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partnerships



IN PARTNERSHIP

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Curiosity is Key

Curiosity is a key characteristic that leads us to deepening our engagement in local or global mission. Curiosity is the deep desire to know more, and to better understand others and their environment. It is applied as we realise that there is more to know, appreciate and discover. A curious church is one that takes its context seriously, and does so without making major assumptions about other people and other contexts.

When we are curious about another, we enter into a journey of intentionally seeking to understand the other, and so develop a greater capacity for sensitivity and grace. Key skills needed in being curious are engaging in open-ended questions, listening, and a commitment to learning.

An alternative to curiosity is a form of apathy characterised by a lack of interest in the other, and an avoidance of intimacy and deeper relationships. Another alternative to curiosity is certainty, which

also avoids focusing on learning, discovery and change.

Personally, without this particular energy and desire, our relationship with God does not grow and we cease to see the Scriptures as a source of ongoing discovery. If we are certain, and not interested in Scripture and listening for God, then our relationship with God is limited to past experiences, or the second-hand experiences of others, and will not grow daily.

NAIDOC Week prompts us to seek a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the culture and experiences of Australia's Indigenous people. This month we affirm Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements, and we recognise the contribution that Indigenous Australians make to our country and to our society. This celebration was shaped, in part, by the leadership of Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls, who argued that the second Sunday in July should be a day of

remembrance of Aboriginal people and their heritage.

Australia's Indigenous people live with memories of separation, family isolation, loss of land and culture, experiences of suffering in care, low levels of employment and access to health care, and inadequate housing. Being curious, taking the time to listen, asking sensitive questions and discovering more, helps us to avoid quick answers to complex problems. We enter into the privilege of partnering in a new future.

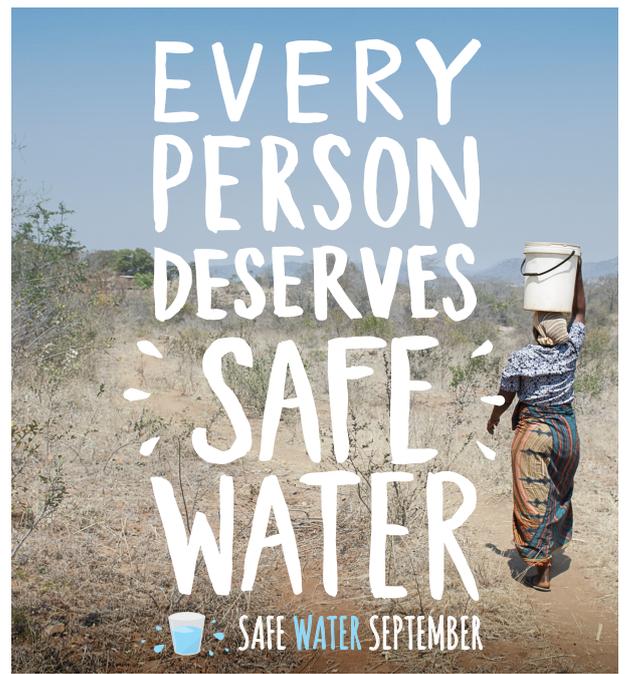
We can claim that we know our mission partners in Australia and beyond. However, the real test is not so much what 'we say we know'. Rather, the real test is how deeply are we learning, listening, discovering and entering into real relationships? When we do this over and over again, we can say 'we do know our partners in mission'.

John Gilmore,
Executive Officer

This Month in InPartnership

INPARTNERSHIP July 17

Curiosity is Key	1
Celebrating NAIDOC Week: Our Languages Matter	2
To Hear, To Listen, To Know	3
Dareton Youth & Community Drop In Centre	4
Meet Ilker Deli	4
Moorditj Keila	5
Greg Gardner and the Martu Men	5
Beyond NAIDOC Week	5
Changing the World Without Leaving Home: Reducing Consumption	6
Friendships Come in All Shapes and Sizes	7
Val and Vicki Visit Vietnam	8
Safe Water and Smoothies at SYG	8



Safe Water September is live for 2017!

Globally, 650 million people don't have access to safe water – we want to change this, and we challenge you to join us! Safe Water September is a challenge to drink nothing but water for the entire month of September, to raise funds for safe water projects in rural Zimbabwe. Yes, you can still eat

food, but no coffee, tea, soft drink or milkshakes! For every \$20 you raise, one person gains access to life-changing safe water. This means kids are back in school, child and maternal deaths are dropping and communities are being transformed!

