



PERSONAL REFLECTION

The 'Gift' of Service

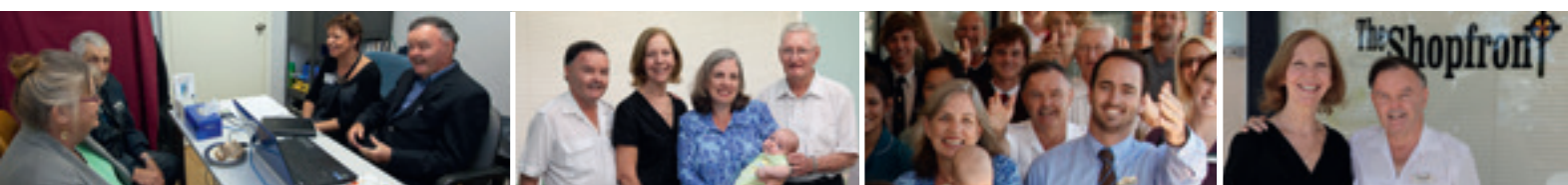
We recently sat with Br Peter Negus to chat about his experiences whilst serving at 'The Shopfront', firstly as Director from 2008-2012 and now continuing as a volunteer. We discuss the changing face of need, the wonderful people he has met and the lessons learnt along the way.

“When I was initially asked to work at The Shopfront in 2008, it seems unreal to me now that I had reservations about doing so. Like many people who haven't had the chance of working with homeless people, addicts or 'the needy', I harboured incorrect misconceptions of what it might be like.

Working at The Shopfront has been a true revelation. I have been embraced by the people I was there to help, and have made such wonderful friendships as a result.

To witness the random acts of kindness and the generosity of so many people and organisations, has been, and continues to be, an enriching experience for me, one which strengthens and renews my Faith in so many ways.

When Julie Williams and Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey first started The Shopfront in 2001 to help reach-out to people having difficulties obtaining emergency relief and assistance, I am not sure they could have imagined the overwhelmingly positive impact the agency would have on people's lives, or the 'community' which would develop as a result.



Brian Tierney, the Director of the Shopfront today, and his wonderful team of staff and volunteers, continue to do a remarkable job. In the beginning, about 5 people a day may have been welcomed. Last year, more than 21,000 people were assisted... and these numbers continue to grow.

You know, back in 2008, we used to interview about 10 people a week to find out what help they needed. **Today, the Shopfront is interviewing an average of 20 people each day - people needing accommodation, food, or emergency assistance of one form or another.**

This is a sad reflection on the emerging need which exists in our community. So many people, some for the very first time, are reaching-out for help as a result of job losses, financial hardship, relationship and marriage breakdowns.

It seems hard to imagine doesn't it that in a city like Perth, in a supposedly rich state like Western Australia, that so many people are in such desperate need.

But thanks to The Shopfront, so much good is being done.

Every week, a Doctor visits and attends to the medical needs of people, who otherwise would not or could not seek treatment. Centrelink have been fantastic, meeting 'clients' where they are, providing information and assistance in an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding.

More than 100 volunteers willingly give their time to help in any way they can. Corporate giants Coles and Woolworths have seen what good is being done and have eagerly and willingly continue to donate large quantities of foodstuffs and fruit and vegetables for distribution.

Introducing Br Peter Negus:

Born 3 May 1937, young Peter's first 7 years of life were spent on a farm at Westonia WA. His mother (Rita) had 8 children – 2 sets of identical twins including Peter and his brother Laurie. Unfortunately, their older sisters, born prematurely on the farm, died just three days later.	
Peter and Laurie (who is also a Christian Brother) attended school at CBC Perth and St Patrick's Technical College. Peter joined the Christian Brothers in Strathfield NSW in January 1954, and the Novitiate in 1956, commencing teacher training in 1957.	
Taught at St Leo's, Box Hill	1958 – 1966
Taught at CBC Highgate	1967 – 1969
Deputy Headmaster - St Mark's College Bedford (now Chisholm College)	1970 – 1971
Trinity College - completed Bachelor of Arts degree at UWA	1972
Aquinas College Rowing Master (won 2 Heads of River in two years, won 11 of 12 races) Last of the "Clean Sweeps" ("74)	1973 – 1974
Headmaster of St Mark's College Bedford	1975 – 1980
Headmaster of CBC Tardun	1981 – 1983
Studied at University to qualify for Aboriginal Studies	1984
Headmaster at Nulungu College Broome (took over from his twin Laurie as Bishop Jobst wanted someone similar)	1985 – 1990
Christian Brothers Renewal (worldwide) Rome	1991
Superior at Rostrevor College, Adelaide	1992 – 1997
Director, The Shopfront	2008 – 2011
Part of Team involved in 'Towards Healing':- Christian Brothers Leadership Team for WA & SA	1997 – 2007
Lead 'Towards Healing' Team	2007 – Current



Left to right: Bromley Worton, State Manager for TNT Express and Tom Ross, driver.

An Enduring Gratitude

In August this year, Tom Ross will celebrate 25 years of service as a driver at TNT Express.

Not many people at work or his customers know the significant challenges Tom faced as a young man, or how he was helped more than 30 years ago by one of our LifeLink agencies.

Tom had a difficult family life as a young boy, which impacted in so many negative ways through his teenage years. Without guidance, support or a great deal of caring shown at home, the result was time spent in youth detention and a shattering of his confidence and seemingly zero opportunities.

At age 21, he felt alone, depressed and had no idea how to change his life.


Tom then found Centacare Employment and Training.

“Centacare saved my life...I mean it. From the first day, I was treated like someone who mattered, that they truly cared about me. Way back then, they helped find me somewhere to live, worked on rebuilding my confidence, developed my interview and communication skills, and were directly responsible for me getting my first job as a storeman at Aherns, where I worked for 7 years before joining TNT EXPRESS.


Centacare Employment and Training gave me back my dignity, my self-esteem, gave me a direction. It wasn't a quick fix either, they helped me in so many ways over years, not weeks or months.

Thankfully, with Centacare's help, I've built a life. I got married, had a son who I love, and have been working for almost 25 years in a job which brings me a lot of joy. Of course there've been ups and downs, good times and bad, but that's life mate isn't it. But no matter what, I try to always be positive, work hard and help others in whatever way I can, the same way I was helped by Centacare.”

Today, as a driver for TNT EXPRESS, Tom is passionate about providing the best service to the company, and its customers. He said: *“I look forward to starting work every single day, honestly.*



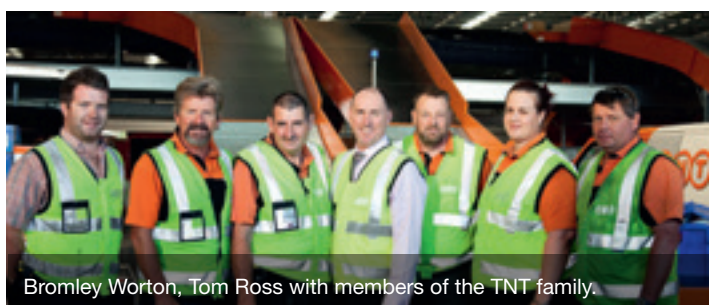
Mr Bromley Worton, State Manager for TNT Express said:



“I congratulate Tom (on this year) achieving such a wonderful milestone with our company – 25 years of service. Like all our drivers, all our 300 employees here in Perth, his passion for what he does is infectious.

Our staff are committed to providing the highest level of professional service and being 'customer focused'. It's a culture which exists here at TNT EXPRESS, of which we are very proud. As Tom correctly said, at TNT EXPRESS we are indeed a family.

Our company does its best to look after its people and provide opportunities, and they in turn look after the best interests of our customers” said Mr Worton.



Bromley Worton, Tom Ross with members of the TNT family.

