



BC Buzz

Newsletter JULY 2025



Celebrating 30 years:

Bethany's Anniversary at Hope Church

Bethany recently commemorated a remarkable milestone—30 years of serving the community—with a special anniversary celebration held at Hope Church in Varsity Lakes. The event was a beautiful reflection of Bethany's journey, marked by compassion, and commitment. It brought together staff members, past and present, participants and friends of the organisation... Continued



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MEET ASHLEY

Ash's incredible journey...

2

MANAGER'S WORD

Our Service Manager shares some words and an encouragement...

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BETHANY CROSSWORD

Good luck solving this one...



Celebrate With Us!



Your Privacy Rights



Live Your Best Life



Empowering Every Ability



Manager's Word

Dear Bethany Buzz Readers,

As we celebrate 30 years of Bethany Care, I'm filled with immense gratitude and pride for how far we've come. What began three decades ago as a small, faith-driven response to unmet needs has grown into a trusted community organisation making a real difference in the lives of people with disability and their families across the Gold Coast. This milestone is more than just a number—it represents three decades of compassion, inclusion, and unwavering commitment to seeing the dignity and potential in every individual. We honour the founders who had the courage to start something new, the staff who have served with heart and skill, the families who entrusted us with their care, and—most of all—the participants who inspire us every day.

In this special edition, you'll find stories that celebrate our journey, spotlight current programs, and look ahead to exciting developments on the horizon. Whether you've been part of the Bethany story from the beginning or recently joined our community, thank you for playing a part in this remarkable legacy.

Here's to the next 30 years—stronger together, grounded in purpose, and full of possibility.

Celebrating 30 years

Continued...

The celebration was well attended, filling the church with joy, laughter, and a deep sense of connection. Guests were welcomed into a warm and inviting space, where the room was thoughtfully decorated and a delicious lunch was served. The atmosphere was one of genuine appreciation, pride, and shared purpose.

“The event was a beautiful reflection of Bethany's journey marked by compassion...”





Celebrating 30 years

Continued...

A highlight of the event was speeches and heartfelt testimonies from members of the Management team. These reflections honoured the incredible legacy of Bethany's work over the past three decades—from its humble beginnings to the impactful organisation it is today. In addition to this, guests enjoyed a special video presentation and slideshow showcasing memorable moments from the past 30 years.



Central to the day's celebration was the recognition of Bethany's founder, Ruth Hay. Her vision, courage, and deep faith were the seeds from which the organisation was born. Ruth was honoured with a bouquet of flowers and a touching tribute that highlighted her unwavering commitment to creating a place where people could find valuable supports, dignity, and hope. Guests also enjoyed a beautiful anniversary cake—cut and shared in honour of the occasion. There were plenty of smiles, stories, and shared memories as people reconnected and celebrated the journey so far.



As Bethany celebrates 30 years of service, the organisation remains as passionate as ever about its mission and its role in the local community. With continued dedication and commitment to the Christian faith, Bethany looks to the future with hope, ready to embrace the next chapter of its journey.

Here's to the next 30 years—and beyond—of making a significant difference in people's lives.



“As Bethany celebrates 30 years of service, the organisation remains as passionate as ever about its mission...”

Reflections on Ashley's Growth at Bethany Care

The story so far...

During his time at Bethany Care, Ashley has shown remarkable personal growth, resilience, and a willingness to engage with the world around him. His journey reflects the power of respectful support, genuine relationship-building, and empowering choice. Ashley has demonstrated that when approached with politeness and respect, he responds with a readiness to help and take initiative. Tasks like paying for purchased items (developing money handling skills), taking out the rubbish or helping to unpack groceries are now done with increasing confidence, showing his growing independence and healthy pride in contributing.



