



2.5 million +  
program participations  
a year



630  
staff employed



84  
locations across South  
East Queensland



# YMCA of Brisbane

## Annual Report 2012 - 2013



We build strong **PEOPLE**  
strong **FAMILIES**  
strong **COMMUNITIES**

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## YMCA Mission

The YMCA of Brisbane works, from a base of Christian values, to provide opportunities for all people to grow in body, mind and spirit.

The YMCA of Brisbane is guided to achieve its mission by the following Christian values.

- The dignity and intrinsic worth of all people regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or beliefs.
- The whole person, consisting of a body, a mind and a spirit each of which is of equal importance.
- Healthy communities based on relationships between people which are characterised by love, understanding, mutual respect and a sense of belonging.
- Equality of opportunity and justice for all people.
- The diversity of people, communities and nations.
- Acceptance of personal responsibility.

These core values translate into four key operational values:

- Honesty
- Respect
- Caring
- Responsibility



## Report from the President and CEO



**President**  
Daniel Cheverton

It has certainly been a year of challenges. We currently operate in a tough economic environment and yet the YMCA of Brisbane continues to grow and extend its reach to even more communities. The challenging economic environment has had a significant effect on several of our operations, including our Training department and Hotel George Williams.

But on the bright side we have had some wonderful advances for our YMCA and its benevolent arm, Y-Care (South East Qld) Inc. These have included:

- The opening of the \$13 million affordable housing complex in Nerang known as Nowell B. Taylor House;
- Winning the management rights for the Leslie Dam Active Recreation Centre in Warwick;
- A successful tender for the North Lakes Youth Space, a recreation, social and education space for young people which will also incorporate our second vocational school campus;
- The construction of a new \$700,000 basketball court at our YMCA Vocational School in Logan;
- Construction of two new OSHC buildings at Springfield Lakes and Virginia; and
- A major refurbishment of the fitness and aquatic facilities at YMCA Victoria Point.

All of the above are significant achievements and are in addition to the tremendous daily work of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers across over 84 locations in South-East Queensland.

A focus this year has also been to invest more in our facilities. Our YMCA now employs two full-time maintenance officers who solely focus on the maintenance and refurbishment of our sites. This helps ensure that all facilities remain safe and accessible to the whole community.

Other significant events over the past twelve months include the YMCA Charity Golf Day which raised substantial funds for our Siblings Reconnect program, the National YMCA Swimathon event held in over 60 sites across Australia, and the first ever visit to our YMCA from the General Secretary of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

The YMCA Nationally is also changing. A great deal of work is currently being performed on refining branding and marketing strategies for the Movement and we look forward to some significant changes in the New Year.

All of the above could not have been achieved without the hard work and support of our Board, staff and volunteers who embrace our core philosophies and values so wholeheartedly.

The YMCA and Y-Care are each governed by a board/management committee. These positions are filled by members of the public on a voluntary basis. Many of our board members have been with the YMCA for over 20 years with one Director recently achieving an amazing 58 years on the Board!

In the past year we had several members retire to both pursue other activities and allow for renewal of our board structure. We would like to offer our most sincere thanks to Nowell B. Taylor (58 years as a board member), John Evans (26 years), and Walter Wood (20 years) for their hard work and dedication to our YMCA throughout their time on the Board. Their efforts have helped us develop a strong and sustainable foundation, and we look forward to further growth and success in the coming year.



**Chief Executive Officer**  
Alan Bray

# Board of Directors & Senior Management

## **President**

Mr Daniel Cheverton

## **Past President**

Mr Ross Mason

## **Vice Presidents**

Mr Richard Edwards, OAM  
Mr Mark Mugnaioni

## **Treasurer**

Mr Craig Dyke

## **Board Members**

Mrs Toolah Olsen  
Mrs Jenny Chaston  
Mr John Evans (Jul-Jan)  
Dr Joe Goodall  
Mr John Nagel  
Mr Ian Smyllie  
Mr Nowell Taylor (Jul-Nov)  
Mr Walter Wood (Jul-Nov)

## **Patron**

Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland,  
Ms Penelope Wensley, AC

## **Honorary Solicitor**

John Nagel & Co.

## **Auditors**

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd

## **Internal Auditor**

Mrs Lynda Croucamp  
Mrs Gina Conde (Sep-Mar)

## **Chief Executive Officer**

Mr Alan Bray

## **Group Manager, Administration**

Mrs Meg Woolf

## **Business Development Manager**

Mr John Negline

## **Group Manager, Finance**

Mr Mark Cupples

## **Group Manager, Fitness and Recreation**

Mr Michael Tsiamis

## **Group Manager, Childcare Services**

Ms Michele Meredith

## **Projects Manager**

Mr Chris Stocks

## **Group Manager, Operations**

Mr Will Sambrook

## **Workplace Health and Safety**

## **Workplace Health and Safety Manager**

Mr Michael Schablon

## **Human Resources**

## **Human Resources Manager**

Mr Jamie Cairncross

## **Information Technology**

## **IT Manager**

Mr Lee Forrest

## **Marketing and Fundraising**

## **Marketing and Fundraising Manager**

Mrs Kelly Fawke (Jul-Dec)  
Ms Jane Barr-Thomson (Mar-Jun)

## **Early Childhood Centres**

## **Director, YMCA Acacia Ridge Early Childhood Centre**

Mrs Tarsha Scotts

## **Director, YMCA Strathpine Early Childhood Centre**

Mrs Chantal Wise

## **Outside School Hours Care**

## **Manager**

Ms Kristy Commens

## **Family Day Care / In-Home Care**

## **Senior Coordinator – Brisbane**

Mrs Elizabeth Hynes

## **Senior Coordinator – Gold Coast**

Mrs Chris Nolan

## **YMCA Camping**

## **Director of Camping**

Mr Noel Clark (Jul-Apr)

## **Hotel George Williams**

## **Manager**

Mr Michael Vecellio

## **325 on George**

## **Head Chef**

Scott Lane

## **Fitness and Recreation**

## **Manager, YMCA Jamboree Heights**

Mrs Julie Geraghty

## **Manager, YMCA Victoria Point**

Mr Brad Page (Jul-Mar)  
Mr Michel Tsiamis (Apr-Jun)

## **Centre Coordinator, YMCA Acacia Ridge Gymnastics**

Mrs Helen Maugham

## **Centre Coordinator, YMCA Enoggera Gymnastics**

Mrs Maggie Ient

## **Manager, YMCA Bowen Hills**

Mr Phillip Lynem

## **Manager, Mt Gravatt Wellness Studio**

Mr Michael Tsiamis

## **Youth Projects**

## **Youth Parliament Coordinator**

Mr Thomas Stephenson (Jul-Nov)  
Ms Helen Lane (Nov-Jun)

## **Youth Development Coordinator**

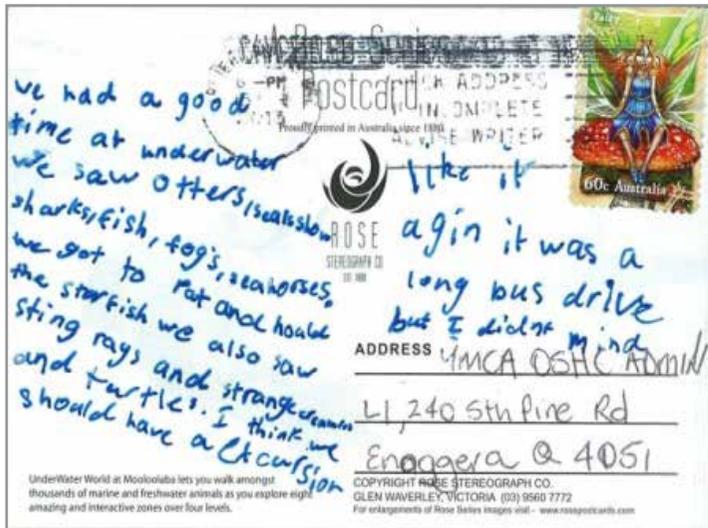
Ms Amelia Shaw

# Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

OSHC had a mixed 2012/2013 narrowly losing two existing services (Gaven and Aspley) during Education Queensland tenders. These losses were partially counteracted with many existing service numbers growing, necessitating increases in licensed capacities. In particular, this occurred at YMCA Springfield Lakes OSHC and YMCA Virginia OSHC. These increases were as a result of YMCA owned modular buildings being placed on these two school sites. In both cases the investment by the YMCA secured a ten year agreement with the school. This security of tenure certainly relieves a little of the pressure currently felt by the YMCA OSHC team in such a competitive industry.

