

# Storehouse SeaSonS

## The Kogarah Storehouse's 30 Year Celebration

2022 was a significant year at The Kogarah Storehouse! Thirty years prior, in 1992, the doors to The Kogarah Storehouse opened for the first time. From a humble beginning, primarily offering meeting spaces for community groups to come and use our building, it grew into an organisation providing help to people in need without discrimination by faith, colour or circumstance. All in need are equally welcome to seek help and compassion at "The Storehouse".

Looking back, we can see how God's amazing plan for The Storehouse has unfolded year after year - with so many opportunities and resources being presented. Little did we think 30 years ago that The Kogarah Storehouse would grow to become such an important and respected community service organisation. Over 7000 people a year are helped in some way by one of the many services The Kogarah Storehouse now provides.

Two events were planned to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. Firstly, there was the Thanksgiving Service held on Sunday 11th September at which the Rev. Ken Day spoke. Ken was the minister of the church at the very beginnings of "The Storehouse", so there was much to be thankful for. The second event was the Celebration Gala Dinner held on Thursday 15th September. It was such an honour to have so many supporters, old and new, with us to whom we could express our sincere thanks. We were especially delighted by the attendance of Yvonne Lawrence, who managed "The Storehouse" back in 1992, now retired in Cairns, but came back to attend this significant, milestone event.

Even after these 30 amazing years there will be no resting on our laurels as we head into 2023. With the energy and drive of Lala and her team, any and everyone who needs the help of The Kogarah Storehouse will continue to be offered a helping hand.



Guests at the 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner

#### Lala's Greetings

There is a wonderful account in the Bible (John 4:3-29) where Jesus, tired and resting, strikes up a conversation with a woman drawing water at a well. The reveals discourse important things about Jesus himself and also startling things about the herself. Importantly. woman, it also reveals truths about ourselves: how we could, or should, engage civilly with others despite their creed or colour, gender, their rights and wrongs, or their social standing.

In essence, the account shows we are all equal in the eyes of God, we are all equally valued by Him and his heart is to bring us all to Him. It is a beautiful testimony of his compassion and saving grace for us. It shows the nature of God's true heart, and the nature of that same heart he has planted in us all!

I often wonder how amazing our world could be if everyone truly understood God's heart and attempted to live out their lives guided by it.

Blessings,

Lala Noronha General Manager



### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

The Kogarah Storehouse end of year celebratory lunch was a little different this year. A very special treat for Staff and Volunteers, held aboard the Bass & Flinders for a Georges River cruise.

After another eventful year, it was a wonderful opportunity to express a huge "Thank You" to our incredibly dedicated and hardworking staff, volunteers and Management Committee. The weather was perfect, the leisurely atmosphere and river scenery suited the relaxed occasion, so everyone had a most enjoyable time.

It is oft quoted that: "the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts" and this is certainly true of The Kogarah Storehouse. The team spirit existing among all those involved, in delivering the Storehouse's many services, combine together to give the "whole" a far greater impact in our community, than anyone would expect. Indeed, the driving force behind this "team spirit" is their common desire to want to help others; those disadvantaged and struggling with life's issues.

There is a strong "in-built" sense of compassion in us all, which is part of our God given human nature, that sense of fulfillment and joy we experience when we know we have helped someone in need. And this is the driving force behind our dedicated team of people and everything they do.

We cannot thank our staff and volunteers enough for the tireless work they do in helping so many people in need, driven by the same compassion that Jesus showed to the sick and the poor.







Lawrence

Yvonne Lawrence



Staff & Volunteers Celebrating



Rev Ken Day at Thanksgiving Service



#### **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, notfor-profit, registered charity with (PBI) Public Benevolent Institute, DGR status. All donations over \$2 are tax deductable. It operates from the Kogarah Uniting Church and is an outreach mission of the church.



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