



Orana

*Celebrating our shared
foundations and future*



**Lutheran
Services**

There for you



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND DISTRICT

**This story is dedicated
to the many faithful men and
women who came together to
meet local needs and serve their
region and community. The dreams
and hard work of our founding
congregations have made us
who we are today.**

Lutheran Services draws on the fundamental Lutheran tradition of care for the individual, family and community. Together with the congregations that founded us, we have served the people and communities of Queensland since 1935. The diversity, vitality and significant contribution of Lutheran Services today is thanks to these origins and this foundation.

To celebrate and commemorate these beginnings, Lutheran Services is conducting an 'Origin Stories' project—to explore, document and share the proud histories and inspirational stories behind our many services and sites.

The project is a collaboration between staff from Lutheran Services and Lutheran Church of Australia, Queensland District.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Orana Origin Story owes its existence to the generous support and contributions from members of the Orana and Kingaroy communities.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who made this possible. Thank you for sharing your memories, stories, poems, pictures and prayers. This remarkable history and story has been written by you.

EXPLORE OUR ORIGINS

You can find this story,
and other Origin Stories here:





Orana

by Ms JM Johnston, Orana Resident

**'Orana' - Child of the Lutheran Church,
Stands high on the side of a hill,
And on this beautiful Sabbath morning,
All is peaceful and still.
The trees in their coats of leafy green,
Stand sentinel all around,
And nearer still, all round our Home,
Flowers of all colours abound.
Up here on our high verandah,
Though we can't hear church bells ring,
We can always have a song in our heart
And think of the joy they bring.
My own special memory,
Of a land across the sea,
Where bells on a Sunday morning
Ring out so merrily.
Yes, Orana is built on a lovely site,
And someday if all goes well,
There will be a bigger Orana,
Where more happy old folk will dwell.**



A history of caring

Orana began with one person's dream to create a caring home away from home for older people in our community. Orana was built with the love, devotion, hard work and generous support of many:

- the congregations of St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy and many other Lutheran churches
- the Christian communities of Kingaroy and the South Burnett
- local individuals, families, businesses, service clubs and community organisations.

The Orana South Burnett Lutheran Rest Home opened in 1970 with 17 hostel residents and six staff. More than 500 people attended the opening and dedication.

The founding committee and early volunteers—congregation members, friends, family and community—worked together tirelessly and selflessly to build Orana, and then kept it growing. The first Matron Joyce Kucks (whose dream Orana was) and her husband Norman (Orana's first Caretaker) famously worked for no pay for the first six months.

Orana represented the South Burnett's first supported living environment for the aged—or old folks' home as they called it. The elevated site was chosen for its cool breezes, winter warmth, room for growth and panoramic views of Kingaroy and the Bunya Mountains.

The name 'Orana' was suggested by founding committee member Esme Chalmers. Esme got the idea from a book of Aboriginal words Joyce Kucks had lent to her when the committee was searching for a name. According to the book, 'Orana' meant 'welcome'. The committee loved the name. From that day on, the old folks' home was known as Orana.

With short vacancies and long waiting lists, Orana quickly expanded its accommodation, facilities and offerings, more than doubling in size in the first five years. In the 1970s and 1980s, Orana provided catering and held food stalls to raise funds for ongoing expansion and improvement. Again, the loyal congregation, many volunteers and a generous community made it happen.

When money was being raised to develop the nursing home in the late 1970s, a 'fundraising barometer' at the end of Kingaroy Street showed progress towards the \$200,000 goal—a considerable sum at the time. This goal was ultimately surpassed and the nursing home opened in 1980. Again, more than 500 people attended the opening and dedication.

Further funds were enthusiastically raised to build a chapel in the mid 1980s. The dedicated, freestanding chapel building is a distinguishing feature of Orana today, and the heart of the complex and community.

The rotunda at St John's Lutheran Church in Kingaroy was originally part of Orana. It was relocated due to expansions in the 1990s. The rotunda today is a popular gathering place at St John's—and a lasting legacy of the congregation's long and strong connection with Orana.