One service that has certainly stood the test of time is YMCA Albany Creek OSHC. In August we celebrated its 20th birthday in true OSHC style – with staff members and families (new and former), a sausage sizzle, plenty of food and tons of games. Honoured guests included President Ross Mason, CEO Alan Bray and the school Principal, Paul Kingston.

OSHC prides itself on taking a participative management approach and seeks to involve all stakeholders in major decision making. This culture continued in 2012/13 and as such we regularly receive ideas and suggestions from families and staff members. It was with a great amount of interest though that we received feedback directly from one of the children (see postcard left).



The postcard says: We had a good time at Underwater World. We saw otters, seal show, sharks, fish, frogs, seahorses. We got to pat and hold the starfish. We also saw stingrays and strange creatures and turtles. I think we should have an excursion like it again. It was a long bus drive but I didn't mind.

Strathpine, Rochedale and Westside OSHC services underwent National Quality Framework (NQF) Assessments. To date YMCA of Brisbane is returning much better ratings than our major competitors.

We expanded the functions of the YMCA extranet to further support and resource the services in relation to the NQF, and due to the large geographical distances between YMCA OSHC services. The extranet continues to be a practical way to share and exchange information. These changes were designed to ensure productivity and efficiency were increased and practices standardised so that a level of professionalism is maintained.

Many resources around disability and cultural inclusion were developed, numerous training opportunities were provided and funding received for additional staff members to assist children with additional needs was increased. In addition to this, a Disability Action Plan for YMCA OSHC was developed.

This plan assists in the elimination, as far as possible, of disability discrimination from our services and not only maps future actions for the OSHC team but celebrates past achievements. It is hoped that next year a Reconciliation Action Plan will be finalised to compliment this work.



**YMCA OSHC**

**21 Services**

**175 Staff**

**1652 Children in Care Each Day**



## Brisbane

Our In Home Care Service operated at licensed capacity during the year. This is a valuable service often providing child care to families where the children have severe disabilities and are not able to access any other type of approved childcare.

In August, the YMCA of Brisbane officially took over the management of the Springfield Lakes Community Centre. This has provided Family Day Care with an opportunity to expand into the suburbs of Springfield Lakes, Springfield, Augustine Heights, Orion and Brookfield. While progress has been slow in the recruitment of educators, we have been able to provide a weekly Playgroup for our existing educators in that area, as well as some local families.

This year the scheme participated in the development of resources for the Get Up and Grow project, which is a joint initiative of Nutrition Australia, Queensland Health and Playgroup Queensland. We also joined forces with all approved Early Years Services and Schools in our area to deliver the inaugural Acacia Ridge Early Years Expo.

Our Family Day Care and In Home Care Services were successful in obtaining a grant from the “Caring For Our Community Fund” which is administered by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Funds went to the purchase of two marquees, and we thank the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for looking favourably on our application.

In March Family Day Care Brisbane celebrated 30 years of operation! This was acknowledged by providing the children in our service with a carnival playgroup. There were many games and competitions for the children, roving entertainment provided by Mr Toot and his assistant plus the cutting of the Anniversary Cake to finish off the morning.



## Gold Coast

YMCA Gold Coast Family Day Care program continues to lead the family day care market in the Gold Coast area. Our service is one of the biggest in Queensland with over 100 Family Day Care educators and over 30 In Home Care educators. Changes continue to occur in the Early Childhood Education field following implementation of Education and Care Services, National Law and Regulations. This resulted in a very busy year with staff and educators continuing to attend training and information sessions. Most of our educators have either completed or are currently studying their Certificate III in Children’s Services or upgrading to their Diploma.

We currently operate three playgroups across the coast for our educators. This is a great opportunity for educators and children to come together. A beautiful wall banner (shown opposite) proudly displayed in our foyer was made by educators, children and coordinators as part of National Families Week.

A major event this year was the relocation into our new offices in Railway Parade at Nerang. The four level facility provides a wonderful working environment with offices, toy library and a large training room. The training room has been well utilised for both staff and educator professional development.



## Early Education Centre – Acacia Ridge

Occupancy in the centre has remained stable and we have continued to maintain the five rooms, unlike other childcare centres in the area who have reduced operations to 3-4 rooms for most of the year.

We were grateful to receive funds from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to replace the flooring throughout the centre, resulting in reduced maintenance and a more appealing presentation of the centre. We were also successful in receiving \$5000 towards three laptops and two projectors as part of the National Enhancement Program. This is a non-recurrent grant that aims to enhance the quality of kindergarten programs across Queensland.

Our staff attended a variety of training and development sessions that have been hosted by our peak bodies. One session in particular reminded us that sustainability is not just environmental; it is also the way we operate our programs and utilise our facilities. This has been a pivotal point for the staff in the daily delivery of their programs

For NAIDOC Week we utilized our staff heritage and had Kupmuri - cooking in the open fire and enjoying a mixture of root vegetables. We also had a visit from the Durack Fire Service which helped the children understand the importance of fire safety.

The centre has continued to participate in the local Australian Early Development Index response group and maintains links with multiple community groups and local businesses. We again thank the Acacia Ridge Bendigo Bank which continues to fully fund the breakfast club that operates each morning from 7.00-7.30 and generally caters for 20 children daily.

## Early Education Centre - Strathpine

The YMCA Early Childhood Centre at Strathpine has now been in operation since 1987 and is approved for 75 places providing a much needed service for the local community. We have had a good year in regard to attendances attributable to the commitment, experience and dedication of our educators at the centre. The centre was successful in gaining a Gambling Community Benefit Grant for the purchase of educational equipment which supports the children's learning with emphasis on the importance of the physical environment.

Our parents at YMCA Strathpine Early Childhood Centre play an integral part in our centre, assisting in fundraising activities, donating equipment and resources. Our families and community have always been our priority and we have engaged and celebrated with them through events such as Father's Day BBQ, Mother's Day Pampering Day, Anzac Day Celebration, Sport's Day and NAIDOC Week. An additional celebration was Waitangi Day (celebrating the granting of the rights of British subjects to the Māori people). The centre created a hangi for the children, who were able to help with the preparation of the food.

This year a primary focus for the centre was the National Quality Standards and Early Years Learning Framework. Educators have attended professional development workshops and conferences bringing back new knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to implement change for continuous improvement in our programs and service. Our Educational Leader for the centre has created our Early Years Learning Framework Program which includes linking the Centre Philosophy and the Early Years Learning Framework Principles and Practices to ensure that the centre is meeting high standards.



## Hotel George Williams

Hotel George Williams has continued to be a popular choice for overnight accommodation by travellers staying in Brisbane. The central CBD location, coupled with affordable competitive room rates has assisted with maintaining strong occupancy rates over the past year.

The stability of the management team and staff is widely recognised by our return customers and regularly commented on through guest feedback. The staff take great pride in their quality of service and in the presentation of the property to ensure each guest stay is comfortable and memorable.

