

The Program Support and Development Group for Kairos Outside for Women

Some of you may be aware of PSDG, the support group for Kairos activities across Australia. Many of you may have received a helping hand, supporting advice or essential training which is all facilitated through the working party members of PSDG.

Some activities the PSDG has been working on are; updates to the KOW manual, reviewing the forms used for data collection, improvements to KOW marketing material and review of EZRA, the software used by KOW weekend leaders.

The PSDG will be continuing these activities, but will also be focussing on improving communication and visibility of what we are doing, making useful resources, like promotional and training material more accessible and improving the website to be used more effectively for both guests and by the Kairos community and team members.

Since we all bring different gifts and talents, we would like to encourage you to contact kowpsdq@kairos.org.au if you would like to be involved or would like to offer specific skills in getting some of this work done. If there is any specific area for KOW that you feel needs to be considered in the PSDG work program then please let us know.

Jenny Bothma, Program Support & Development Group Coordinator for Kairos Outside for Women Prison Ministry Australia
kowpsdq@kairos.org.au

Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is an interdenominational Christian ministry reaching out to incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them; to bring sustainable meaning and hope in the place of loneliness, isolation and despair. Building Christian Community.

Course	Program	Contact Address	Leader
Kairos Inside & Torch			
11-12 Apr	Frank Baxter 18	P O Box 6221 Gosford West 2250	Terry O’Dea
11-14	Parklea 3	64 Quarry Road Dural 2158	Jon Williams
18-22	Arthur Gorrie 11	PO Box 652 Lutwyche 4030	Michael Frawley
26-29	Mobilong 23	P O Box 242 Highgate SA 5063	Peter Hill
02-06 May	Emu Plains 23	P O Box 407 Emu Plains 2750	Lynne Noble
02-06	Mannus 11	8 Vista Ave Batlow 2730	John Keogh
02-06	Mid North Coast Mens 13	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	Glen Maas
06-09	AMC Canberra 5	P O Box 176 Deakin West ACT 2600	Tony Jurd
10-13	Dillwynia 16	P O Box 3102 Rouse Hill 2155	Tammy Holder
11-15 July	Port Augusta 3	P O Box 2110 Port Augusta 5700	Stewart Hoseason-Smith
26-30 Sep	Mid North Coast Womens 3	P O Box 2604 Port Macquarie 2444	Helen Boutell
Kairos Outside for Men			
03-05 June	Sydney #6	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Michael Hardiman
Kairos Outside for Women			
15-17 April	Central West 1	P O Box 192 Orange 2800	Catherine Ryan
22-24	Hunter 21	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Karen Fogg
27-29 May	Sydney 35	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Debby Shelton
19-21 Aug	North Coast 9	P O Box 814 Woolgoolga 2456	Bec Kerton
23-25 Sep	Wide Bay Capricorn	16 Bayrise Drive Urangan Hervey Bay 4655	Samantha Gorman
07-09 Oct	South Coast 1	3/12 Parsons St West Wollongong 2500	Robyn Allen
14-16	Hunter 22	P O Box 221 Kotara 2289	Sue Hodges
25-27 Nov	Sydney 36	P O Box 2178 Normanhurst 2076	Carmelita Mitchell
Preparation for Kairos			
8-10 Apr	Sydney 5	P O Box 169 Hornsby 1630	Roberta Tsai
Essentials of Kairos Training			
19-20 Mar	Kairos Outside for Women	Wagga Check the Kairos website	Nola Baker
16-17 July	Kairos Outside for Women	Perth Check the Kairos website	Jenny Bothma

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A Word from the KPMA CHAIR Ian Saunders



My article for the last Newsletter ended with the words:

Above all, my main hope is that we can engender a sense of Kairos as a single body, with the Board, the KSO, State Councils, RCs and individual Teams working as partners.

We must always remember that our goal is to grow God’s Kingdom and to build up both guests and volunteers as members of His Kingdom.

I think we’ve made some progress towards that in the last few months.

A highlight for me was a Strategic Planning meeting held at the end of January and attended by the Board, PSDG coordinators, KSO staff and some additional experienced Kairos volunteers.

This provided one of the rare opportunities for the Board to meet face to face and to consider some of the big picture issues. We have put in place some initiatives that we hope will help build a firm basis for the Kairos ministry into the future. These include:

- A Fundraising committee which will both seek sources of funding for the national ministry and develop materials to assist Regional Committees in their fundraising for their local ministry.

- A Communications committee that will seek ways to improve the communication within the Kairos community and also promote our ministry outside.

- A search committee for a new CEO, recognising that our attempts to find a volunteer CEO have not been successful and it will be necessary to seek someone for a paid role, with the associated financial impacts.

Among the initiatives envisaged to improve communication is better use of the KPMA website kairos.org.au to keep people in touch with events nationally. My hope is that we will all be able to use this to expand our knowledge of the Kairos Ministry.