Orana has always emphasised the dignity, independence and holistic care of the individual in a homelike environment. A diverse and balanced resident program comprised pastoral care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, music and art therapy, podiatry, personal development, social activities and recreational outings. Gardens were always a big part of Orana and residents were encouraged to help with the gardening—a tradition that continues to this day.



THIS WEEK'S NEWS THIS WEEK — WOOLLOGA TO BLACKBUTT

The Kingaroy Herald

TWICE WINNER OF BOWATER AWARD Queensland's Best Country Weekly AND NANANGO NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1967

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The Eyes Have It!
GOOD HEALTH is largely a matter of GOOD EYES!
Have your eyes examined every TWO YEARS
OPTOMETRISTS AND SPECTACLE MAKERS
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REST HOME PLANS EARLY NEXT YEAR

Plans for the old folks rest home at Kingaroy should be well on the way to finalisation during the first half of next year, Pastor H. W. Beach of the Kingaroy Lutheran Parish announced during the week.

He said that when they are completed it is planned to display them and then make an all out drive for further funds.

Pastor Beach said that the land has been bought for the home and includes several acres of the property and western side of Hospital Hill.

The committee is planning to inspect some of the best homes for the aged in the Brisbane area and to attend a Seminar at Nundah on November 4. Sociologists from the University are to lead the discussion on "Modern Concepts in Care for the Aged" and "Differing Needs for the Aged."

Representatives of the service clubs of the area will be invited to meetings of the committee. Further consideration will be given to the type of home to be erected and ways and means of making an appeal to the public for further funds.

Members of the Lutheran Churches of the area are bringing their gifts at this stage.

flat where each person or married couple has a living room, kitchen fitted with cupboards, sink, stove, refrigerator, bathroom-toilet with hot and cold water; bedroom with built-in furniture; private entrance and other amenities.

The communal type of home with community dining room and lounge, but private bedroom with built-in furniture, bath and toilet facilities.

The committee feels strongly that the best advantage which the elderly folk will enjoy will be the happy company of other ageing people under the love of Christ.

LAND BOUGHT FOR OLD FOLKS HOME
Land has now been purchased on the western side of Hospital Hill.

Land for Rest Home; \$16,000

Nine acres of land have been purchased at a cost of \$16,000 on the western side of Hospital Hill by the South Burnett Lutheran Old Folks' Home Committee for the site of a Rest Home.

The land was formerly owned by Mr. B. Cavanagh. A home standing on the land bought by the committee will be retained to fit into the overall scheme of the rest home and possibly to provide accommodation for staff when the home is built.

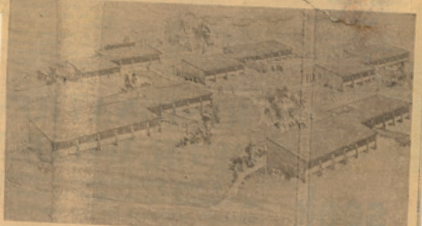
The present entrance is from McDermid Street but it is probable there will be a new entrance in the future from Jarrah and Moonya Streets. The committee is to inspect homes for the aged in Brisbane and attend a seminar at Nundah on November 4 when sociologists from the Queensland University will discuss "Modern Concepts in Care for the Aged" and "Differing needs of the aged."

At the moment the committee is considering two types of possible accommodation. One is the self-contained flat where each married couple has a living room, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom with built-in furniture, bath and toilet with cupboards, sink, stove, refrigerator, bathroom-toilet with hot and cold water; bedroom with built-in furniture; private entrance and other amenities.

The communal type of home with community dining room and lounge, but private bedroom with built-in furniture, bath and toilet facilities.

The committee feels strongly that the best advantage which the elderly folk will enjoy will be the happy company of other ageing people under the love of Christ.

Sketch of new Rest Home



An architectural drawing of the proposed Lutheran Old People's Rest Home to be constructed at the northern end of Jarrah Street, Kingaroy. The drawing shows the building to be constructed on a nine acre area which will contain 32 single rooms and four double rooms.