The past year has seen growth in our corporate business through strengthening of relationships with preferred travel management companies. We endeavour to continue this trend into the new financial year using our refurbished rooms as preferred accommodation for this market sector.

The ongoing refurbishment of the facility has seen the commencement of the full modernisation of both passenger lifts in the building. This project is expected to conclude in August 2013, delivering not only a new modern appearance but a much more reliable and energy efficient product.

The competitive environment of the Brisbane accommodation market has encouraged the Hotel to strengthen its online presence by outsourcing our website production and internet marketing to industry leaders in the hospitality field. This strategic decision will allow the managerial focus to remain on the continued modernisation of the facility and delivery of high quality customer service.



## 325 on George

325 on George, the restaurant located at Hotel George Williams, has strengthened its base of regular clientele over the past financial year. The kitchen team over the last twelve months has delivered a consistent quality of high standard menu items to help grow our return patronage across all service periods.

325 on George has remained as a constant in the regularly changing competitive landscape of the food and beverage service industry. Our fresh and fast philosophy is well received by our customers as it meets the requirements of their busy lifestyles.

The popularity of 325's steak night led to extension of the promotion from Tuesday nights only to Thursday evenings as well. The steak nights are popular with Hotel George Williams' guests as well as local office workers and guests from nearby hotels.

The restaurant underwent a review of all food suppliers in the previous year. The change of some major food suppliers has contributed to improved margin on food sales without sacrificing quality and service. Investment was made in new kitchen equipment with the purchase and installation of a new grill, stove top and oven combination.

The past year did present challenges with the reduction of personnel and relocation of State Government Departments from our immediate vicinity. The opening of the new law courts building on George Street did however offset the impact of reduced workers in the immediate area.

The consistent quality of food and customer service along with its prime location on George Street will no doubt strengthen the reputation of the venue leading into the next financial year.



## Conferencing at Hotel George Williams

The conference facility at Hotel George Williams continued to be a favoured venue for local corporates and several regular training providers. The attentive service and high level of flexibility has proven successful in securing volume repeat and referral business. Return and referred business accounted for approximately 80% of the business mix for the last financial year.

This strength is witnessed in testimonials from regular clients:

*“We are always impressed by the high level of professionalism and customer service demonstrated by the team of Hotel George Williams. The staff always have a positive can-do attitude and nothing is ever a problem. It is an absolute pleasure holding our training meetings and conferences there”*

**Bay 3000 Corporate Education Pty Ltd.**

*“As a specialist business consultancy we require a training venue that is comfortable, well priced and most of all can flexibly respond to our varying group size and course needs. Promendo Pty Ltd continues to choose the Hotel George Williams as our Brisbane training venue based on a three year track record of consistently and flexibly meeting our requirements for an effective, well presented and serviced facility. I have no hesitation in recommending the Hotel George Williams as a Brisbane training venue for professional courses”.*

**Promendo Pty Ltd.**

## Old Petrie Town

Old Petrie Town is leased by our YMCA from the Moreton Bay Regional Council and is an established tourist and educational venue which is a re-creation of Australian town life in the pre-1930s. Visitors are afforded an opportunity to experience a long gone era including a steam and machinery museum, Queensland Fire and Scout Museums, blacksmithing and a traditional wood fired bakery. A number of retail businesses operate within the Old Petrie Town historical precinct and craft markets are conducted each Sunday of the year and Friday nights during summer.

In January 2013, a time capsule buried in 1988, was reclaimed by the Pine Rivers Historical Society and the contents examined which included newspapers of the day, letters from Government, and other time based artefacts. The time capsule was refilled with similar items from 2013 and re-buried to be reclaimed in another 25 years.

## Tom Petrie’s Heritage Hotel and Function Centre

The Heritage Hotel provides a range of function options for weddings and other special occasions as well as a place for a quiet meal and refreshing drink during a visit to the Old Petrie Town Sunday Markets. In 2012/13 reservations continued to grow as the venue can accommodate a range of function options including outdoors events, cocktail functions and formal dinners.

The YMCA is very appreciative of the continued support of the Moreton Bay Regional Council at Old Petrie Town.



# Camping and Outdoor Education

The 2012/13 year continued to provide sound occupancy of the camping facilities. With a total bed capacity of 350 across these three camp sites, YMCA Camping hosted more than 30,000 guests and provided over 80,000 meals.

Camp Warrawee is the oldest YMCA facility in Brisbane, operating continually since 1949. It truly is the spiritual home of our YMCA. The range of camp guests continues to grow and includes primary, secondary and international schools, community groups, university outreach programs, and YMCA outreach programs such as Siblings Reconnect. The YMCA is proud to continue the tradition of offering complementary camping experiences to those who, through necessitous circumstances, would be otherwise unable to participate in a YMCA camping experience. In addition, the catering facilities at Camp Warrawee prepared over 8,000 frozen meals for the homeless which are distributed through a number of local homeless support groups. Camp Warrawee also provides outdoor, adventure based Vacation Care services during school holidays.

Camp North Pine is located within the grounds of Old Petrie Town and offers accommodation for 100 campers. The facilities include outdoor recreation experiences (flying fox, giant swing, high and low ropes) as well as the Pine Rivers museum and indigenous educational experience. The camp also provides a centrally located and easily accessible base for visiting the attractions around South East Queensland.

Camp Bundalong provides a 10 hectare area of land that includes a purpose built indoor climbing facility and bush trail between Camp Warrawee and Old Petrie Town. The open land provides our YMCA with expansion opportunities.



# Springfield Lakes Community Centre

The YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre was new to the YMCA in 2012. The facility is the result of a partnership between the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Communities. Funding was obtained through the Federal Government's 'Building the Education Revolution' (BER) program and the Department of Communities provided additional funding through the 'Best Start-Supporting Families in the Early Years Initiative'. The target was to develop a new community centre within the multi-purpose sports hall of Springfield Lakes State School. The facility is a perfect example of what can be achieved when partnerships are formed to meet the needs of the community.

In August 2012, YMCA of Brisbane started as the new managers of Springfield Lakes Community Centre. With a strong history of community involvement the YMCA was keen to promote the facility as a place for the Greater Springfield community to meet, celebrate, learn, and connect.

An Official Launch was celebrated on November 7th 2012. It was opened by Communities Minister Tracy Davis MP, and attended by representatives from Department of Communities, Department of Education and Training, YMCA Board members, CEO and Establishment Managers, Ipswich City Council, State Government and various community groups.

The facility boasts twelve air-conditioned rooms for hire and is centrally located for business, community events and private functions. There are two large multi-purpose rooms, a medical room, full kitchen facilities, Internet hub with two public access computers, office space for outreach work, Playgroup room and soft fall outdoor play area.



## Acacia Ridge - Aquatics Centre

Despite the inclement weather in February this year, the attendance at the Acacia Ridge Leisure Centre was greater than the last year of operation reaching over 33,400 visits. Staff have worked hard on building positive community relationships and this is reflected in the increased regular client base.

School swimming continued in terms four and one with some great results. One student has been offered a junior squad scholarship as a result of her great attitude and willingness to follow our four core values.

The YMCA Learn to swim program has been overhauled nationally and our centre has adapted the new branding and streamlined lesson plans. The program is now called YMCA Swimming Lessons. This has provided an opportunity for the program to become even more consistent and allows the teachers to present a wonderful program to the children and families, whilst being guided with pre-written lesson plans and suggested activities to enhance the learning process, and develop consistency throughout the program. Our student bookings for term three exceeded our budget target with the help of the local councillor, Steve Griffiths, and the implementation of the Swim 100 campaign.

In March the centre hosted the YMCA Swimathon. Over \$2000 was raised to support those less fortunate to learn to swim. As a result one family of new Australians, including a mother and her three children, were supported with two terms of free YMCA swimming lessons. All four family members have progressed well and are now much more confident in the water.