This is part of a move to make better use of technology to enhance the Ministry. The email system for Kairos officers has been moved to another server to increase its capacity. I trust this will allow all Regional Committees and other users to improve communications and increase our sense of unity. The VMS database has the potential to be a great resource for recruitment of team members and for monitoring the health of the Ministry by telling us how we are going at maintaining and renewing our volunteer base. We’re still not at the point where we can use the VMS effectively but a committee is currently reviewing its use

and will be proposing improvements to make it a real resource.

Last year saw the 20th anniversary of Kairos in Australia. 2016 sees the 40th anniversary of Kairos internationally. There will be an International Conference in July this year and David Beck and I will be attending on behalf of KPMA. I hope it will be as exciting an experience as last year’s Adelaide Conference!

Finally, thanks to all those who organised “Thank You” events for our volunteers during February. A number of these were held across the country. We’ll aim to hold another Thank You Day (or month!) in 2017. To those who attended and those who couldn’t make it: THANK YOU!

God bless you all.
Ian

Where would you find a 5 year waiting list to do Kairos?

I had the privilege of meeting up with John & Jane when they cruised into Sydney Harbour last December. John was on the first team for the Michael Unit in Texas a maximum state prison for men. He has served 16 years in Kairos. Michael Unit holds 2 weekend courses a year. Inside team of 36 men and outside team of 20 men and women. 42 inmates at each course! Being 14 Black, 14 White and 14 Hispanic.

Once a month, the Kairos family puts on a religious service Sunday morning. Every week, on Tuesday evenings, the Kairos members have a small group meeting which is also attended by men from the free world. Currently, they have a five-year waiting list of men who want to go on a Kairos weekend. (wouldn’t that be great for KPMA)

On Sunday afternoon, the candidates are given the opportunity to explain their feelings about the weekend. Free world men and women are invited to attend the closing ceremony. John told me that there are 400 who attend the closing, 200 inmates and 200 free world.

My question was ‘where do they meet?’ John’s answer ‘In the gymnasium’.



Thanks to Brian Alcorn for being on the same cruise and putting KSO in touch with John & Jane.

‘I was in prison and you came to visit me’ Matthew 25:36

Kairos Outside for Men #6

Kairos Outside for Men Sydney #6 set down for 3-5 June 2016. This weekend will be held at Castlereagh Christian Conference Centre in the western Sydney area.

Interest has been expressed by other regions to have a KOM operating in their areas. The possibility of having volunteers from other regions sit in on KOM Sydney #6 as Observers is being pursued so that the Observers can take the course back to their own region with assistance from KOM Sydney volunteers.

If you have any contacts with men aged 18 years and over who have relatives or close friends who either currently are in gaol, or previously have been in gaol, please send their details to komsydney@kairos.org.au and we will be keen to follow them up with an invite.

KOM Sydney Committee

Kairos Outside for Men (KOM) is a weekend retreat hosted by Kairos volunteers for male family members and supporters of people in prison, or people who have been in prison. The goal of the weekend is to give friends and family members a supportive community of other men who understand the challenges associated with supporting someone in prison or someone who has been in prison.

KOM is open to any male relative or supporter (18 years +) of a current or former prison inmate. The program is based on Christian principles but you don't have to be a Christian to attend.

A KOM weekend also gives you a new framework in which to listen and talk with people who have struggled with similar issues resulting from having a relative or friend in prison. In a safe, relaxed and openhearted environment, you'll have the freedom to be yourself – no strings attached.

News from KOW North Qld

At our recent reunion we took the opportunity, celebrating the significant milestones of the Kairos Ministry, to thank Bill & Gwen Thomas, who were among the small team who were instrumental in getting KOW to North Queensland. They have both put in 10 years – 5 to get us up and going and we are now into our 5th year. Bill & Gwen were the only inaugural committee members present to thank, however the full team were acknowledged. One of our guests from last year shared that she had an overwhelming feeling at the end of KOW that she was to strengthen her faith, and to build up on her leadership skills. What she had to say was very encouraging, and we intend to sponsor her to a 'Cursillo' or 'Emmaus' weekend as soon as possible, and to continue to support and encourage her as much as we can. We have already lined up a mentor for her. Yes, she is going to be on team for 2016.

The Committee gives a huge vote of thanks to Gwen and Margie for their services to KOWNQ over the past years and we sincerely hope that we will still be working with you both, in the various roles, well into the future.



News from Kairos Canberra Monaro Region

Over the last two years Kairos Canberra/Monaro volunteers have made an effort to get into the market place – literally. A few times a year we take a charity stall space at the local Fruit and Vegetable markets. We set up our banner and make sure we have a stand full of leaflets about Kairos. Many people have never heard of Kairos – the most common thing we hear is “what a great thing you are doing; I had never heard of ...how do you say the name of your organisation?”

We sell whatever our community volunteers care to donate. Trash 'n' Treasure is very popular because people love to sift through junk, and tables of books will always make people stop to browse.