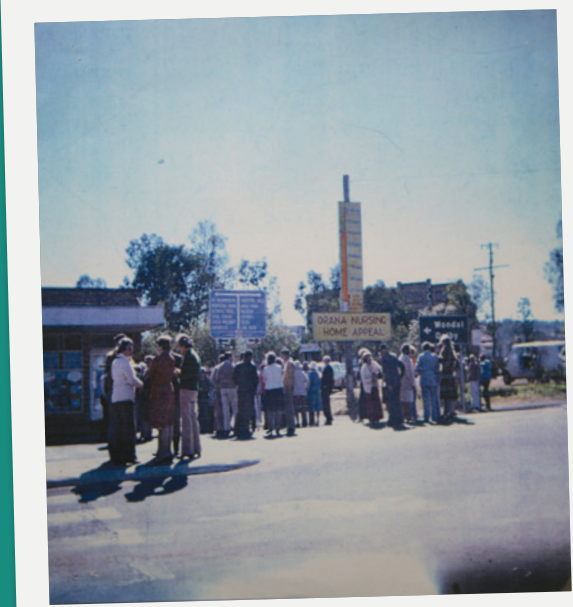
Share of the cost to the local committee is expected to be \$78,000. Last Monday night representatives of Churches and Service Clubs met with the executive of the South Burnett Lutheran Council.

The meeting decided to set April 6 as a tentative date for an appeal day. It is expected that various appeal committees will be established within a radius of 45 miles of Kingaroy.

The name chosen for the Home is "Orana", an aboriginal name meaning welcome.

These people will now be forming organising committees in the main towns within a 45-mile radius of Kingaroy. The committee will welcome enquiries from interested people and those interested in being guests in the home once it is set up. Plans will be displayed in shop windows in the main towns at a date yet to be decided.

APPEAL FOR REST HOME
An appeal day for the Rest Home at Kingaroy, Saturday, April 6, has been set as an appeal date for the Rest Home at Kingaroy. A meeting held on Monday night decided to call the rest home "Orana" - an Aborigine name meaning welcome.



The transition to Lutheran Community Care

In the late 1990s, increasingly complex regulation requirements combined with an increasingly challenging market saw the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District establish an umbrella organisation—Lutheran Community Care—to manage all of the district’s aged care and community services operations, including Orana.

Having worked so hard and with such devotion to raise Orana over more than 25 years, many in the management committee, congregation and supporter network found this transition difficult. With the benefit of hindsight, we now see many aspects of this transition could have been handled better.

What didn’t change, however, was the Orana name, welcome and spirit.

Orana today, part of the family

Lutheran Community Care was renamed Lutheran Services in 2017. As the operator of Orana today, Lutheran Services recognises the considerable achievements and challenges of the past. We thank the many congregation and committee members, volunteers and supporters for their grace, devotion and hard work. Their efforts and endeavours continue to benefit Orana’s many residents, clients and staff today.

Lutheran Services was established to ensure the ministry of care envisaged and established by Orana’s founders would continue to thrive, so more people could experience Christ’s love through their services. We hope this origin story project will help to record, share and celebrate the incredible journey and spirit that built Orana and continue to make it such a special place.

In the 2020s, more than half a century on, Orana is home to around 100 aged care residents and a lively community of independent retirement living residents in some 20 cottages. Orana provides home care/ support and NDIS services for around 200 households throughout the South Burnett region. Orana is also a great place to work and is a respected and valued employer of more than 110 staff.

Lutheran Services: There for you

As managers of Orana and many other aged care and community services today, Lutheran Services is a leading not-for-profit provider of human services in Queensland. As a department of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District, Lutheran Services seeks to draw from, express and add to the life and mission of the Church. The organisation has grown out of the dreams and hard work of its founding Lutheran congregations.

Lutheran Services draws on the rich Lutheran tradition of care for the individual, family and community. It provides quality, contemporary support for older people, young people and their carers, people living with a disability or mental illness, and families experiencing domestic violence and hardship. The organisation serves many metropolitan, regional and rural communities from more than 25 sites throughout Queensland—from Tallebudgera to Rockhampton.