We again had some wonderful support from Bendigo Bank which sponsored Watson Road State School for school swimming lessons in term four 2012 and term one 2013! This is a great opportunity for these children, who have not had an opportunity like this for a long time due to the low socio economic demographic of this area.



## Acacia Ridge - Gymnastics Centre

Five years ago the centre established a strategic plan for its gym program. The aim was to move forward towards a level 4/5 program. The centre has fulfilled this plan in 2013 with 20 gymnasts in its 4/5 program with 90% of its members originating from the centres Kindergym and recreational programs. The YMCA was proud of six gymnasts from this program who qualified and attended the State competition in June 2013. It is the first time in over ten years that the centre has attended this competition. This was a great achievement for gymnasts and coaches alike.

An exciting new opportunity was offered to boys in the local area with a development program extending to level five.

Supporting our local community is exceptionally important to the YMCA and the centre regularly attracts high schools to the centre to discuss sport as an occupation and to observe the workings of the centre. International students from TAFE also visit the centre to observe how Kindergym classes are operated.

Both Gymnastics and Playschool comprise many members who have brought their children to the centre because they attended the centre as a child. This is always a special moment for the centre. Playschool continues to provide a well-planned educational program for the community. Members are from very diverse cultures and the program helps to nurture lifelong friendships.

Judo continues to be successful especially the junior class which offers many benefits to children. Judo is also successful with its participation at local competitions.

## Bowen Hills – Fitness, Gymnastics and Sports Centre

We have achieved several milestones in the past twelve months including celebrating our first Birthday, exceeding 2000 gym members and reaching 500 gymnastics participants. This has been an exciting time for the club.

Over the past twelve months we have seen impressive growth in Gymnastics and Gym participants and Hall Hire usage with 16 groups regularly using the Clem Jones Basketball Court for competitions including Goalball, Wheelchair Rugby, Boccia, Basketball, European Handball, Futsal, Volleyball and Netball. We had over 12,000 visits to the centre in June from people using our range of facilities.

We received a grant earlier this year from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for \$14,850 to add ten bikes to our Cycle Studio to support clients with special needs, and we have increased our cardio and weights rooms' equipment to keep up with our growth.

Achievements this year include:

- Five Gymnasts represented Bowen Hills YMCA at State Championships and two were selected to compete on the Brisbane North Regional Team.
- In June 2013 the centre offered its first Vacation Care program to the public with 69 children participating in cooking, crafts and physical activity over the two week period.
- As part of the YMCA's benevolent work, the Bowen Hills YMCA continues to offer activities to Roma House, Endeavour Foundation and Rec-Link.



## Enoggera – Gymnastics Centre



YMCA Enoggera had a busy year with Competitions, training new junior coaches, sending staff to the YMCA Future Leaders course and becoming part of the new Gymnastics Australia Launchpad Program. As well, the centre was awarded a Participation Commendation by being sixth in the Top 10 of most participated clubs in Queensland.

Our numbers have also grown by another 10% over last year. Surveys indicated members were very happy with the centre and it was great to receive constructive comments from parents to help improve our service. Some of the feedback we gained included:

- 95% of members said they would recommend us
- Over 80% were very or extremely satisfied with the program and service received

Enoggera, along with the other YMCAs, became one of the first clubs to roll out Launchpad which is an initiative of Gymnastics Australia and Gymnastics Queensland. Launchpad is a program designed to cater for all stages of physical, social and cognitive development for children from babies to 12 years. An Open Day was held at Enoggera on Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> for the community to become involved and learn about the new program (see picture opposite).

These classes were for children in the under 5's program to experience a free class of fun with their family with an extended invite to their friends as well. Both days were a great success with over 40 children attending.

## Jamboree Heights – Fitness, Gymnastics and Sports Centre

In 2012/2013 the profile of YMCA Jamboree Heights continued to improve within the local community. Whilst competition levels in the fitness industry are still fierce we are endeavouring to maintain our share in the marketplace through a combination of good service, innovative programs and options for all members of the family. Financially we achieved more than an 83% increase in our budgeted surplus over the previous year.

For the first time in many years, our open day was an enormous success with cars spilling over into the surrounding streets. This result was partly due to the additional advertising in conjunction with Gymnastics Queensland's Launchpad initiative of which all the YMCA centres in Brisbane were inaugural providers. Now an annual promotional stand, Mount Ommaney Shopping Centre continued to provide an excellent opportunity to showcase our facilities and the variety of programs we offer to all families.



The standout performance of the year has undoubtedly been from our Gymnastics program. During the past year, gymnastic numbers increased by 38%. This astounding growth saw weekly participation exceed 850 students. This large attendance has given our Gymnastics Club the recognition of being the third largest club in Queensland. The introduction of a new gym sport, Rhythmic Gymnastics has added a new dimension to our gymnastics timetable. This program has grown quickly with current class numbers at capacity and, to enable further growth, a strong succession plan for coaching staff is now in place.

Our Vacation Care program has also reached new heights in popularity. Numbers have steadily increased over the past year and our reputation for offering a quality, fun and active holiday program is one reason for this welcomed growth. Another reason must be attributed to the dedicated and caring staff that bring our holiday activities to life and create a comfortable and nurturing environment for the many children who attend.

In line with our Mission Statement, we will continue to emphasise our YMCA values to our families and members. Along with a plan for continual improvement to facilities and equipment, we will offer up-to-date training methods and beneficial programs for adults and children. We will strive to ensure our superior customer service and family friendly environment remain the qualities which separate us from our many local competitors.

## Mt Gravatt – Wellness Studio

The YMCA's Wellness studio focusses on the delivery of group personal training. This model has the added benefits of socialisation and peer support and, as a result the majority of our members are in their fifties and over. This highlights the trend for people to continue exercise right through their life, improving its quality and ensuring they remain active and engaged in the community.

Programs offered include – weight loss for men, weight loss for women, masters in motion, track to wellness, individual personal training.



## Russell Island – Aquatics

The facility continued to be a valuable community asset for the Island. However, the remoteness and isolation of the Russell Island pool combined with high rainfall during the outdoor season saw a poor return for the YMCA over the year. Reaching the end of our tenure, the YMCA handed back the operations of the pool to Redlands City council on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

## Victoria Point – Fitness, Gymnastics and Aquatics Centre

The 2012/2013 financial year marked a new era in fitness for the YMCA Victoria Point with a major redevelopment of the fitness facilities undertaken to combat the increased competition in the local area and to bring the centre into the modern era of Fitness facilities. The \$800,000 redevelopment commenced in September 2012 and concluded in early March 2013. During this time membership declined but current members remained patient during the 6½ month construction period eagerly awaiting the opening of the state of the art facilities. Whilst fitness income fell way short of targets for the year, the centre's open day to launch the new facilities was a huge success with 168 members taking up the Open day membership offer. For the month of March, 237 memberships were sold which was a record for the centre.

The introduction of the National Quality Framework for Standalone Vacation Care plus increased competition in the area saw our Holiday program stabilise and not hit the high numbers of 250 to which it was once accustomed. A great deal of time and effort went into increasing program standards and we are confident that we will see good growth return to the program in 2013/2014 due to quality programming and staffing.

Victoria Point Gymnastics continued to grow to record numbers peaking at over 600 gymnasts per week. The centre also became the place of choice for children's birthday parties with over 50 gymnastics parties delivered over the year. Facility upgrades included \$30,000 for improved safety matting thanks to a successful Gambling Community Benefit Grant and the YMCA contributed \$8,000 towards the upgrade of lighting to ensure the safety of participants.

The aquatic program reached a peak of 484 enrolments in term 1 2013 but, as is always the case, as soon as the cooler months began it becomes a battle to retain those members. The National rebranding of Aquasafe to YMCA Swimming Lessons will assist with better growth over the coming financial year.