Sign up to take the challenge at www.SafeWaterSeptember.org.au

Celebrating NAIDOC Week: Our Languages Matter

This year's theme for NAIDOC week is 'Our Languages Matter.' There are many inspiring and challenging things to learn about Indigenous languages in Australia: their diversity – there are over 300 languages indigenous to Australia; the way languages adapt and change; stories of the few surviving speakers of dwindling tongues, guardians of unique perspectives on the world, and revival, with communities working to reconstruct the language of their grandparents. Language opens the world to us. It does so much more than give names to things. Language allows us to be relational, giving us joy

in shared words. And it lets us put thoughts and experiences into words, to raise new possibilities. Language is creative. In Ngukurr, southeast Arnhem Land, Kriol is a language that has been spoken for numerous generations, representing a colourful encounter between English and Indigenous languages. Jidan is the Kriol word meaning 'sit down.' Jidan also means 'to exist' or 'to be.' The Kriol Baibul reads: 'The Word became flesh and 'jidan langa melabat,' literally, 'sat down with us.' This translation enriches our understanding of human existence. To have life—to jidan—is to be relational, living side by side



Our Languages Matter

2-9 JULY 2017

Find out more about Naidoc Week at www.naidoc.org.au

with others. If we are to have a reconciled future, surely this also begins in God's creative word of humility and solidarity sitting down with us.

Samuel Curkpatrick,
VIC/TAS Partnership Coordinator



WARRUWI

SPOTLIGHT

Warruwi is Gamilaraay language for "pathway"

To Hear, To Listen, To Know

The following excerpt is from the WARRUWI embody prayer resource, written by Billy JANGALA Williams. Unless otherwise stated the language words in this article come from the Gamilaraay people of northwestern NSW:

Winanga-li (win-un-gar-lee) To Hear, To Listen, To know

The original custodians knew what it meant to listen. Silence was seen as an important practice, because how could you know if you didn't listen? All Gamilaraay learning concepts revolve around the ears. To listen is to learn. An ancient method still understood today is to "listen to country." This means to listen to the land, to the creation...because in doing so the opportunity is to know the Creator of all that. Dadirri (dar-deer-ee) is a Ngangikurungkurr language word that means inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. It is a 'tuning in' experience with the specific aim to come to a deeper understanding of the beauty of nature. Dadirri recognises the inner spirit that calls us to reflection on, and contemplation of, the wonders of all God's creation.

In our busy lives, we often find it hard to stop and listen. This is sad, because how can we learn if we do not listen? Read aloud 1 Kings 9:11-12 so that you can listen carefully to it...then ask the Creator to help you

to know/experience His presence in whatever way He chooses to. This may be to act out physically what you read (e.g. try to stand somewhere special/significant/symbolic for your prayer time). Try and make this outside if possible.

Just as I wrote this, I heard the breeze. Then I intentionally listened to it...and then I felt it. Prayer cannot be captured as a mere process, but it can help to understand it as an invitation. Through prayer, firstly, we are invited by the Creator. Invited to hear, listen and know Him. In turn, we then have an opportunity to invite Him to do the same.

You can read more devotions like this and download the full WARRUWI prayer resource online www.embody.org.au/assets/pdf/PrayerMatters17-Resource.pdf



Billy JANGALA Williams

About the Author

Billy JANGALA Williams is a Gamilaraay man connected to the big sky country of northwest NSW. He is the lead shepherd of Dhiyaan, a faith community based in Brisbane that is focused on exploring Aboriginal principles in a reconciled community (Dhiyaan means "family"). Billy JANGALA Williams wrote WARRUWI, a prayer resource, for the GMP embody Prayer Matters campaign in May. This resource seeks to utilise Bible passages, Aboriginal principles, practices and various promptings to help us pray in a way that may open pathways for us to connect with this country and its custodians, communities and, most importantly, the Creator.



