



## Arthur Gorrie wins innovation award



••• Sue Noordink and Bernie Patterson plan elements of the education program with colleagues.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has won the inaugural GEO Innovation Award for its groundbreaking youth education program.

Titled 'GEO Builds Better Students – A Prison Awareness Program', the Arthur Gorrie submission outlined the work the correctional facility initiated in 2012 to demonstrate to local youth the potential life-changing impact of a criminal conviction.

The initiative followed greater awareness of violence among young adults in the streets of Australian capital cities and an increase in the level of violence in Queensland schools.

Arthur Gorrie developed a pilot program in conjunction with local secondary school Flagstone State Community College, which culminated in correctional officers giving a presentation to a group of Year 12 students.

The presentation covered the realities of being in prison and the potential damaging affect that being incarcerated can have on an individual, both in the short and long term, as well as the impact on an inmate's family and loved ones.

It also examined how individuals can play a role in reducing recidivism by encouraging family members who are incarcerated or who have a history of incarceration to become productive members of society.

The final component looked at career opportunities in the corrections industry.

Flagstone Year 12 coordinator Suzanne Klatt described the presentation as "by far the best I have had the privilege of witnessing" in her four years in the role.

"In the world that we live in today teenagers more than ever are in need of guidance and too often we see them make silly mistakes with very real legal consequences. If education can begin now then it may prevent some young people from ending up in your facilities," she said.

Feedback from students and teachers following the initial session was very positive and was used to further develop the program now called 'Prison Awareness: Think before you act! Don't make prison your life'.

Since then a further five sessions have been run with officers also attending Aquinas College on the Gold Coast, St Francis College, Loganlea State High School and Carmel Catholic College.

Aquinas College teacher Marj Osborne described the presentation as "an invaluable wake up call".

"It provided a matter-of-fact look at life behind bars, with officers candidly answering students' questions. No mystique, no glory, just facts," she said.

Staff presenting the program do so on a voluntary basis, traveling and presenting in their own time. Arthur Gorrie will continue to deliver the program to schools throughout South East Queensland. The prison has also had expressions of interest from indigenous community centres and youth centres.

"This youth intervention program exemplifies our corporate vision of 'reducing offending to enable safer communities' and Arthur Gorrie is to be commended for the initiative," said The GEO Group Australia managing director Pieter Bezuidenhout.

The program will be further developed in 2013 before being taken up by all GEO centres in Australia. It has also been designed so that Queensland Corrective Services can deliver the program in regional areas.

Support materials have been developed including a DVD that features anonymous prisoners discussing aspects of prison life and expressing their feelings about being incarcerated.

The GEO Innovation Award prize provides financial support to further develop the program and rewards for the Arthur Gorrie employees involved. Developed by GEO to encourage innovative practices throughout the company, the award will again be staged in 2013.



••• Former Arthur Gorrie general manager Greg Howden (right) accepts the 2012 GEO Innovation Award from The GEO Group Australia managing director Pieter Bezuidenhout.



## MD's Desk

Welcome to the first edition of *GEO Insights for 2013*.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that a team from Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has won the inaugural GEO Innovation Award.

Introduced to encourage, recognise and reward innovation across the company, the award provides a substantial monetary incentive to those who introduce innovative practices and add value to our business. The award also provides development funding to nurture these initiatives.

Against a strong field of competitors, Arthur Gorrie's 'Prison Awareness' schools program was judged to offer the best mix of identifying a need, responding to this need innovatively, and providing evidence of the effectiveness of the response.

The program has received rave reviews from teachers and pupils across South East Queensland and continues to attract great interest from further afield.

I encourage all employees to continue to innovate and consider making a submission for the 2013 GEO Innovation Award.

Elsewhere in this edition, we highlight the extraordinary level of community support our centres provide and the partnerships that underpin that support.

On the business development front, the initial stage of the Ravenhall Prison Project in Victoria has begun. This 500-bed prison will be built in Melbourne's west under a public-private partnership. The contract is for design, construction, management and financing of the facility. 'Expression of Interest' documentation is expected mid-year, with the tender and subsequent contract awarded in 2014.

GEO undertook a major review of its business and corporate objectives in 2012, including holding a client 'perceptions audit' and analysing the future direction of corrections in Australia. The process was invaluable as it identified a number of opportunities for GEO to enhance our service offering.

As a result, we are in the final stages of preparing for the launch of new corporate objectives and I look forward to sharing them with you and continuing on our shared journey to deliver better corrections and the safer communities this brings.

Finally, as this issue of *GEO Insights* was going to press Arthur Gorrie general manager Greg Howden announced his retirement. The role has been filled by former Fulham general manager Troy Ittensohn. Taking the reins at Fulham is Alan Scaife who we welcome to the GEO family. I look forward to bringing you more details on these appointments in the next edition.

**Pieter Bezuidenhout**  
Managing Director

## Fulham praised for partnerships



••• Wellington Shire mayor Scott Rossetti (left) and former Fulham general manager Troy Ittensohn celebrate a successful 10-year partnership.