Continual investment in building repairs, outdoor pool upgrades and maintenance places the centre in a good position to return a successful result in 2013/2014.

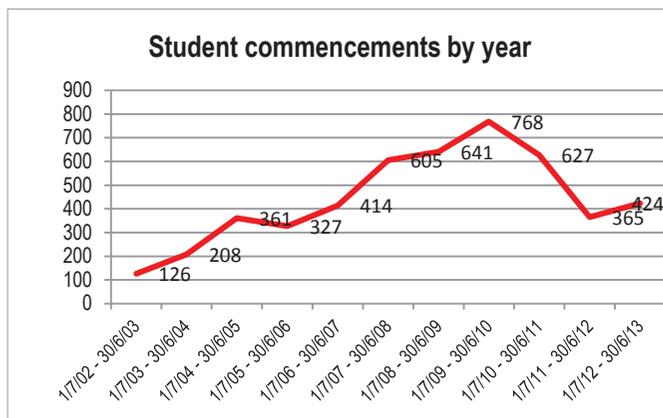


As shown in the graph below, the 2012-2013 financial year saw a contraction in the total number of new students enrolling in certificate qualifications with YMCA Education and Training. The difficult economic climate, combined with an increase in competition, have both contributed to this outcome. Changes to the Queensland Government's user choice funding model, was also a factor. A significant change in the endorsed sport, recreation and fitness training packages resulted in a complete re-write of training and assessment materials. A new user friendly format was developed, which received very positive feedback from students and employers. The new format helps to reduce the impact of language, literacy and numeracy needs and means the qualifications are more accessible to all.

Qualifications offered to students in the 2012-2013 financial year ranged from Certificate I to Diploma level, and included:

- Certificate I in Work Preparation and Automotive
- Certificate II in Automotive, Sport and Recreation, Sport (Coaching) and Community Recreation
- Certificate III in Children's Services, Sport and Recreation, Community Recreation and Fitness
- Certificate IV in Fitness
- Diploma of Children's Services

The YMCA also added accredited short courses in the management of asthma and anaphylaxis to its scope which already included first aid and CPR. The management of asthma and anaphylaxis courses were primarily targeted at staff, as a result of the changes in child care regulations.



Now in its eighteenth year, YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament provides the largest apolitical program for Queensland young people aged 15-25 years of age. It educates young people about the parliamentary process, identifies how young people can make a change in their community and allows them to discover their strengths and weaknesses through various recreational activities. Youth Parliament empowers young people in "body, mind and spirit", to speak up and have their issues heard.

The past financial year saw the conclusion of the 2012 YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament program, the selection of the new Executive and the start of the 2013 program. The 2012 program saw 88 participants attending Residential Camp in September 2013 where all of the Youth Bills developed by participants were forwarded to Ministers and the Premier

One particular participant, who has Asperger's and has been bullied throughout his life, demonstrated the ability that the program has to change the course of young people's lives through its holistic approach:

*"I would just like to let everyone know that this last week has really changed my life in so many ways that I just can't list them all. You are all wonderful people with so much to offer the world...This week I have felt like I belong, I have never felt this belonging before. I am so so happy we all got to meet and forge friendships that I hope will last a life time..."*

The year also incorporated the introduction of community consultations where the Youth Members met with their relevant Ministers to discuss their proposed Youth Bills. The committees successfully met with Tracy Davis MP, Kevin Rudd MP, Lawrence Springborg MP, Greg Elmes MP and John Paul Langbroek MP for valuable discussions.

# Presidents, General Secretaries and Life Members

## History of YMCA Presidents

1864	.....	<i>Not Known</i>
1865	.....	<i>Turner, J.S.</i>
1866-1867	.....	<i>Lutwyche, A.J.P.</i>
1875-1880	.....	<i>Jordon, H.</i>
1882-1883	.....	<i>Pettigrew, W.</i>
1884	.....	<i>Raff, A.</i>
1885	.....	<i>Wilson, W.M.</i>
1886	.....	<i>Rutledge, A.R.</i>
1887-1888	.....	<i>White, T.E.</i>
1889-1890	.....	<i>Buzacott, G.H.</i>
1891-1894	.....	<i>Bean, A.S.</i>
1895	.....	<i>Thorne, W.</i>
1896-1901	.....	<i>Thomson, P.</i>
1902-1905	.....	<i>McQueen, W.S.</i>
1906-1921	.....	<i>Barnes, W.H.</i>
1922-1923	.....	<i>Allan, J.</i>
1924-1925	.....	<i>Milne, J.</i>
1926-1927	.....	<i>Allan, J.</i>
1928-1930	.....	<i>Lloyd, F.R.</i>
1931-1932	.....	<i>Annand, F.W.G.</i>
1933-1934	.....	<i>Jolly, W.A.</i>
1935-1938	.....	<i>de Little, F.W.</i>
1939-1940	.....	<i>Tunley, W.J.</i>
1941-1944	.....	<i>Annand, F.W.G.</i>
1945-1947	.....	<i>Jolly, W.A.</i>
1948-1951	.....	<i>Barker, G.H.</i>
1952-1956	.....	<i>Byrnes, R.S.</i>
1957-1959	.....	<i>Hendy, R.B.</i>
1960-1963	.....	<i>Nelson, G.H.</i>
1964-1968	.....	<i>McEachern, C.A.</i>
1969-1975	.....	<i>Padman, L.T.</i>
1976-1978	.....	<i>Moore, F.T.</i>
1979-1981	.....	<i>Taylor, N.B.</i>
1982-1984	.....	<i>Moore, F.T.</i>
1985-1987	.....	<i>Littler, H.A.L.</i>
1988-1991	.....	<i>Edwards, R.A.</i>
1992-1994	.....	<i>Schneidewin, K.R.</i>
1995-1998	.....	<i>Goodall, J.B.</i>
1999-2003	.....	<i>Mason, R.J.</i>
2003-2006	.....	<i>Goodall, J.B.</i>
2006-2010	.....	<i>Olsen, T. (Mrs)</i>
2010-2012	.....	<i>Mason, R.J.</i>
2012-present	.....	<i>Cheverton, D.G.</i>

## History of YMCA General Secretaries

1864	.....	<i>Daniel, W.J.</i>
1865	.....	<i>Daniel, W.J.</i>
1865	.....	<i>Thorne, H.</i>
1866-1867	.....	<i>Costin, W.J.</i>
1875	.....	<i>Salton, W.K.</i>
1878	.....	<i>Evans, H.F.</i>
1882	.....	<i>South, C.J.W.</i>
1883-1884	.....	<i>Ranson, F.M.</i>
1885-1886	.....	<i>Jones, W.</i>
1887	.....	<i>Yerex, G.M.</i>
1888	.....	<i>Smithurst, H.</i>
1889-1891	.....	<i>Fairfax, W.H.</i>
1892-1893	.....	<i>Reading, G.</i>
1894-1896	.....	<i>Field, A.E.</i>
1897-1919	.....	<i>Woodcraft, W.F.</i>
1920-1949	.....	<i>Hinds, A.L.S.</i>
1950-1952	.....	<i>Rye, R.W.</i>
1953-1971	.....	<i>Symonds, A.J.</i>
1972-1978	.....	<i>Williams, N.T.J.</i>
1979	.....	<i>McKenzie, I.H.</i>
1980-1992	.....	<i>Williams, N.T.J.</i>
1992-2007	.....	<i>Melville, R.L.</i>
2007-present	.....	<i>Bray, A.J.</i>