While these sites and services are very different in where they are and what they do, they all have one thing in common: they began with a local congregation working together to meet a need and serve their region and community. These endeavours were often the first services of their kind in their region. Some were the first of their kind in Queensland. Today, they are integral and highly respected contributors to their communities and industries, providing vital care, support, employment and leadership.



ORIGIN
STORIES

Timeline

1967

- 11 acre site purchased

1970

- Foundation stone laid
12 April
- Orana opened
6 September
- 17 hostel residents
- 6 staff

1972

- Expansion of hostel and development of self-contained cottages
- 17 hostel residents
- 8 staff

2014

- Home care/support services commenced
- 94 aged care residents
- 25 retirement living units
- 110 staff

2005

- New nursing home/lodges opened

1999

- Lutheran Community Care is formed to manage the growing family of services provided by Queensland Lutheran Church congregations.

2016

- Mental health research project commenced

2017

- Lutheran Services becomes the new face of Lutheran Community Care

2018

- NDIS disability and mental health support services commenced

ORIGIN STORIES

1974

- 3 wings named for founding Committee Secretary and first Matron Joyce Kucks, founding Committee Member Pastor Henry Beach and former LCAQD President Pastor Herb Schmidt
- 33 hostel residents
- 5 independent living cottages
- 11 staff

1976

- 51 hostel residents
- 8 independent living cottages
- 18 staff

1980

- 40 bed nursing home opened

1982

- 40 nursing home residents
- 51 hostel residents
- 12 independent living cottages
- 73 staff

1994

- Development of 2 new 8 bed hostels—Bunya Lodge and Mountain View Lodge
- Total 125 beds
- 93 staff

1990

- Dedicated dementia unit opened—Schmidt Lodge
- 40 nursing home residents
- 53 hostel residents
- 21 independent living cottages
- 85 staff

1986

- Orana Memorial Chapel opened

2020

- Home maintenance services commenced

2021

- Monument commemorating 'the pioneering vision of Joyce and Norman Kucks' erected to mark 50th anniversary. Unveiling ceremony (delayed due to COVID restrictions) attended by many of Joyce and Norman's family.

2023

- 94 aged care residents
- 19 retirement living units
- around 200 home care/support and NDIS clients throughout the South Burnett
- 110+ staff

Recent Quotes

“

Orana has seen lots of change over the years— as our community has grown; as our services have evolved; as government requirements have become more complex. But one thing hasn't changed— Orana still has the church's mission at its heart. We remain true to the vision and hard work of our founding congregation members.

Orana is unique. We have a full-time chaplain and we remain a key part of the Lutheran church and celebrate our Lutheran identity. We are committed to providing quality services to the aged and frail people of the South Burnett. This was all part of the original vision for Orana.

It's great to be able to work for a highly professional and compassionate not-for-profit organisation in my home town—and give back to the community that raised me. We're here to serve people and support our community. Orana is a large employer in the South Burnett. We offer a wide range of roles across the site and many people have moved to the South Burnett to take up employment with Orana.

We prepare all meals fresh onsite and do all our own laundry and cleaning. We also have our own gardener who delights in making the gardens beautiful for the residents, who he knows by name. We haven't contracted these services out. This personalises our service and enables us to provide rewarding and meaningful employment for people in the community.

We provide local schools and TAFE colleges with work experience, traineeships and placements and we engage with school students to maintain community connections for our residents. In so many ways, Orana is still the caring home away from home that our founders dreamt of. ”

Kym Zischke

*Service Manager, Orana Aged Care
2013 – present*

“

We started raising money to build Orana two years before the first brick went down. We did catering, food stands and street stalls. We made wedding cakes, birthday cakes and fruit cakes. We went doorknocking homes, shops and businesses. This went on until the late 1980s.

I potted plants for the street stalls in fruit tins Orana would save for me. I probably made thousands of bottles of sweet mustard pickles, passionfruit butter, lemon butter and jam. People would come along with boxes of cucumbers, chokos or passionfruit so we could make more. I don't know how many baby blankets I made. Every pram going up the street had a baby wrapped in one of my bunny rugs!