Kevin Tucker, Jacqui Pasquale and Ilker Deli

The Dareton Youth and Community Centre

The Dareton Youth and Community Centre is a positive, culturally safe space where a crew of approximately 20 young Indigenous people hang out after school every day. The community centre is going from strength to strength with the new manager, Ilker Deli, who is supported by Jacqui Pasquale and the team from the Wentworth Joint Parish. In the last nine months, we decided to strategically separate the work in Dareton into two distinct areas, namely the Community Pastor (Kevin Tucker) and the Youth and Community Centre. This has helped better define local governance issues, as well as aiding in defining roles and responsibilities. Kevin's engagement with the Community Centre has been significant in helping Ilker and Jacqui establish suitable staffing levels. There are

plans to expand the training and development programs on offer in conjunction with the Mildura Church of Christ, and other local service agencies. Ilker hosted a dinner and meeting with the Wentworth Parish, local service agencies, Legal Aid, TAFE, Indigenous leaders and the NSW police. We were able to present the role of GMP and the IMA program, letting people know of our ongoing support. The response from the kids has been overwhelming. Ilker says, "We believe the centre is having a positive impact on their attitude and well-being". The centre is open for children and youth from 3:30pm to 6.30pm Monday to Thursday. Everyone is warmly welcomed to enjoy the facilities. Future goals include opening the centre on Saturday afternoons. Individuals who have a Working with



Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Sabana Quale and local Wentworth Parish leader, Peter Waters

Children's Check are encouraged to spare three hours a month to help out. Jacqui and Ilker would like to express their gratitude to the church and committee members who support this project.

Nick Wight,
IMA Coordinator East



Like the Dareton Youth and Community Centre on Facebook!

Meet Ilker Deli

Hello everyone. My name is Ilker Deli. Before I tell you a little about myself, I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to everyone who contributes to the running of the Dareton Youth and Community Centre. My heritage is Turkish, and I feel fortunate to have migrated to Mildura with my family from Germany as a 15-year-old. I had the opportunity to conclude my schooling at Mildura High. This provided life-long friends who are a constant blessing. I've now been in the district for 30 years and could not imagine living anywhere else. I've been a Dareton resident for six years, and the community is warm

and welcoming. Recent education at Coomealla TAFE (NSW) has allowed me to achieve my long-term goal of becoming a youth worker. This passion stems from my early years as a youth centre participant, where the encouragement of staff was a massively positive influence on my life. My current position as Manager of Dareton Youth and Community Centre, God willing, will allow me to have a similar influence on the young people of this area.

Ilker Deli,
NSW



Moorditj Keila

Garry and Dena Gower, Directors of Moorditj Keila Ministry in Manning, Perth, report that a new Bible study and fellowship group has started on Sundays at the new Manning Community Hub. Pastor Mark Parker teaches the Bible in an open, challenging and loving environment. At the meetings, attendees enjoy some food together, and previous gatherings included a big feed of pizzas and fresh fruit, and roast meals cooked by Bridgette, who is reconnecting with the Lord. The night also includes a study



Les Shultz, a leader from the Norseman Church said the IMA West meetings held in Perth were part of a "Fantastic weekend, encouraging for the soul and the spiritual vision".

and prayer for the sick. Several teenagers still seeking God have attended, asking good questions. God's Word is taught, sown and is at work convicting us to repent. We feed on the Word, wait on Him daily

to see what He wants, not what we want, and then go out and share genuine Christ-like love.

Remy Sese,
IMA Coordinator West

Greg Gardner and the Martu Men

Greg Gardner and a team of Christian Martu men from Hedland Aboriginal Fellowship (HAF) have been involved in an outreach ministry to several Martu communities in the Pilbara over the last three years. I have been to two of their home meetings and have been blessed to see the people gather to worship God.

Jeremiah 33:3 says "Ask of me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come"; Isaiah 55:8 tells us that

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord and "My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine." I share these verses to show God's promises are always true, no matter what. There is interest in the community and people are coming along to different fellowship meetings, and 'checking out' the church meetings. David Moses reported excitedly of 20 people turning up for a recent evening fellowship. Greg Gardner has been asked by the Yaandina Rehab Centre to provide music

lessons for the clients, and David and Margaret Moses-Martin would like to continue fellowship meetings at the rehab centre, but require prayer for doors to open. The encouraging thing is that the core leaders are taking the initiative for this ministry. Please pray for the protection of His people and for the work to continue. God is sovereign.