## History of YMCA Life Members

<i>Mr G.H. Buzacott (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr W. Cribb (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr E.A. Field (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr J. Grimes (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr J.J. Kingsbury (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr C.T.C. Lang (Dec)</i>
<i>Hon. A. Raff (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr W.R. Salton (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr A. Stewart (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr M. Ward (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr A.F. Oldfield (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr R.H. Missen (1951)</i>
<i>Mr G.H. Barker (1958) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr R.B. Hendy (1960) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr R.S. Byrnes (1960) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr C.A. McEachern (1969) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr K.A. Boyd (1974) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr L.T. Padman, OBE (1976) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr R.R. Murray (1976) (Dec)</i>
<i>Sir F.T. Moore, AO (1979)</i>
<i>Mr J.A. Harris, BEM (1981) (Dec)</i>
<i>Miss S.J. Gorst (1981) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr N.B. Taylor, OAM (1982)</i>
<i>Mr H.A. Littler (1988)</i>
<i>Mr N.T.J. Williams (1993)</i>
<i>Mr F. Vig, OAM (1993) (Dec)</i>
<i>Mr R.A. Edwards, OAM (1996)</i>
<i>Dr J.B. Goodall (2000)</i>
<i>Mr R.E. Belcher (2002)</i>
<i>Mr R.J. Mason (2004)</i>
<i>Mr D.J. Evans (2005)</i>
<i>Mr D.B. Truasheim (2005)</i>
<i>Mr J.A. Nagel (2006)</i>
<i>Mr R.L. Melville (2009)</i>

# Thank you to all our Supporters

Acknowledgement is given to the sponsors, supporters, partners and funding bodies who have supported the YMCA of Brisbane and Y-Care during the year.

## **Australian Government Partners**

Australian Sports Foundation  
Department of Education, Employment and  
Workplace Relations  
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water,  
Population and Communities  
Department of Families, Housing, Community  
Services and Indigenous Affairs

## **State Government Partners**

Department of Communities (Queensland  
Government)  
Department of Education, Training and  
Employment  
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport  
and Racing  
Department of Child Safety  
Gambling Community Benefit Fund  
Government House  
Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund  
Office of Early Childhood, Education and Care  
Office of Youth  
Queensland Police Service

## **Local Government Partners**

Brisbane City Council  
Gold Coast City Council  
Logan City Council  
Moreton Bay Regional Council  
Redland City Council  
Ipswich City Council

## **Business and Agency Partners**

Acromat  
ACSEA (Aust. Comm Services Employers Assn.)  
AHI Carrier  
Alex Milanovic & Associates  
Anderssen Lawyers  
AMC Cleaning  
Associated Cleaning  
Beenleigh Auto Dismantling  
Bendigo Community Bank Acacia Ridge  
Black and White Cabs  
Brisbane Strikers Football Club - Strikers Sport,  
Recreation and Welfare Assn. Ltd  
Bunnings Warehouse – Underwood  
Bureau Proberts Architects  
Cadbury Schweppes  
CDI Architects  
Coles Supermarket – Logan Central  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund  
Complete Janitorial Supplies (now Staples)  
Courtice Neilsen Solicitors  
Craven Ovenden Town Planning  
CSW-IT  
De Luca Construction  
Dell Computers  
Dialog Information Technology  
Direct Copy Centre  
Early Years Centre – Nerang  
Educational Experiences  
Energy Action  
Essential Services Australia  
Foodbank Queensland  
Gallery of Modern Art/Qld Art gallery  
Grand Slam  
Grindley Construction  
Hart Sport  
Hi-Flow Industries  
Highway Honda Springwood  
Humphrey Reynolds Perkins Town Planning  
Interlock  
Kelloggs  
Lion – Dairy Farmers Milk  
Lions Club, Victoria Point/Redland Bay  
Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary  
Management Options Pty Ltd  
Medibank Private  
Mitchells Cap Company  
Modern Teaching Aids  
Mulpha Sanctuary Cove (Developments) Pty Ltd.  
National Safety Council of Australia  
Neylan Architects  
Oz Harvest  
PSA Consulting  
Q Ford  
QikKids Technologies  
Quantum Performance Solutions  
QRI Lifestyle  
Ridgemill Project Management  
Ridgemill Estate Winery  
Rubicon Constructions  
Samsung Communication Centre  
Savills Project Management  
SCA Hygiene Australasia  
Scripture Union School Chaplaincy  
SBP Australia  
Seaworld  
SecondBite

Sky Point Observation Deck  
Smart Employment Solutions - Ipswich  
Microsoft  
Solopak  
Southside Bingo Inc.  
Southside Community Group  
Southside Sport and Community Club Inc.  
Southside Toyota  
Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Sport and  
Recreation Assn. of Qld  
Staples (formerly Corporate Express)  
Story Bridge Adventure Climb  
Strike Bowl - Wintergarden  
Telstra  
The Benevolent Society  
The Clem Jones Foundation  
The Clem Jones Group of Companies  
TT Group  
University of Queensland  
Wavebay  
World of Sport  
XXXX Ale House  
YMCA E-Store  
YMCA of Brisbane

## **Professional Support**

Adobe  
Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd  
John Nagel & Co.

## Report from the President and CEO



**President**  
Daniel Cheverton

Y-Care (South-East Queensland) Inc. over the past year has continued to provide programs and services to give people from disadvantaged backgrounds a real chance to grow in body, mind and spirit. Our suite of service offerings is now quite diverse and we are proud to be able to assist the community in so many varied ways.

With more than 26,000 Queenslanders on the Department of Housing waitlist, affordable housing is a major issue affecting many Queensland families. To address this significant community need, Y-Care joined forces with the Queensland Government's Department of Housing to build a four-storey, 57 unit residential complex in Nerang which provides quality, affordable accommodation to people in necessitous circumstances.

The new complex was named Nowell B. Taylor House in honour of our esteemed Brisbane Board Member, the longest-serving board member in the history of the Australian YMCA. It was opened in November 2012 and sits adjacent to our first housing development, Melville Place. Nowell B. Taylor House brings the YMCA's affordable housing offering up to 116 beds and is a shining example of how our YMCA identifies and addresses the unique needs of each community in which we operate.

The past year has also seen the YMCA School Breakfast Program reach a major milestone, serving its one millionth meal in late November. With 237,000 meals served during 2012/13 alone, our program is now recognised as a provider of choice and we are expecting significant expansion over the next financial year.

Despite the changes to government funding for the vocational training sector, a significant restructuring of how Y-Care delivers vocational training has led to an improvement in viability. We have also received funding to become a Trade Training Centre and the additions to the Clem Jones Campus of our YMCA Vocational School will allow us to train our students in the most contemporary trade courses.

The year also saw the beginnings of our YMCA Specialist OSHC program which provides much desired respite for children and carers in need. The program assists secondary school aged children with high needs and is a much valued service.

Our emphasis over the next year is upon the consolidation and strengthening of existing services including conducting more detailed research on the social outcomes derived from our activities. Our goal is to identify how these programs benefit individuals and communities in the long term and will assist in our future strategic planning.

Of course, none of our achievements or future goals are possible without our hard-working and passionate staff, amazing volunteers and dedicated board members.

Benevolent work can be very tough and extremely challenging at times, however the rewards are clearly evident. Without the work of Y-Care, together with the strong financial support of many donors and the YMCA of Brisbane, there would be many more people across South-East Queensland experiencing disadvantage.

# Management Committee and Staff of Y-Care

## President

Mr Daniel Cheverton

## Past President

Mr Ross Mason

## Vice Presidents

Mr Richard Edwards, OAM  
Mr Mark Mugnaioni

## Treasurer

Mr Craig Dyke

## Board Members

Mrs Toolah Olsen  
Mrs Jenny Chaston  
Mr John Evans (Jul-Jan)  
Dr Joe Goodall  
Mr John Nagel  
Mr Ian Smyllie  
Mr Nowell Taylor (Jul-Nov)  
Mr Walter Wood (Jul-Nov)

## Patron

Her Excellency, the Governor of Queensland,  
Ms Penelope Wensley, AC

## Honorary Solicitor

John Nagel & Co.

