.



A WORD FROM REV ROBYN

Minister Brighton-Kogarah Uniting Church

As you read this newsletter we will have just experienced the Easter celebrations and we may be full of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns as well as seafood, roast pork, lamb or

The advertising around these celebrations is all of happy families and of excess in one way or another, and while we do indeed should enjoy these times there are many among us who for one reason or another are separated from their families or don't have the money to enjoy the spoils of the season.

Over the first quarter of the year the requests for food parcels has increased substantially caused by

the increased financial demands of starting the new school year and after paying the rent there is little money left for food to feed the family.

We are thankful for your support to enable us to continue to meet the needs of those who come to us for help.

We are thankful that the people in our community know that The Kogarah Storehouse will help them in whatever way we can.

A few weeks ago a young man came into the foyer area, he seemed a little lost and when I spoke to him he gave me a donation. As I listened to his

story he spoke of a period some years ago when he was struggling mentally and physically and had received from us regular food parcels and other support and now that things were better for him he wanted to help someone else, through The Storehouse.

What a great affirmation that we are helping people to get back on their feet and the gratitude that they feel as a result of the changes they have been able to make in their lives.

We thank God that through the support of others we can assist in bringing the changes in people's lives that Jesus promised over 2000 years ago.



About The Kogarah Storehouse

Our mission: "To be a haven of hope and practical help to people in need in our community"

Established in 1992, The Kogarah Storehouse Community Centre is a non-government, not-for-profit, registered charity with (PBI) Public Benevolent Institute DGR status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. It operates from the Kogarah Uniting Church and is an outreach mission of the church.



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