Remy Sese,
IMA Coordinator West

Beyond NAIDOC Week

Here are some good resources to connect further with our Indigenous culture and to learn what God is doing through Indigenous Christians here in Australia:

Our Mob, God's Story

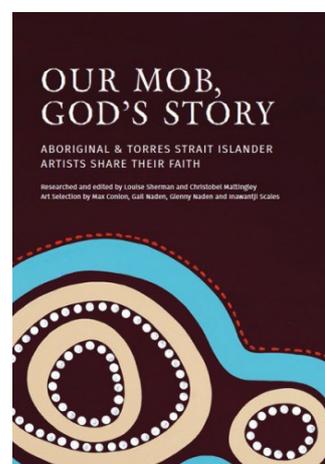
Our Mob, God's Story is an art book with a difference, with more than 115 works inspired by Bible verses and stories, told by over 65 established and emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Proceeds from this book will go towards the publication of Scriptures in the mother tongues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups. To purchase your copy, visit the Bible Society website www.bibleshop.org.au/our-mob-god-s-story

40 Stories Short Films

The 40 stories website contains 40 short films of 40 Indigenous Christians from many different localities across Australia telling their life stories, and sharing how faith has positively impacted their lives – 40 video stories of Indigenous Australians walking with Jesus. You can also purchase the DVD. For more information visit the website www.40stories.com.au

Australians Together

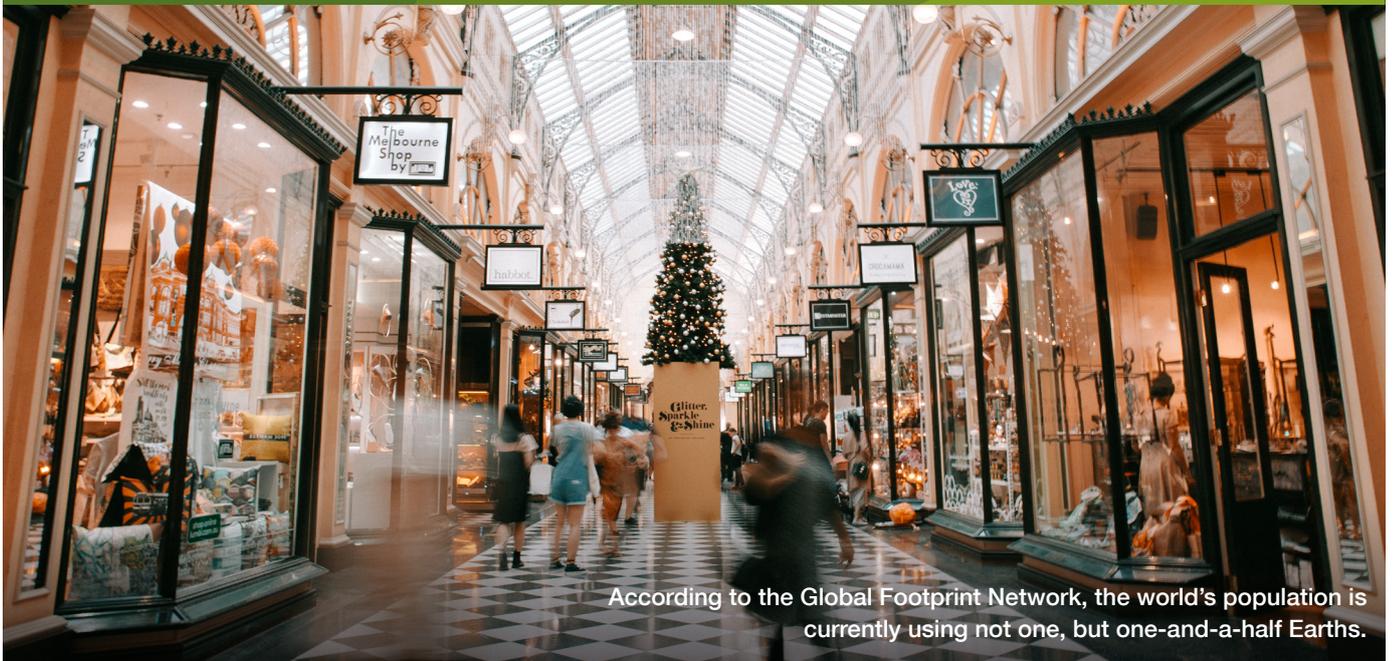
Australians Together is a social movement passionate about seeing better relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Their website contains



Our Mob, God's Story

various resources and events to help Australians connect together.

Make sure you take some time to explore it further at www.australianstogether.org.au



According to the Global Footprint Network, the world's population is currently using not one, but one-and-a-half Earths.