## Auditors

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd

## Internal Auditor

Mrs Lynda Croucamp  
Mrs Gina Conde (Sep-Mar)

## Senior Management

### Chief Executive Officer

Mr Alan Bray

### Y-Care Manager

Mr Matthew Swift (Jul-Apr)  
Mr Gary Adsett (Dec-Jun)

## Staff of Y-Care

### Housing Manager

Mrs Beverley Roles

### Community and Compliance Manager

Iona Wyllie (Mar-Jun)

### Breakfast Club Coordinator

Ms Catherine Hannell

### Training Coordinator

Mrs Jane Devitt (Jul)

### Head of School

Mr Gary Smith

### Vocational Training Coordinator

Mr Stephen Kirwan (Mar-Jun)

## Support staff

### Business Development

Mr John Negline

### Finance

Mr Mark Cupples

### Human Resources

Mr Jamie Cairncross

### IT Services

Mr Lee Forrest

### Projects Management

Mr Chris Stocks

### Quality Coordination

Mrs Meg Woolf

### Director of Training

Mr Will Sambrook

### Workplace Health and Safety

Mr Michael Schablon

### Marketing and Fundraising Manager

Mrs Kelly Fawke (Jul-Dec)  
Ms Jane Barr-Thomson (Mar-Jun)

## Annual Charity Golf Day

The YMCA's annual fundraiser, the YMCA Charity Golf Day, was held at Gales Golf Club on Friday 19th April and raised over \$22,500 for our new Specialist Outside School Hours Care program.

The Golf Day continues to grow thanks to many companies and individuals who support us year after year. The winning team was Ridgemill No. 1 team.

A big thank you to our sponsors, everyone who played and the YMCA staff who helped out, all of whom contributed to a very successful day.



# Y-Care Programs and Services

## Vocational Education

State Government funding for Training was significantly reduced last year. Due to this, Y-Care modified its strategy to include fee for service programs. The Automotive Programs had some 76 students train at our Kingston Campus. This cohort included Jobseekers, Mental Health Patients and students from various Schools around Brisbane. Our Automotive trainer also had his hands full on Mondays and Fridays with students from the Vocational School.

Childcare Services has seen 72 students train with Y-Care. Of the Students that completed the course approximately 70% found employment! Y-Care has a waitlist of clients registered for the commencement of the upcoming program.

Non-accredited Construction Training for our School students has proved to be popular and has given the opportunity for students to gain valuable work experience in the construction industry.

One of the Vocational School's previous students secured a Roofing Plumber Apprenticeship. The student saved his apprenticeship wages and has now bought himself a reliable car. This past student, who had studied Automotive whilst at YMCA Vocational School, was used to working on older cars that had been donated by the local community. His story has now gone full circle; after he donated his old car (pictured above) which current school students have been using as a valuable hand-on learning tool.

Y-Care acknowledges and is grateful for the assistance received from Volunteers. Our valuable volunteer staff not only guide and mentor students, they also offer support in the learning environment. We have six regular volunteers assisting the Vocational Training Programs.



## Mentoring

A typical day at mentoring involves firstly, engaging mentors and mentees in outdoor activities and a general catch up whilst lunch is prepared. After lunch mentors and mentees break into their respective pairs/ groups and spend between 30-60 minutes participating in specific activities such as craft (informal activity) and positive self-esteem development (formal activity). The remainder of the day usually involves team building exercises/ group project work/ and group discussions and games, often involving the entire mentoring group. Currently there are thirteen mentors involved with the program who attend regularly each week. Mentee numbers typically fluctuate between 15-20 each week.

In 2012/2013 our mentoring program achieved:

- The implementation of a modern, evidence-based mentoring program incorporating elements of Developmental Assets, and relation and goal-focused theories regarding youth development. Mentors provide support to mentees by identifying his or her strengths and then engaging mentees in individualised activities designed to promote these strengths rather than 'fixing' problems experienced by the mentee.
- Increase in the number of mentors attending weekly from 5 to 13 people. A thorough volunteer recruitment process resulted in an increase in personnel offering invaluable knowledge, skills, and experience to the program.
- Eight of the mentors have a tertiary background in psychology and youth development.
- Greater individualised support to mentees by introducing one-to-one mentor-mentee relationships. The program has recently undergone a matching process pairing mentors with mentees based on personality and similar interests.

# Y-Care Programs and Services

## YMCA Vocational School

2013 has seen a growing and vibrant vocational school supporting the aspirations of its 81 students. Following a very positive 2012, much has improved through the first half of 2013. We have seen:

- School enrolments remain consistent at 80+, and an increased waiting list of students wanting to enrol at the school
- Student average daily attendance has increased from 31 to 39, a 25.8% increase from 2012-2013
- Development of an improved academic curriculum relevant to our student's needs
- Increased vocational program offers for our students
- Improved atmosphere and community feel within the school
- Reduction in behaviour issues and, as such, suspensions/cancellation of enrolments
- Improved enrolment process ensuring the ethos and culture of the school is consistent, upheld and positive
- Improved physical resourcing including the opening of a multi sports covered area and additional classroom space
- Ongoing improvements in the fabric/decoration of the school providing a positive learning space.
- Ongoing development of a positive learning environment through our ReBOOT philosophy
- Ongoing development of partnerships within our local community adding value to our school and students
- Full time appointment of our new school Chaplain
- Increased Professional development opportunities for school staff supporting our School philosophy
- Ongoing and improving communication and contact with parents via teacher parent meetings
- Over 15 regular volunteers helping within the school over the year



Image: Dodge ball challenge in our new sports facility

## YMCA Affordable Housing



In the last ten years house prices have increased by 147 per cent while incomes in comparison grew by 57 per cent. Today, public housing provides over 300,000 Australians with safe, secure affordable housing with a further 173,000 Australians on the public housing waiting lists.

Access to affordable housing is not just about shelter. It's also an important contributor to health, social development and workforce participation. In fact, without a stable home it's almost impossible to make a go of things in any other part of your life.

The 2012/2013 year saw the completion of Y-Care's second affordable housing facility - Nowell B. Taylor House. Since completion, the YMCA has provided 65 new people including 7 couples with the opportunity to have secure, safe, comfortable homes. This, along with Melville Place, means the YMCA now provides affordable housing to 118 people.

As well as meeting the basic need for shelter we are committed to making a positive difference to our tenant's individual health, wellbeing and improving their overall quality of life. This includes providing tenants with opportunities for participation, skill development, recreation and help with negotiating supports.

Our vision is to be a major contributor to the relief of housing stress in Queensland and to build healthy communities characterised by caring, understanding, mutual respect and a sense of belonging.

# Schools' Breakfast Program

The YMCA Schools Breakfast program provided approximately 237,076 meals during 2012/13 across 52 schools, which is 54,747 more than the last financial year.

In November 2012 the YMCA Schools' Breakfast program exceeded one million school breakfast meals provided since the program commenced in September 2006. By the end of June 2013 the total number of breakfast meals provided since the program commenced was approximately 1,137,620.

During the 2012/13 financial year more than 100 YMCA Volunteers dedicated over 7,000 volunteer hours to support the breakfast program. This figure does not include all of the teachers, chaplains and schools students who also volunteer their time.

The YMCA Schools' Breakfast Program was successful in receiving \$10,198 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to purchase much needed equipment for the warehouse and schools. It was also successful in securing \$9,500 from the Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund to help towards the cost of purchasing breakfast food and petrol for the delivery vehicle.

The YMCA Food Warehouse donated three pallets of food to FoodBank's Christmas appeal; all collected from a food drive run in December across our YMCA Centres. The warehouse also gave out 23 individual food parcels to families in need during 2012/13.

