



## Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2004

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



We at St Andrews Meals on Wheels pray that this Christmas will be memorable and happy. Thank you for your support and friendship over the last year. It is our prayer that, as you are once again reminded of the Greatest Gift ever given to mankind, you will also come to know Him, Jesus Christ, as Lord and Saviour. May next year be a wonderful year, blessed by God who created time, and gives us each day to live for Him. We are looking forward to serving you again in 2005. On behalf of your friends at St Andrews Meals on Wheels,

Rev Rudi Schwartz  
Chairman

### Rudi's Profile

- Full name: Diederick Rudolph Schwartz
- Born: Pretoria South Africa.
- Studied: University of Pretoria between 1972 – 1979. Completed B.A. (Afrikaans and Hebrews); B.D. and Post Graduate Diploma in Theology.
- Ordained: 6 February 1981 as minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, Arcadia Pretoria.
- Ministry: Served in several congregations in South Africa, and did one year as producer/researcher at SABC TV (Religious Programs).
- Family: Married Heila Groenewald on 24 April 1977. They now have four children.
- Migrated to Australia in July 1994 after received a call to St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Warren, NSW. Ministered there between 1994 and 2000. Also became involved in the ministry of the Presbyterian Inland Mission as part-time patrol padre, serving a geographical area of about 270,000sq kms. Moved to Townsville in January 2003 to fill the vacancy.
- Hobbies: I love music (classical). I play piano, church organ and guitar and love singing. I love gardening, computers, seeing the country (camping) and preparing sermons.



### Meet Daphne our sweets cook

Has been employed at St Andrews MOW since 1997. She was employed as a full time sweets cook but has also helped with general cooking.

Daphne has also relieved as acting chef when our head chef is on holidays or there has been a change of staff. Daphne was very involved when MOW were required to change delivery of meals to disposable containers.

Daphne and husband Jimmy raised five children. On becoming a widow 15 years ago she went to work in the kitchen of St Patrick's school. When Mercy Meals commenced operations she transferred to that organisation as well as using her talents to work in a cake shop. Daphne then came to MOW and provides the yummy sweets that are served each day.

MOW recently hosted a surprise party for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday where she was presented with a cake, gift and bouquet of flowers.



### Myles Thompson Assistant cook

Myles is a kitchen volunteer at MOW and is Daphne's offsider for sweets and salads.

He first started volunteer work delivering meals, then moved to the kitchen and helped with vegetable preparation before moving on to sweets. Myles worked as an electrician for 21 years before becoming self employed. He also worked as a service station console operator before retiring. Myles has worked as a volunteer at MOW for 2 years as a participant in a Centrelink programme and has contributed far more than required. He is always smiling and cheerful and is a valued and very competent member of the band of kitchen workers. For relaxation Myles enjoys ten pin bowling

### White Christmas

2 cups rice bubbles  
1 cup mixed fruit  
3/4 cup icing sugar  
1 cup powdered milk  
250gms copha.

### Rum Balls

1 cup mixed fruit  
2 dessert spoons cocoa  
1 cup coconut  
4 tablespoons rum or sherry  
1 tin of condensed milk



**White Christmas:** Mix all dry ingredients together Melt copha, add vanilla and pour over the mixture. Mix well together. Press onto a greased flat tray. Allow to set in fridge before cutting into squares or fingers. Refrigerate.

**Rum Balls:** Mix all ingredients together and roll teaspoonfuls into balls. Roll on coconut, store in upright container in a fridge.



## Special Event



### 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

St Andrew's Meals on Wheels celebrated its 40th anniversary recently with a tour of our kitchen, viewing of memorabilia and a presentation by Mayor Tony Mooney and the president of Queensland Meals on Wheels Association Norm Dillman. Pictured from left - Mayor Tony Mooney; Iris Gerard (MoW first cook); Cr Jenny Lane and Norm Dillman.



**M**eals on Wheels staff were saddened to learn of the recent death of Freda Greske.

Freda was one of the ladies involved in the first meal delivery 40 years ago. She was very active in the formative years of MOW. Freda and her husband moved to Magnetic Island where they helped with the development of a MOW service under the auspices of St Andrews Meals on Wheels. We extend sympathy to Freda's family on her passing.

### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Manager Ray has changed the delivery of Christmas hampers. We intend to do the deliveries on a separate run. By doing this the volunteers will be able to stop and have a chat; a lot of volunteers who have been delivering to the same run think this is a wonderful idea.

The hamper deliveries will commence on Wednesday 8th December and continue throughout the week until all are delivered. The volunteers will tell you about this as 8th December draws closer. We hope you enjoy the extras provided in the hampers.

The traditional dinner will be served on 22nd December. Please ring Sue or Ray on 4771 3687 if you require the meal. Don't miss out, it is usually yummy.

**DON'T FORGET** ----Please cancel your meals if you are going away or will not require them on specific days. **REMEMBER** ----if you forget and we prepare and deliver the meal and you are not home you will be charged for the meal. Ring Sue or Ray on 4771 3687 to cancel meals or to request the Christmas dinner.



Past and present cooks  
Mirrku Tynkkynen & Iris Gerard



Meals on Wheels volunteers celebrating our 40th year of service recently.

# A Christmas Story

## AN UNFORGETTABLE GIFT

On Christmas morning, 1912, in Paducah, Kentucky, fourteen-year-old Charlie Flowers and his three brothers and two sisters huddled in their beds, fully dressed, trying to keep warm as the wind howled outside their small frame house. It was a desperate time for the family. The coal had run out. There was little money - none for gifts.

Their tree with decorations made from scraps of colored paper had been given to them the night before by a local merchant who said he "couldn't sell this last one." And earlier that year their father had died.

To pass the time, the children joked and shouted stories from their bedrooms across the hallway from one another. Then suddenly a racket from the alley at the rear of the house broke into their games.

### Gift from Above

"Charlie," his mother called, "would you see what's going on out there?" Charlie pulled on his shoes and ran out back. There stood a man in a wagon bent over a load of coal, shoveling it into the shed as fast as he could. "Hey mister, we didn't order any coal," Charlie shouted. "You're delivering it to the wrong house." "Your name's Flowers, isn't it?" the man asked, still shoveling. Charlie nodded.

"Well then, there's no mistake. I've been asked to deliver this to your family on Christmas morning." Then he turned and looked the awe-struck boy square in the eye. "And I'm under strict orders not to tell who sent it," he teased. Charlie ran into the house, his coat tail flapping in the cold morning wind. He could hardly wait to tell his mother and brothers and sisters.

### God has Provided

Just as He provided on that first Christmas morning so long ago when He sent His only Son to a needy world, so now, He provided again. Charlie Flowers died in 1994 at age 96. And right up to the last year of his life, not a Christmas went by that he didn't tell the story of that sub-zero Christmas morning of his boyhood when two men gave his family an unforgettable gift.

It wasn't the coal that was remembered or cherished, Charlie often said - welcome as it was - but rather what two men brought to his desperate family. One, for his gift of recognizing their great need and taking the time to do something about it. And the other, for being willing to give up part of his own Christmas morning to deliver it.

That gift of so long ago has continued to warm the flowers family from one generation to another, as Charlie's son - my husband - calls to mind these two unknown men each Christmas morning and whispers a prayer of thanks for their unforgettable gift.

We do not deserve to receive the gift of mercy from God. Indeed, a gift is something you get free of charge. You don't pay for it.

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ into this world because without Him we are out in the cold-hopelessly lost. Christmas is the story of God who loved the world so much that He gave his only begotten Son as a human being, so who-ever believes in Him will have eternal life (John 3:26).*Karen O'Connor*