At our last market stall a man stopped to make a small donation. He and his father had been on the way out when they saw the Kairos banner and detoured to talk to two of our helpers. He explained that he was a recent graduate from the Alexander Machonochie Correctional Centre Kairos program and just wanted to tell us that Kairos had changed his life, and he was so grateful for this. He was doing well on the outside, and commented that it was Kairos that had made the difference.

Needless to say our volunteers floated on this encouragement for the rest of the day. I hope other committees may also find ways to interact with the public face to face, in order to raise the profile of this gift from God that is Kairos.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what they have decided in their heart to give not reluctantly or under compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need you will abound in every good work.”

2 Cor 9:6-8

How to double up gift giving



To the workers out in salary land, have you thought of asking your employer to match the gift giving to your favourite charity—namely

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY AUSTRALIA?

If your company or organisation has a social responsibility policy and would like to match employee contributions, why not approach your Human Resources department with the proposal of donating to Kairos.

Bank details:

BSB 032 075 Account No: 147046

A/C Name: Kairos Prison Ministry Australia

All gift donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible

A letter from a Kairos Outside Guest

Dear Kairos Leaders and Team

I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the last Kairos weekend.

From the ride with [my long-time friend](#) and the welcome on Friday night. I was nervous on Friday night not knowing what would unfold over the weekend.

The room I stayed in - I would have been very happy to just stay there for the weekend in the peace and quiet. It was lovely. Friday was a gentle evening with getting to know each other. I think it takes time to get to know each other but we all managed.

Prayers and singing are good for us all. Saturday was a full on day with different people sharing their stories about Choices, [and](#) Isolation.

I do understand everyone has a story but sharing with people you don't know would be confronting.

The [discussions and stories](#) I heard were beyond upsetting. The trouble is you don't know when people need help sometimes. Every one's perspective is different as well. It has been a difficult journey and we are all still getting there. Our families still struggle. Communication is so important, [and the talks](#) about Anger; that is where I have been. Even though you know it is destructive and dangerous, also a waste of energy. I think it is easier to be angry than thoughtful or kind. Learning to express anger in a safe way is a good way to go if you can. Again it is a journey.

Saturday gave me the opportunity to see the other side of my opinion. I struggle with that. It was a big day; very thought provoking. Hard work but very beneficial.

I loved the music. The music made the day special for me. The gifts at every break were a big surprise and delightful.

Sunday we were all getting into the swing of the weekend and getting to know each other.

I have never had to think of the people who have been in prison and their rehabilitation. I just hoped that they got what they needed because we have been living in fear and were pleased that someone we had to deal with was in there. We also knew that if the person in question didn't get the help they needed our life would go on to be hell.

I hope everyone else enjoyed their weekend as much as I did. I often think of it and the good it has done for me to be there. A big thank you [to my friend](#) who convinced me to go.

Kairos is a wonderful organisation and everyone involved in it are wonderful too.

Thank you again each and everyone of you. Best regards [a Guest on KOW#8](#)

Who Needs Money? *Kairos does if we are to progress...*

Some of the needs we have as an organisation to allow us to grow and minister effectively are.

A permanent home for the office, one we own and don't have to pay rent on.

A CEO to oversee the day to day operations of Kairos and help promote this ministry. This may mean that we have to find sufficient funds to employ the right person.

Funds to expand the ministry into places like the Northern Territory.

As we grow there will be the need to provide more support to the regions. This may involve expanding the KSO.

To achieve these things we will need to raise funds over and beyond what Regional Committees and private donations raise. To this end the Board has appointed Alan Soden and myself to the Fund raising committee. We have also co-opted Greg Trost and Les Marshall to the committee. Our task will be to seek ways to improve our financial position through fund raising.

With this in mind we have decided to look within the Kairos family for ideas, people etc whose talents we can tap into. So we would like to explore the following.

What gifts/talents/ contacts there are within the Kairos Community re fund raising. We are not seeking those with local fund raising abilities such as selling chocolates, BBQ's etc, but rather for those who may have experience at the Corporate fund raising level or know of someone who does. The sort of people we are looking for would probably have a wide exposure to business with large business network/contacts.

What thoughts/ideas does the Kairos Community have re large fundraising activities.

Are there any within the Kairos Community who are aware of or have contacts with suitable Corporations/Businesses that we could approach.

Does anyone know of a well-known personality eg a sports person or prominent person who might be able to be approached to be a Kairos champion/spokesperson to perhaps speak at a fund raising dinner or such like.

If you have any thoughts or contacts or even have talents in this field please contact any on the committee [phone or email]. Your help could be just the thing to progress this wonderful ministry. We look forward to hearing from anyone with a good idea or a talent in this field.

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Alan Soden: Phone No 0419885885; email alan.soden@gmail.com

Greg Trost: Phone No 0732044663; Email greg_trost@optusnet.com.au

Les Marshall: Phone no 08 9255 1803 Email revdlesm@optusnet.com.au Blessings from the Fund Raising Committee