Changing the World Without Leaving Home: Reducing Consumption

Consumption is the very energy that turns the wheels of our society. More consumption is good for the economy. Eating, using and buying more of everything, is good for everyone – right? Well...not if we think of “everyone” as including everyone in the world. Here are some reasons why you should reduce your ‘stuff’, and some strategies to help you do so.

The world's resources, while adequate for all of us, are not shared in a way that everyone gets what they need. A key reason for this is that a lot of us use more than our fair share. According to www.footprintnetwork.org Australians use more than five times their share of the earth's resources. Oxfam says 62 of the world's richest people own the same amount of wealth as half the world's population. The consequence is that many people just don't have enough. The cookies are all gone before they get to the cookie jar. This is exactly the problem that Amos pointed out to Israel long ago (Amos 4:1 and 6:4-6).

As followers of Jesus, more consumption is also not good for us. Jesus says that focusing on stuff is the number one way to get distracted from following him (Luke 12:16-21). Want to be more spiritual? Do something about your rate of consumption! There is a great

heritage of Christian spirituality that has emphasised the need to get our consumption under control to follow Jesus more closely. Reducing our consumption means there is more to share, and less to get distracted by. John Wesley, for example, regarded financial stewardship as an integral component of Christian discipleship. He kept his spending the same, even as his wage increased fourfold. Reducing your dependence on stuff is not an exclusively Christian idea, however. A film called *Minimalism*, for example, is currently promoting it. So there are many places to get ideas from. It is also wise to think of reducing your consumption as a journey. You will always have people ahead of you and people behind. The trick is to be inspired, rather than frustrated, by those in front; and to encourage, rather than put down, those behind. There isn't a perfect level of consumption, just the challenge to take the next step that God puts in front of each of us.

Ok, so here are some ideas:

- Download the GMP Guide to Ethical Consuming from the Act with Us – Change Your Lifestyle section on GMP's website.
- www.footprintnetwork.org has tools and resources. Use the Footprint Calculator to assess

your global footprint and set a goal for reducing it.

- Tie your giving to your consumption. Instead of thinking of an amount you can afford to give, think of something you spend on regularly and give an equal amount (e.g. coffee or snacks over the last month). If you have something that might become a distraction for you give a percentage of that. This helps you reflect on your level of consumption and redirects some of it toward those in need.
- Reduce consumption and aim for sufficiency, not abundance, when you go shopping.
- Replace things when they wear out, not when they go out of fashion.
- Reuse where possible, and buy second hand.
- Fix things that break.
- Share big items. A shared lawn mower or chainsaw is a great way to get to know the neighbours too (be careful with the chainsaw!).

Colin Scott,
COCOA Director



Doan saw her first kangaroo when visiting Cleland Wildlife Park, SA

Friendships Come in All Shapes and Sizes

Friendships come in all shapes and sizes and arrive in our lives for different reasons. With some people we meet, we know instantly that the friendship will become longstanding, while others are for a season and perhaps a purpose. The depth of affection the Happy Valley Church of Christ shares with the Churches of Christ in Vietnam and Pastor Doan reflects that spoken of by Paul about the church in Philippi, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* Philippians 1:3-5.

Our church had the honour of hosting Pastor Doan as part of her first ever trip to Australia. Over the past five years, members of our church family have visited Vietnam and retold stories of our partnership in the gospel. However, until Pastor Doan's visit to Australia, most of our church had never met this wonderful woman of God. It was a great opportunity for our entire church to meet our dear friend.

On Friday night, we hosted a Global Mission Partners event and late supper where Val Zerna (SA/NT Partnership Coordinator) interviewed Doan about her faith and life. On Saturday, Doan was treated to the grand tour of our beautiful city followed by dinner with the original 'Vietnam Team' at what turned out to be an inauthentic Vietnamese restaurant! On Sunday, Doan shared with our church her testimony and a word of encouragement. Our church was deeply affected by stories of persecution and the challenges of faith in a communist country. It is hard to believe, but Doan only saw her first kangaroo and koala on her last day in Australia when visiting Cleland Wildlife Park in the Adelaide Hills.

Paraphrasing COCOA Director, Colin Scott, it is easy to think of people in our partner countries as having needs that we need to fulfill. In this sense, we then become the great white knight sent to save the people. However,

partnership in the gospel actually begins from a place of equality, where we learn from one another and where the friendship is one of mutual submission. Together we try to understand and lay claim of the reality of the gospel in our own context. This understanding of global mission partnership is central to our friendship with both Doan and the Churches of Christ in Vietnam. After a weekend together, I can't tell who was blessed more and I think that's the way it should be!