In the early days I remember having the youngest of my five children as a baby in a basket with me. Looking back now I don't know how I did it. Lots of people came together to lend support. We all worked together and did what we could. Everybody wanted to help build an old folks' home for Kingaroy. We visited other Lutheran aged care places getting ideas— Tabeel in Laidley, Salem in Toowoomba, Trinder Park in Woodridge.

When we were looking for a name, I suggested 'Orana'. Joyce Kucks had a book of Aboriginal words that I took home and studied. I found the word 'orana', which it said meant 'welcome'. I went to the next meeting and said 'We ought to call this place Orana—it means welcome.' Everybody agreed. They thought it was a good name. Right then and there we voted to have the name Orana. ”

Esme Chalmers

Founding Committee Member

St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy congregation





Recent Quotes

“

Orana began with my mother's dream. Joyce loved working with the elderly and wanted to create a caring home away from home for local people when they got older. We're so proud of what our parents created. Joyce and Norman were naturally welcoming, caring and generous people. They worked so hard to gather the people and raise the money to get Orana up and running. They had the encouragement of the local doctors who saw great value for the community in creating a 'rest home'.

They lived and breathed Orana. Their work was a labour of love. Their rewards were the friendships they developed. Joyce served as the first Committee Secretary and Orana's first Matron. Norman was the first Committee Member and Orana's first Caretaker. When Orana opened, they worked for no pay for the first six months. Norman made gardens for the residents and invited them to help him with the gardening—a tradition that continues to this day.

Orana was a family affair. My younger sister Narelle baked cakes for the residents and staff—they particularly loved her cupcakes with a cherry on top. My brothers helped Dad with the maintenance. Norman had a green Morris Minor he called 'Billy'—it too was part and parcel of Orana! ”

Lynette Johnston

Daughter of Joyce & Norman Kucks

St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy congregation

“

In the early days, Orana residents were supplied with homemade biscuits baked by members of the Lutheran Ladies' Guilds. They were on a roster to make a month's supply. The biscuits had to be nutritious and of good keeping quality. Anzacs, jam drops and gingernuts were just a few of the chosen varieties. Unreturnable containers were to be used, so the ladies packaged their biscuits in shoe boxes, shirt boxes or cornflakes boxes.

When I was a member of St Andrew's Lutheran congregation at Cooyar, I remember delivering the goodies to Orana in wet weather. Pathways were still under construction and there were wooden planks to walk on. I had difficulty finding reception. Eventually I noticed an open door where I found Mrs Godbold ironing and Mrs Frehmann working on items of clothing or linen. These helpful ladies (volunteers and members of Bethany Lutheran Church) took delivery of the cartons of biscuits and said they would get them to the kitchen. ”

Jocelyn Hansen

Orana volunteer

St Andrew's Lutheran Church Cooyar congregation

“

Mum (Beverley Corney) was one of the first kitchen managers when the new nursing home opened. In the early days, I used to attend work with Mum on a Saturday morning at Orana to make cakes and slices. I understand the clientele at the time had probably never eaten a shop bought biscuit or cake in their lives and were not about to start then. The solution was for me to help Mum on a Saturday by making our own recipes from home, making 20 times the usual quantities. ”

Bruce Corney

Formerly of Trinity Lutheran Church

Kumbia congregation






I've always been involved with Orana. We've had family living at Orana since the early days—grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles. I worked full-time as a teacher for more than 50 years, but for many years I was volunteering and visiting Orana every week. Any spare time you had, you volunteered for Orana.

Orana did catering and held food stalls to raise money. For many years, Orana was the only caterer in town. We'd cater for weddings, birthdays, events, conventions, you name it. A lot of my friends helped also. There was a team of us who would help with the preparations, service and tidying up. You'd just turn up and help however you could. We always wore white clothes and were careful to serve from the left and clear from the right! My husband Barry and I held hamburger stands at the Kingaroy Show and speedway. Some days we could work from dawn until after midnight. One day we took \$5,000! We did volunteering work for Orana for around 10 years.