Bethany has also seen Ashley thrive socially when recognised and treated as the intelligent adult he is. He brings a unique sense of humour and a keen awareness of the world, often picking up on subtle conversations around him. A memorable moment occurred recently during community access, when Ashley overheard a conversation at a local coffee shop about a complex movie. His big smile and engaged response showed how tuned in he is to the environment and the people in it. In his daily routines, Ashley continues to make great strides in personal responsibility. He now willingly makes his own bed, vacuums his room, serves his own afternoon tea, and folds and puts away his laundry. These life skills are not just tasks — they represent a growing sense of capability and ownership over his day-to-day life.

At Bethany, we are committed to empowering the individuals we support, and Ashley is a shining example of how informed choice leads to growth. Whether it's choosing a healthy snack, opting to go for a walk, or trying something new like a visit to the HOTA art gallery, Ashley is taking steps — sometimes brave ones — outside his comfort zone. On a recent outing, he surprised his support worker by correctly identifying a piece of artwork as Uluru, showing both knowledge and a thoughtful appreciation for culture.

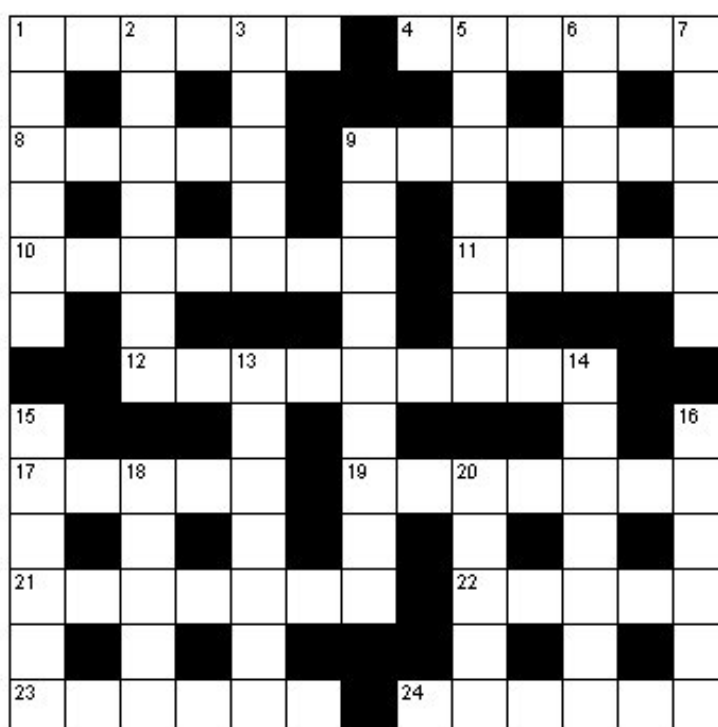


Ashley's progress is a testament to what can happen when support is intentional, respectful, and individualised. We are incredibly proud of his journey and excited to see what he will achieve next.

“...we are committed to empowering the individuals we support”



Bethany Crossword



Across

- 1 Formal headgear (3,3)
- 4 Former name of Iran (6)
- 8 Mistake (5)
- 9 Obstacle (7)
- 10 Nuts from a horse-chestnut tree (7)
- 11 Exhaust (3,2)
- 12 Remaining indefinitely (9)
- 17 Category (5)
- 19 Ten-sided figure (7)
- 21 Cattle thief (7)
- 22 That is (Latin) (2,3)
- 23 More expensive (6)
- 24 Tittle-tattle (6)

Down

- 1 From that place (6)
- 2 Root vegetable (7)
- 3 See eye to eye (5)
- 5 On the way (2,5)
- 6 Backbone (5)
- 7 Sudden and unexpected (6)
- 9 Onlooker (9)
- 13 Make a firm decision (7)
- 14 Female big cat (7)
- 15 Frightened (6)
- 16 Part of the foot (6)
- 18 Bewildered (2,3)
- 20 One of the Marx Brothers (5)

[Solution on the back page...](#)

Meet the Support Worker

Our new Support Worker, Melissa has been with us since 10/3/2025. Here's a bit about "Melissa"