Mark Stevens,
Minister,
Happy Valley Church of Christ, SA



Vicki and Val with women at Bright Solutions

Val and Vicki Visit Vietnam

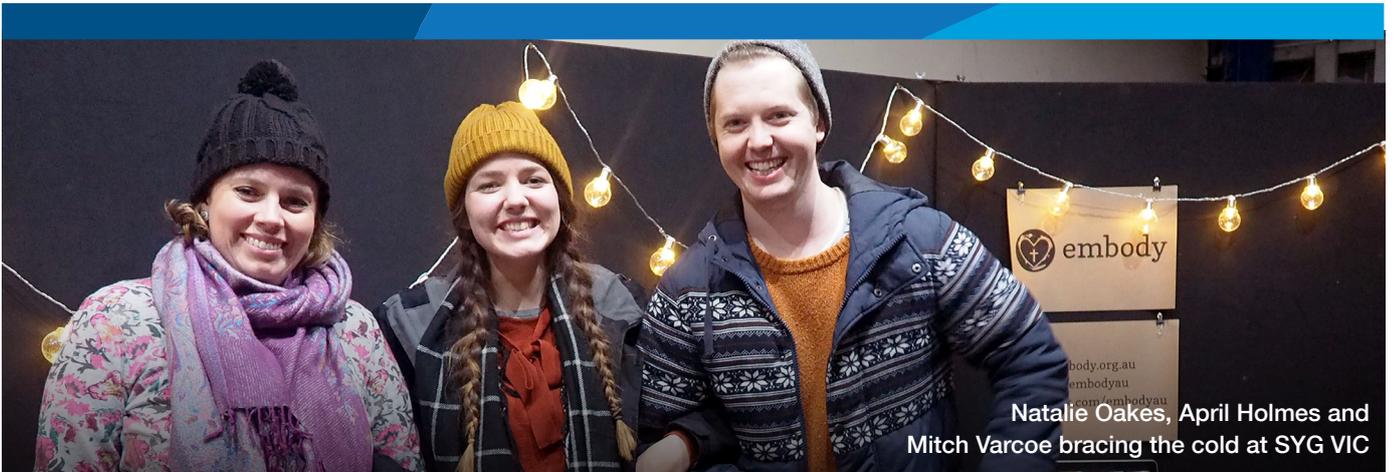
Partnership Coordinators Val Zerna and Vicki Marney travelled to visit Doan in Vietnam before her visit to Australia:

Visiting Vietnam, seeing Bright Solutions in action and meeting Doan was a special joy. Having seen so many photos of the women at Bright Solutions, being there in person felt like meeting extended family. After the morning

team meeting, everyone headed to their workstations and settled in with amazing focus and good camaraderie. Each woman proudly showed us her handiwork as we chatted with her. Fiona Briers has set a high standard of quality in each creative design. She has also trained up four managers who ensure a well-organised team. One of the women is learning English and we were able to provide some

practice in selling products to expat customers. Doan showed us the tourist attractions of Ho Chi Minh City and cooked up a six-course feast! It was a special time getting to know each other before travelling back to Australia. Sharing life with these beautiful women is a memorable highlight in my year.

Val Zerna,
SA/NT Partnership Coordinator



Natalie Oakes, April Holmes and Mitch Varcoe bracing the cold at SYG VIC

Safe Water and Smoothies at SYG

The embody team headed to State Youth Games (SYG) VIC, in Warragul, Victoria, over June 9-12.

We had a great time making smoothies on smoothie bikes, and launching Safe Water September for 2017! As a team we were able to spend some quality time with many young people and chat to them about all things 'Safe Water

September', and what it means to be a part of the embody community. During SYG, we heard inspiring messages by Sam Hearn from Surrender, about being brave in our communities and in our world, and standing up to inequality and injustice. This year for Safe Water September, we too are asking people to be brave – brave in giving up your coffee addiction for the month of September and to drink

only water. For every \$20 raised, one person in Zimbabwe gains access to safe water! Head to www.safewaterseptember.org.au to sign up, get a team together and start raising funds that help transform communities! We look forward to having you join us for SWS this year!

Mitch Varcoe,
embody National Campaigns and Resources Manager



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