The YMCA has been approached to expand its support to the Ipswich area. The YMCA plans to commence assisting ten schools in Ipswich in the next financial year.



*"Many of my students come to school without having eaten breakfast resulting in mental fatigue and tiredness which ultimately affects their learning. If their tummy is grumbling their brain is not functioning. The YMCA Schools' Breakfast Program is measurable in the benefits it provides not only on the students daily well-being but on their overall knowledge of what a healthy breakfast is".*

**Testimonial from Logan Primary School Teacher**

# Siblings Reconnect

**The bond between siblings is one that cannot be measured. It is a relationship that lasts a lifetime**

At the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 8,482 children in Queensland were in living away from home arrangements, with 84% of these children being separated from at least one of their siblings.

A stable relationship between siblings not only influences early development, but assists with ongoing life skills. The ability to nurture this relationship in hard times, like those experienced when placed into Foster Care, is so important.

YMCA Siblings Reconnect responds to the needs of these siblings separated through foster care by nurturing and developing caring relationships in a fun and safe camp environment. Camp is a time where these children gather to enjoy three fun-filled days of activities such as high-ropes, canoeing, climbing, and archery along with celebrating all the missed birthdays, Easters and Christmas.

During the Christmas camp held in early December 2012, the YMCA Siblings Reconnect Taskforce met the Reid\* family, two of the nine children attended the camp (\* names changed to protect their privacy). Sam\* aged 11 years and Steve\* his younger brother aged 9 years are both living in separate houses. Upon arriving at camp both boys were very shy, however it was evident that the two have a close bond. These two boys remained inseparable for the entire camp. Often the boys could be found holding hands, and playing games on the oval together. Sam informed some of the volunteers at camp that the two boys weren't referred to by their given names when in the care of their parents, rather they were referred to as "numbers." This information drove the YMCA Siblings Reconnect Taskforce to ensuring that the brothers be referred to by their names at all times throughout camp.

Sam and Steve are true examples to why the YMCA seeks to provide such camps. The time these two got to spend with one another reinforced family bonds and helped establish a support network for one another.

An energetic group of young volunteers have been making a positive contribution to these children's lives since April 2012. Within twelve months of providing this unique experience, YMCA Siblings Reconnect has brought together 70 children and reunited 28 families.

## Strong Kids Campaign

YMCA staff members can make a difference to a young person's life through our Strong Kids campaign. By pledging a small donation from their salary each fortnight, the staff members below are supporting the work of the YMCA in the very community in which they live to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. We acknowledge the following staff for their support.

Gary Adsett  
Kevin Babbage  
Sarah Baker  
Tess Barr  
Jane Barr-Thomson  
Didier Baudry  
Brenda Beach  
Sherrie Bernoth  
Diana Bickham  
Helen Bloom  
Kassandra Bowers  
Esra Bozkurt  
Dean Bracey  
Danielle Bradford  
Alan Bray  
Patrick Brearley  
Sara Bright  
Matthew Brough  
Chloe Brown  
Janice Brown  
Martin Bui  
Liam Burke  
Alexandra Burley  
Tamara Caldwell  
Alexander Camacho  
Terrie Campbell  
Lana Canterbury  
Janni Carlford  
Scott Casey  
Carol Chalk  
Kaio Clark  
Noel Clark  
Evelyn Clarke  
Jack Conkey  
Tanya Coomer  
Kimberley Dacey

Nicole Davey  
Jennifer Dodd  
Sandra Dorman  
Alex Dowling  
Amanda Doyle  
Rachael Eaglesham  
Sumiko Eyears  
Roberta Fawdry  
Lee Forrest  
Jodie Frankcom  
Jessie Fraser  
Rachel French  
Tegan Gaffel  
Dana Galt  
Linda Gideona  
Cassandra Gode  
Andrew Gore  
Sherelle Graham  
Michael Griffiths  
Raziqa Harris  
Sandor Harris  
Matthew Hay  
Gregg Hayes  
Marilee Henderson  
Deborah Hessey  
Rebecca Hicks  
Wendy Hicks  
Megan Hodge  
Stuart Holm  
Shandelle Horsford  
Teresa Hunkiel  
Mary-Delise Hutchison  
Lacey Iron  
Stephanie Ives  
Sally Jacobs  
Elizabeth Johnson

Mitchell Johnson  
Tanya Johnson  
Gail Johnston  
Jamie Jones  
Laila Jones  
Roanna Jones  
Nina Kaipia  
Annaliese Kelman  
Andrew Kerr-Stevens  
Kirsty Kirchner  
Shane Klumpp  
Rajbir Kullar  
Hannah Kumadi  
Emma Lacey  
Roslyn Lakeman  
Scott Lane  
Maria Lennox  
Sarah Lennox  
Soh Liew  
Philip Lynem  
Kelly Mahar  
Rebecca Mandeville  
Demetri Manicaros  
Helen Mann  
Tiffany Marshall  
Michelle Martin  
Kate Martin-Wheatley  
Miranda McGaw  
Grace McMillan  
Kylie Meal  
Michele Meredith  
Maddison Miles  
Sara Millar  
Maurice Mirabito  
Karlyn Miskle  
Anne Moritz

Valerie Morrissey  
Alana Mulhall  
Georgia Muller  
Michelle Mussett  
Michelle Nelson  
Lauren Newby  
Phillip Nielsen  
Josh Noble  
Christine Nolan  
Carol North  
Mary Oswald  
Peter Oweczkin  
Mathew Oxy  
Bradley Page  
Harriet Palmer  
Dharaben Panchal  
Elena Pavlova  
Bryce Percival  
Ruth Petts  
Angeleen Prasad  
Trudy Preston  
Tamara Price  
Danielle Raftopoulos  
Breanna Rath  
Imre Reinhard  
Candice Richards  
Nuno Rocha  
Aniag Ronrag  
Sarah Rountree  
William Sambrook  
Brett Sarapung  
Orit Semiat  
Zillah Shannon  
Amelia Shaw  
Amanda Sheehan  
Marcus Shimbel

Talei Smith  
Sharni Smith-Watts  
Michael Springall  
Rhiannan Springall  
Jacqueline Stark  
Christopher Stocks  
Matthew Swift  
Jade Taylor  
James Tett  
Eiren Thomas  
Aatami Tick  
Kasandrah Topple  
Rebecca Toye  
Peter Tsiamis  
Paul Tynan  
Brett Tyson  
Laura Veal  
Henrik Vold  
Robert Waide  
Maddison Walker  
Michelle Walsh  
Carolynne Waschl  
Senga Watson  
Frederick Webb  
Kirsty Weston  
Stephanie Whitehead  
Jenna-Maree Wild  
Katarina Williams  
Kenneth Wong  
Gary Wood  
Meg Woolf  
Iona Wyllie

## Y-Care Gift Fund

Australian Agricultural Chemicals  
Lyn Austin  
Karen Beddall  
Tanya Bennett  
Alan Bray  
Ian Burns  
Dr Jim Chalmers  
Clem Jones Group of Companies  
Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Mark Cupples  
Chris Czulowski  
Desmond Dyer  
Richards Edwards OAM  
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Kelly Fawke  
Steve Griffiths  
Gold Coast City Council  
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Moreton Bay Regional Council  
Mulpha Sanctuary Cove (Developments) Pty Ltd.  
John Negline  
Patrick Ponting  
William Sambrook  
Michael Schablon  
Kathryn Smith  
Southside Sport and Community Club Inc.  
Christopher Stocks  
Story Bridge Adventure Climb  
Nowell Taylor  
Geoff Truscott  
Michael Tsiamis  
Meg Woolf  
Murray Watt

A photograph showing the lower legs and feet of two children sitting on a wooden beam. They are wearing blue denim shorts. The background is a blurred green field.

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We build strong **PEOPLE**  
strong **FAMILIES** strong **COMMUNITIES**