1. If you could snap your fingers and become an expert in something, what would it be? **I want to be a designer and design houses for friends, family, and clients will like. I love to bring happiness to others.**
2. What advice would you give to your teenage self? **I would tell myself to make effort to get to know God earlier, listen to his words, and follow his instructions.**
3. What energizes you outside of work? **I like to sleep, exercise, and meet with brothers and sisters to pray and share testimonies. This fills me with energy.**
4. If you had to pick one age to be permanently, which age would you choose? **I think I would choose the age of 35. This seems me the perfect age to have the time and energy to pursue your dreams.**
5. What three words would your friends use to describe you? **Empathetic, thorough and kind.**



"I love to bring happiness to others"

CLUB BC

Club BC Tuesday - A fun filled centre based day where anything can happen, from a fiesta themed party to indoor Olympics, homemade baking and a variety of creative projects.

Club BC Thursday - A Day of action and adventure out in the community. Whether it is activities in a park or exploring new places everyone has fun.

BC Bowling - Every Saturday our BC team of bowlers heads off for a morning of friendly competition. There is room for you on the team.



International Fiesta 2025

Get ready for an unforgettable day at Hope Church! Join us on Sunday, 10th August at 10am for our International Fiesta — our annual vibrant celebration of the incredible cultural diversity within our community.

It's all happening at: Hope Church 4/175 Varsity Parade, Varsity Lakes

- Bring your friends
- Dress in your best international outfit
- Enjoy the atmosphere

After the service, stick around for our famous shared lunch. It's always a delicious highlight and a great way to connect.

Let's celebrate together — we can't wait to see you there!

“bring your friends, dress in your best international outfit”



HOPE CHURCH AUSTRALIA

Bethany is a ministry of Hope Church and extends a warm invitation to all individuals and families to join in its dynamic services and community events

Please visit

www.facebook.com/hopechurchgc

www.instagram.com/hopechurcaustralia for updates



Understanding Your Privacy Rights

At the heart of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a strong commitment to protecting the privacy and dignity of every participant. Whether you're receiving support services at home, in the community, or through an NDIS provider on the Gold Coast, it's important to understand your rights when it comes to your personal information.

What Are Your Privacy Rights?

Among your rights in this area, as an NDIS the participant, you have the right to:

1. **Keep your personal information safe and secure**

Your NDIS providers and support workers must handle your personal details — including health information, goals, support needs, and contact details — with care. This information can only be collected, used, or shared with your **permission**, unless required by law.

2. **Be informed about how your information is used**

You have the right to know why your information is being collected and who it will be shared with. Providers must explain this in a way you can understand, and you can always ask questions or request a copy of your information.

3. **Say no to sharing your information**

You can refuse to share certain information if you're not comfortable, especially if it's not essential to your care. Your choice must always be respected.

4. **Access your own records**

You can request to see the information that a provider holds about you. If something is incorrect, you can ask for it to be fixed.

5. **Be treated with respect and confidentiality**

Your information must only be discussed or shared in a way that respects your privacy — for example, not in public spaces or in front of others without your consent.



Bethany Support Workers' Responsibilities

NDIS workers and providers are trained to follow strict privacy and confidentiality rules under the NDIS Code of Conduct and the Privacy Act 1988.

We must

- Ask for your informed consent before sharing information
- Store records in a safe and secure location
- Only collect information that is necessary for your care and support
- Report and respond to any breaches of privacy



What If Something Goes Wrong?

If you believe your privacy has been breached or you're uncomfortable with how your information is being handled, you can:

1. Speak directly to your provider or support worker
2. Contact the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission on 1800 035 544
3. Lodge a complaint with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)

Remember

Your personal information belongs to you — and you have the right to know how it's being used, stored, and shared. Never hesitate to speak up or ask questions. On the Gold Coast and across

“Whether you’re receiving support services at home, in the community, or through an NDIS provider on the Gold Coast, it's important to understand your rights when it comes to your personal information”.