After the chapel was built in the mid 80s, I enjoyed worshipping with the residents and participating on the organist roster at Sunday evening services. My father Bill Frehmann worked as groundsman and gardener for five years after 'retiring'—or before he officially retired and moved to Orana. Dad had as much to do with the place as I did. He planted the avocado trees. Local farmers would take fresh produce or knock off early so they could go and do work for Orana. Residents often liked to help in the kitchen or gardens, and the involvement was encouraged. My grandmother Millie Truss loved to help with the cooking. I have a beautiful photo of Millie and the Orana dog, Sonny. Our son Mark loved visiting Orana. The oldies were so happy to see him—they'd give him pocket money!

We had a lot to do with Orana. Lots of people did. It was part of your community—part of your life. 

Desley Schmidt

Orana volunteer

St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy congregation




As a Former Board Member and Chair of Orana, and Councillor and Mayor for the South Burnett, I am proud to have played a part in Orana's history, and I am grateful for the part Orana has played for our region. I appreciate the vital role Orana plays for individuals and families in our community. My father called Orana home for 21 years.

Orana has always enjoyed enthusiastic community support, strong governance and diligent stewardship. This is demonstrated by its longstanding reputation and its robust relationships with government and the aged care sector.

It took many hands to build the Orana we know today, and it takes many more to continue to deliver Orana's signature service and care. While it's one thing to build the structure, it takes compassion, dedication and professionalism to deliver the service and care that make Orana the special place it is.

So many people helped to build and shape Orana, and Orana has come to mean so much to so many—from the faith and vision of the founding pioneers, to the continuing stewardship of Lutheran Services today; from a humble and homely hostel in the 1970s, to a diverse provider of aged care, retirement living and home support today.

Orana is a valued service and care provider, a major employer, a popular workplace and a great advocate for the aged care sector. I am delighted to see Orana continuing to grow and prosper today, providing such valuable service to our community. 

Keith Campbell

Orana Committee Chairman 1989–1995

St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy congregation



Memories of Orana



In the early 1960s, the need for an aged care home was put forward by Joyce Kucks to her doctor at that time, who agreed it was something that should be looked into. A meeting of all interested was called and many came to that meeting. It was decided that it would be an ecumenical home.

Many people became interested in raising funds for the home. Those I recall from other denominations were Jack and Dulcie Collett and Hazel Gurski from the Methodist Church, Mary Fitzpatrick from St Mary's Catholic Church as well as Lutheran members from the district.

Joan Winter, who was a member of Kumbia congregation, made dozens of scones every Monday morning. These were sold at the saleyards in Kingaroy. (Joan's daughter Marion married Joyce Kucks' son Lyndell.)

I was newly married and, as the wife of the Booie mailman, was invited to the fundraising efforts of Mary Fitzpatrick. Mary made no secret of the fact that she was hoping that an aged care home would be built in Kingaroy before her beloved Arthur needed care. Arthur was a World War I veteran who had been gassed during his service in France. He suffered badly with chest infection every winter. The nearest care home at that time was the RSL Veterans Home in Caboolture. Arthur passed away before he needed to go into care, however Mary still continued raising funds.

I attended many fundraisers and enjoyed meeting others from the mail run. Mary was a very good cook and always provided morning or afternoon tea and we paid five shillings. Mary always had lots of goodies baked that she sold as well. Her date loaves always sold very quickly. I recall reading in the Kingaroy Herald that Mary was the first person to raise 100 pounds.

The service clubs—Apex, Lions, Rotary as well as the RSL Clubs—raised most of the money, with the Apex Club being the top fundraiser. When funds were raised and the committee wanted to start, the 'powers that be' threw a spanner in the works. They stated that it could not be an ecumenical home but had to be under the auspices of one of the top three fundraisers—Methodist, Catholic or Lutheran.

At that time the Methodist Church was running St Aubyn's Hospital—now the Lady Bjelke-Petersen Hospital—and felt they could not take on the home as well. St Mary's was just branching out into a secondary school and felt they were out as well. So it came under the umbrella of the Lutheran Church.