LIFELINKS

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The material in this newsletter may be reused for school projects with our compliments



LIFELINK'S 20TH YEAR OF SERVICE...

THANKS TO YOU!

This year,  LifeLink enters its 20th year of service as 'the fundraising and promotional arm' supporting Archdiocesan social service agencies. I am honoured to have been the manager of this wonderful organisation since its establishment.

Our role within the Archdiocese is an important one – to help share the 'good news and good works' of the Church with members of the Catholic and general Community, and to raise much needed funds to help facilitate the vitally important work of our supported welfare agencies.

The 12 agencies supported through LifeLink reach-out to help more than **31,000 Western Australians in need** and deliver approximately **\$47 million in professional programmes and services** throughout the State each year.

Thankfully, much of this required funding is achieved through Government grants and service contracts, however the Archdiocese of Perth continues to provide up to \$1 million annually to ensure funding is available for this outreach.

The Board Members, Directors, Staff and Volunteers who work in our agencies are quite simply remarkable. They share a collective passion, a calling, to help people in need and to assist them to re-establish their lives in whatever way they can. As Catholic Caring Agencies, their work is most certainly a positive demonstration of 'Faith in Action' and they are an inspirational example for us all.

I want to recognise the outstanding generosity of the thousands of donors who provide such generous and ongoing support to the Archbishop's various fundraising appeals conducted through LifeLink.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU...that our LifeLink agencies are able to continue in their 'mission of care' to those most at need in the community, and we are indeed grateful. **THANK YOU!**

Every day, as more and more families and individuals seek assistance from our LifeLink agencies, many for the very first time, because of job losses, family and relationship breakdowns, or increasing financial pressures, I ask for your continuing support.

Together, we can, have and will make a difference!

Yours gratefully,

Brett A Mendez
Manager, LifeLink



LifeLink.

Catholic Caring Agencies

Together, we **can** make a difference.



Mr Chris Dickons, RTO Manager, Centacare, congratulates Li Mei on achieving her Certificate III.

With Faith.... and Little Help from



Li Mei Chen (48) truly is a remarkable woman.

Originally from the Guangxi (pronounced Gwan See) province of China near Hong Kong, Li Mei worked in the coal mining industry as a mechanical engineer. She met and married her husband and moved to Perth in 2008. Just one year later, her husband, a Civil Engineer, sadly suffered a heart attack followed soon after by a debilitating stroke.

Under increasing financial pressure, Li Mei found herself needing to work, however with limited English language and writing skills and her qualifications not recognised in Australia, she needed help.

Li Mei said *"I felt so vulnerable, so useless; I would put myself down all the time and became quite depressed about the future. Then Centrelink introduced me to Centacare Employment and Training."*

I enrolled in their Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program. The people at Centacare's Mirrabooka office were so lovely. They were so kind, helpful and caring. Darren and Tia, my English Tutors, helped me a great deal and I found my language skills improved so quickly.

It gave me such confidence. I started working at the Mont Clare Aged Care facility in Claremont, initially as a kitchen hand and doing basic housekeeping like making beds etc. The management at Mont Clare were so supportive.

Together with Centacare, they encouraged me to undertake a Certificate III Health Services Assistance course which I completed and I am so proud to say that I have now commenced work as an Health Services Assistant.

I am such a different person now. I feel so positive about the future, I am so happy all the time. Now I am going to start an Educational Assistance Course so I can gain the skills necessary to enter University. I would love to either study medicine or perhaps teaching, but for now I am just focusing on the next step."

We ask Li Mei how she remains so positive, so exuberant, so happy.

She replied: *"You know, Australia is such a wonderful country. If I had remained in China, there is nothing like Centacare or the supportive programs which help people rebuild their lives. I feel so blessed, so lucky. Here, there is help and it's up to you to work hard and achieve all that you can – it's up to me."*

I am also a Christian and I read my bible every day. I find so much joy in my Faith and I know that God has a plan for me. I know that he guided me to Centacare and look how my life has changed" she said.