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK



If you have any feedback on what we are doing well or how we can do things better, please contact us. This may include any comments or suggestions about any aspect of Bethany service delivery, for example, policy recommendations. Please contact us to share your views. Your input is important to us.

You can provide your feedback through the following channels:

- By post to Bethany Care Limited, PO Box 35 Varsity Lakes Q 4227
- Email enquiries@bethanycare.org
- Phone 5551 0276
- 'website www.bethanycare.org, click on "contact us"

JOIN US AT HOPE CHURCH

Bethany is a ministry of Hope Church and extends a warm invitation to all individuals and families to join in its dynamic services and community events

Please visit

- www.facebook.com/hopechurchgc
- www.instagram.com/hopechurchoustralia for updates



BC Office Team

- Service Manager - Idris Akintola
- Assistant Manager - Teresa Athanasius
- Operations Manager - Brian Lynch
- House Coordinator - Obert Ndondodzai
- House Coordinator - John Berriman
- Finance Coordinator - Caron Quilliam
- Support Coordination - Dami Omolabi

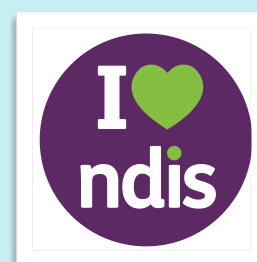
Board of Directors

- Chairperson - Ps Justin Reid
- Treasurer - Amy Leong
- Director - Helen Karena
- Director - Josie Sproul

UNDERSTANDING THE NDIS - 1800 800 110

NDIS provides funding to eligible people with disability to gain more time with family and friends, greater independence, access to new skills, jobs, or volunteering in their community, and an improved quality of life.

The NDIS also connects anyone with disability to services in their community.
<https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/what-ndis>



SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

- Club BC Tuesday - A fun filled centre based day where anything can happen, from a fiesta themed party to indoor Olympics, homemade baking and a variety of creative projects.
- Club BC Thursday - A Day of action and adventure out in the community. Whether it is activities in a park or exploring new places everyone has fun.
- BC Bowling - Every Saturday our BC team of bowlers heads off for a morning of friendly competition. There is room for you on the team.
- BC @ Hope Church - Participants are always welcome to join the Sunday morning church service at Hope Church
- BC Camps - Our annual 4 day camp is held every September. Most campers and carers say it's the highlight of their year.
- Assistance with Self-Care Activities - We have a team of experienced and trained carers who provide one on one support to help you reach your goals whether in your home or in the community.
- Support Independent Living - Bethany Care has three SIL homes, Yodelay & Barrier Reef for the men and Maidenhair for the women.
- Short Term Accommodation - Hope Cottage available for short stays in a purpose built modern home.
- Support Coordination - Do you need assistance with coordinating all your NDIS supports? Bethany Care has an excellent and experienced Support Coordinator who is available to assist you to navigate your way through the NDIS.





Bethany Crossword Solution

¹ T	O	² P	H	³ A	T		⁴ P	⁵ E	R	⁶ S	I	⁷ A
H		A		G				N		P		B
⁸ E	R	R	O	R		⁹ B	A	R	R	I	E	R
N		S		E		Y		O		N		U
¹⁰ C	O	N	K	E	R	S		¹¹ U	S	E	U	P
E		I				T		T				T
		¹² P	E	¹³ R	M	A	N	E	N	¹⁴ T		
¹⁵ S				E		N				I		¹⁶ I
¹⁷ C	L	¹⁸ A	S	S		¹⁹ D	E	²⁰ C	A	G	O	N
A		T		O		E		H		R		S
²¹ R	U	S	T	L	E	R		²² I	D	E	S	T
E		E		V				C		S		E
²³ D	E	A	R	E	R		²⁴ G	O	S	S	I	P