When the home was opened in 1970, I took my Grandma to the service as she wanted to see Pastor FH Schmidt who performed the ceremony and had been our minister here for many years. Grandma always spoke fondly of him for the support he gave the family when their son, Alf Carl, was missing at sea during World War II.

When we looked through the home afterwards, Grandma commented that this was a lovely place and she would come up here when she got old. She was 90 at the time and passed away when she was 91 but didn't make it to the home.

When the home was opened and had a fair not long afterwards, there was a poster competition for children. My boys were both good at art and David won the prize for best poster in his age group and Peter won in the category for religious content. He headed his up as 'Showers of blessings'.

In later years, when the chapel was built, members of the Kingaroy congregation were asked to go on the wheelchair roster, which I did. I enjoyed that role as I knew many of the residents.

In later years, I attended morning service at Orana. Florence Bjelke-Petersen was there at that time and said 'How wonderful it is to see someone from our congregation.' So after that I often attended Sunday service at Orana as I knew many of the residents there.

For many years, Barry and Desley Schmidt ran the catering booth for the Kingaroy Show and speedways. My parents Bert and Tilly Jorgensen always helped. Dad peeled and sliced many bags of onions as the onions did not affect his eyes. Mum buttered bread rolls and made burgers. ”

by Margaret O'Hanlon

St John's Lutheran Church Kingaroy congregation

Historical Quotes

“

We have found that there is a need for an old peoples' home in our area. We feel that the Lutherans of the South Burnett could and maybe should take the initiative and erect such a home. We are a strong group in this area and we owe something to our community. We would like to set up a Lutheran Old Folks Home for the convenience of the whole community. Through the devotional life of the home, we may be able to give more than a home to those who would want to come. ”

South Burnett Lutheran Rest Home Committee meeting 1967

“

In 1967, a momentous meeting of the Kingaroy Lutheran Parish took place at which a Lutheran home for the aged was discussed. A committee was formed—Eldred Lange as Chairman, Joyce Kucks as Secretary (it was her brainchild originally) and myself as Treasurer. The challenge was to raise enough money for the project. Various schemes were discussed and we settled on catering for functions and hamburger stalls at the speedway and show. ”

**Wally Franke
Founding Committee Treasurer**

“

Orana will be a particularly happy place for many people because it will mean that folks may spend their eventide years in the lovely countryside where they have lived and worked, handy to their relations and friends. Orana plans to offer a private room for each individual—married couples will have double rooms—large enough for comfort and small enough for convenience. A private shower and toilet will surely be appreciated. Space is to be provided on the northern side for a small garden for each guest. There will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship in the dining room and lounge. Many things are being taken into account to offer real comfort and convenience to guests. It should be a real home away from home. ”

Organising Committee 1968

“

When catering for weddings, one had to get the meats to individual homes to be cooked. Other ladies would prepare vegetables or make sweets. I often found myself climbing the orange tree at nine at night! The biggest wedding I catered for was in Kumbia Hall with 300 guests. We fused the electricity with all the cooking. We started at 6am and finished at 4am. Although much hard work, long days and late nights occurred, I often thank God for the blessings which arose from this service to the community. Many lifelong friendships were enjoyed and Orana benefited financially. ”

**Joan Winter
Inaugural Auxiliary President**

“

Fortunately, we had a list of voluntary helpers of some 50 people who were willing to work in various areas and at various times. Our menus always consisted of home-made food, such as trifles, puddings, fruit salad, tarts and cakes. I knew the ladies who were willing to make them to perfection. Many and varied were the functions catered for. To all these people who helped us in any way, may we sincerely thank you for your help. ”