PROUDLY INTRODUCING...



Staff and students gather outside Centacare's Mirrabooka premises.



Over the past three decades, Centacare has evolved from a Community Youth Support Scheme to a training organisation spread out over seven sites in the Perth Metropolitan area.

Centacare is a training organisation with a conscience and compassion. It strives to change people's lives and help them to regain and sustain their dignity, by working towards building economic and social livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Centacare represents 'hope' to the thousands of people the organisation has helped over more than 30 years of service to the Western Australian community. Most are disadvantaged, coming from backgrounds and circumstances most of us may find hard to imagine – people desperate for a chance, a smiling face and a helping hand.

Since inception, Centacare has primarily helped:

- Youth at Risk (YAR)/Disengaged youth – young people who have left school, who have left the family home, have no one to successfully guide them through life and have basically disengaged from mainstream society.
- People for whom English is a second language – this mostly represents the migrant population who have sought refuge here in Perth. Many come to Australia with little or no English and are truly grateful for the chance to learn English language, literacy and numeracy skills.
- People with low level skills who want to improve their skill base through Certificate courses.

Over 900 students (each year) enrol in CET courses similar to the Certificate III Health Services Assistance course Li Mei completed.

Today, the agency provides professional programs including:-

- Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program (to be known as the SEE program as of 1/7/13)
- Australian Apprenticeship Access Program
- CET's Registered Training Organisation (RTO) offers training in:
 - Certificate I Hospitality
 - Certificate II Hospitality
 - Certificate III Health Services Assistance
 - Certificate III Health Support Services
 - Certificate II Business



AN INVESTMENT IN SERVICE

Centacare Employment and Training is absolutely delighted to announce that it will soon open a purpose built training centre in Cannington.

Lee-Anne Phillips, Executive Director, Centacare Employment and Training said: *"We are truly delighted that for the very first time in our agency's history we able to purchase a building and not be reliant on leased property."*

We wish to thank and acknowledge Archbishop Costelloe for his support in assisting us to achieve this significant milestone. It affords our organisation a level of stability regardless of changing governmental policy or associated funding priorities.

We can plan and focus our attention on meeting the ever-growing demand for additional placements in our recognised training programs and courses. Initially, this new centre will provide Language, Literacy and Numeracy Training Courses to more than 400 students each year, all in a professional training environment" said Ms Phillips.

The Cannington site will be just like our purpose built Mirrabooka site, the Cannington site will provide a large, bright, fun space for students specifically designed to create an optimal learning environment.

The new premises will include five classrooms, two interview rooms, a computer laboratory, a communal kitchen, a large break out room/lunch room, and will also incorporate special e-learning equipment which will allow cross-site education.

Initially the Cannington site will cater for approximately 400 students per year. Centacare's aim is to expand on its training programs during the coming years.



The floorplan of Centacare's new premises in Cannington.

Editor's Note:

To our generous donors, supportive organisations and business friends, if you'd like to help Centacare continue to make a difference in people's lives, here's how...

1. Student Sponsorships

Since July 2012, students have been required by Centrelink to contribute to course costs, where previously it was funded by the Federal Government. Currently, the full course fee is \$626, a Concession Fee is \$313 and in limited instances (extreme hardship) Centacare will waive the fee.

Sponsorship would allow students an opportunity to part-pay for their course, remembering most are financially struggling yet may not meet the criteria for extreme hardship.

2. Mentors/Life Coaches Needed.

This will allow our students to learn additional business and/or life skills from business leaders and community members which will assist them in their journey to build economic and social livelihoods for themselves.

3. Corporate Citizens - Work Experience Opportunities

Included in each course, students are required to complete work experience at organisations and businesses such as aged care facilities, hospitality businesses, general businesses - reception/general administration/administrative support roles.

For more information, please contact: Lee-Anne Phillips (Executive Director) on (08) 9482 7000 or lphillips@centacarewa.com.au.