



Storehouse

Seasons

'Prepared Love' . . . The Food Ministry Continues

One of the important ministries, of The Kogarah Storehouse over time, has been the Food Program. In the early years of The Storehouse, this program consisted of an informal coffee time where people, many who were isolated and lonely, could meet with others in similar situations, or with Storehouse volunteers and staff, for comfort and companionship. Over the years this progressively developed into the provision of a hot meal, served every Wednesdays, to generally 50 or more people.

To many, this Wednesday hot meal was the most nourishing meal they had all week - as they lacked the means to source and prepare meals for themselves.

With the Covid-19 lockdown and the suspension of many face to face services, The Kogarah Storehouse faced the dilemma of how to continue to care for these many people in need. The answer was to prepare and give away free food hampers.

Those requiring a food parcel would register for one

on Monday or Tuesday and pick it up on Wednesday. With the support of our food donor partners, OZ Harvest, Coles Second Bite, Woolworths, Bakers Delight and Food Bank, our dedicated volunteers and staff would then prepare the necessary number of food parcels for collection around Midday on Wednesday.

In spite of all the difficulties of the last 12 months working under all the Covid-19 restrictions, these Emergency Food Parcels have been an absolute life saver for many thousands of disadvantaged people in need in our community.



Lala's Greeting

The Kogarah Storehouse is open to all without discrimination. Our care is unconditional. This underpinning value of The Storehouse is something of which we can be very proud. And, I am reminded, from the Bible, of the parable of the Good Samaritan, told by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke (Lk:10.25-37). Do you know the story? If not, perhaps look it up!

In short, it is a story that asks, who is our neighbour? It alludes to how each of us can ignore another's needs, not necessarily out of callousness nor indifference, but just out of busy-ness and hurried-ness. Sadly, we all seem to be time poor - or at least we think so! We seem to not have the time to be involved or to even look out for others in need around us. But Covid-19, recent disasters, and world events have left a lot of need in their wake. So who are our neighbours? Are they simply anyone who is around us in need? What are your thoughts?

Blessings,

Lala Noronha
General Manager



Work, Health and Safety at The Storehouse

We have had previous articles in this newsletter about our wonderful volunteer helpers and how grateful we are for their generous giving of their time. Indeed, we care a lot about them as people but most importantly we have a duty of care for their safety and welfare. It may interest you to know that, despite the fact volunteers donate their time and work for free, they are still protected by all the same workplace health and safety legislation in place for the general workforce.

The employment of any person, including volunteers, places a large responsibility on organisations and managers charged with ensuring their safety. Providing a safe work environment, commands a lot of knowledge and foresight, to anticipate possible dangers to workers and appreciate the required workplace culture, to ensure all workers can work in a safe environment.

The Board of Management of Kogarah Storehouse, and our General Manager, Lala Noronha, have our duty of care to our staff and volunteers as a top priority.

Recently we have had closed circuit TV installed in and around the centre and have upgraded the foyer entry to better control the entry of visitors. On the employment side, we ensure volunteers, as well as paid staff, are given written letters of appointment and job descriptions outlining their work expectations, following which they are then adequately inducted into their roles. Some tasks involving higher risk, for example food preparation, require further food handling training and certification.

No workplace is perfect, but we do try to ensure The Kogarah Storehouse is a work friendly and safe environment.



Tax Deductable Donation Appeal

The demands on the resources of The Kogarah Storehouse are escalating. We need your help, more than ever. With the end of the financial year approaching, please consider giving tax deductible financial support.

GO TO:

<http://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/donate>



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.