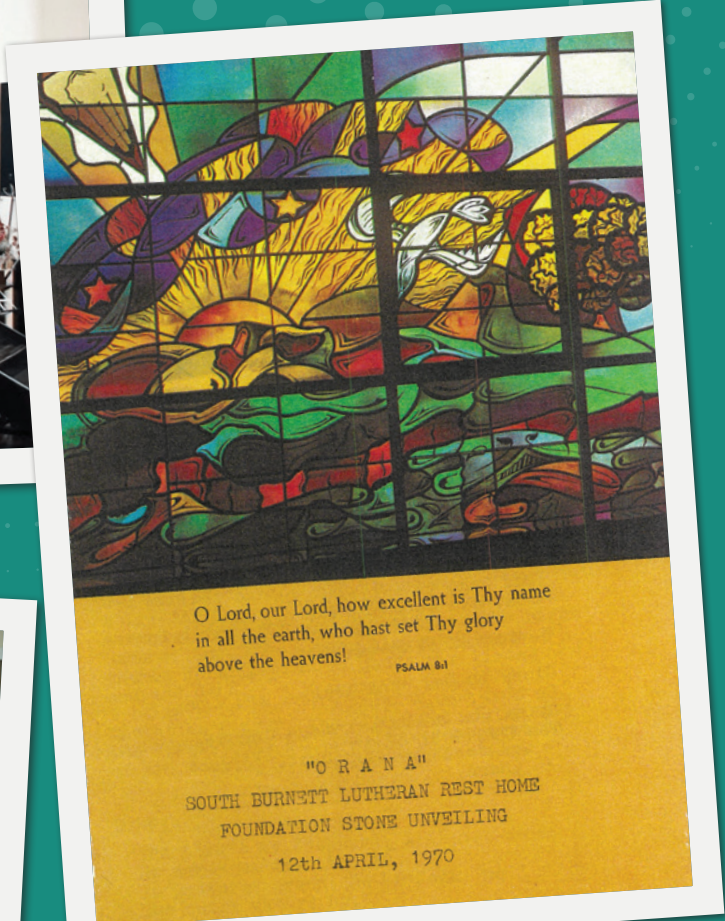
**Lorna Reinbott
former Auxiliary President, Committee Member & Secretary**

“

I was involved with Orana since its grassroots days, when the area was first surveyed from a cow paddock, and in the building of many of the cottages. I had the honour of building the chapel in the 1980s, which I regard as one of my greatest achievements. It was always a pleasure to work with the committees involved. Their voluntary work, particularly with the retaining walls, will always be a feature of the complex. It was a privilege to work with the Orana staff—their consideration for those in their care has earned my deepest respect and love. Orana will always be one of my fondest memories of my building career. ”

**Lou Mengel
builder**





Historical Quotes

“

I am thankful to the committees that preceded me and those who took on the role with sleeves rolled up, ready to apply considerable effort toward fundraising, development, catering, landscaping and beautification projects. Those earlier committees were a unique and dedicated group of people who applied a wide range of skills necessary for the time. They were not afraid of hard physical work. They could see that their efforts were contributing to their vision: ‘our home—Orana’. They did not do it for glory or recognition, rather an expression of what God meant to them. Helping to build Orana was a reflection of God at work through them.

Orana is a great home. It is special to those who live here. It has a beautiful location overlooking the town of Kingaroy and extending out to the Bunya Mountains. It invites a happy atmosphere. ”

Keith Campbell
Chairman's Report 1994

“

Orana is now a significant community entity. The lives of many people are affected by Orana. One of our most important aims is the holistic care of the resident. No matter how we are affected personally, it is the care of the resident that really matters.

My time on the Orana Committee has helped me with my personal growth. I have had the opportunity to observe and work with very dedicated and professional staff. But the most fulfilling aspect is getting to know and interact with the residents. What a wealth of knowledge and history is available from our elderly relatives and friends. ”

Wayne Coulson
Chairman's Report 1995

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Time is more than the space between the beginning and the end. Time is really about events, people, relationships, experiences, responsibilities, joys, sorrows—about life. Christ said, ‘I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly.’ That applies to the residents too. As staff, we are seeking to allow Christ to do that through us as we seek to enable life—physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and spiritually—to be as abundant as it can be for each individual resident. Orana is a good place to live! ”

Pastor Robert Fechner
Chaplain 1993–2003