Fulham Correctional Centre has won recognition for its long-term association with Wellington Shire Council at the Corrections Victoria Community Work Partnership Awards 2012.

Runner-up in the 'Best Ongoing Partnership' category, Fulham also won the 'Best in Gippsland Region' award for its relationship with the council.

For a decade Fulham has worked closely with the council, assigning prisoners approaching release to work on a large number of community-based projects.

Wellington Shire mayor Scott Rossetti was delighted with the acknowledgment from Corrections Victoria.

"All across the shire, works have been completed to an exceptionally high standard by community assistance work crews from the Fulham Correctional Centre as part of the prisoners' rehabilitation process," he said.

The Corrections Victoria panel of 24 independent judges also presented Fulham with first prize in the 'Most Outstanding New Project' category.

Fulham's submission, titled Learning Whilst Repairing (Reparation and Restoration), outlined the centre's contribution to the restoration and beautification of Central Gippsland Health Service's facilities.

"There is satisfaction in the knowledge that these partnerships provide prisoners with purposeful and meaningful work and from being able to say 'yes, we can help' to those in need in our own community," said former Fulham general manager Troy Ittensohn.

## Healthy Inside program wins award

June Correctional Centre has won a prestigious national award for its innovative 'Healthy Inside' program. The efforts of the centre's health department were recognised by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) at its 15th Annual Quality Improvement Awards 2012.

Healthy Inside took out the Highly Commended Award in the Healthcare Measurement Category, beating off strong competition from major healthcare providers including three local health districts and two hospitals.

The award recognised the outstanding results achieved by the program, including a 97 per cent success rate in health improvement and a 27 per cent increase in inmate participation in programs designed to reduce re-offending.

In their citation, the ACHS judges highlighted June's strong focus on effective leadership, continual improvement and innovation. They also emphasised best practice, evidence of outcomes and applicability to other healthcare settings as significant attributes of the Healthy Inside program.



••• June's health promotion officer Matthew Canny (left) and general manager Andy Walker with the award for the Healthy Inside program. Photo supplied by June Southern Cross.

# Juneé churns out more houses



• • • Habitat For Humanity Australia director Christine Franks (right) hands a key to Wendy McLaren as sons Luke (left) and Tom look on.

There has been plenty of activity surrounding Prison Build housing projects at Juneé Correctional Centre in recent months with a dedication ceremony for a home built under the

Housing for Humanity (HFH) banner and two more prefabricated 'shells' leaving the prison.

The dedication ceremony saw the first home built at the prison officially handed over to

Wendy McLaren and her sons Luke and Tom. It was the culmination of more than two years hard work by centre staff and inmates as well as key partners in the project, HFH and TAFE NSW Riverina Institute. Significant support was also received from Juneé Shire Council, local community members and HFH family partners.

"It's absolutely awesome, a dream come true," Ms McLaren said.

The second house, which left the centre in two halves in February, is being built for Pat and Helen McDermott, who lost their uninsured home in a fire. Inmates built the one-bedroom home for the Juneé Fire Brigade, which initiated the gesture and raised more than \$10,000 to pay for materials.

The third house built at the prison is also part of the HFH program.

The Prison Build initiative follows Juneé Correctional Centre introducing a building and construction certificate course through TAFE NSW Riverina Institute in 2009.

## A talented trio

The GEO Group Australia and Juneé Correctional Centre have again supported a talented trio of young Juneé residents through the GEO Youth in Focus Scholarships program.

In its second year, the program awards up to \$7500 across three categories — academic excellence, sporting distinction and creative arts. GEO received 18 applications and the 2013 recipients were Adam Whicker (arts), Emily Butler (academic) and Annabel White (sport).

A self-taught tuba player, 16-year-old Adam is a member of the Juneé town band and the New South Wales senior wind band. He is also in the West of the NSW Divide Wind Ensemble that will travel to Hong Kong in April for the 5th International Youth Music Festival.

Emily, 20, is studying a Bachelor of Law/Bachelor of Arts at the University of Wollongong and after gaining early entry has maintained a distinction average for three years. Her study focus is on access to justice for young people in regional communities.

Annabel, a 14-year-old swimmer, competed at the Australian Age Championships and the NSW State Open Championships in 2012. Her training comprises seven two-hour sessions a week and she is hoping to again qualify for the national age and state open championships this year.

## Foster care at Arthur Gorrie

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has entered into a partnership with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

The centre is involved in the RSPCA's Foster Care Program, which sees prisoners caring for animals that need extra attention prior to them being adopted. The animals are either too young for adoption or may be injured, sick or have a behavioural issue.

Nine prisoners were selected from the Lifestyle Modification Units (LMU) to be primary handlers and were taught correct training methods by RSPCA trainers.

The first dogs in foster care at Arthur Gorrie were Chika, an 18-month maltese/silky terrier cross, Bella, a six-month beagle, and Tinkerbelle, an 11-year-old miniature dachshund.

Chika required extra care as she was abandoned with an illness that left her emaciated. Bella and Tinkerbelle were part of the RSPCA's 'Pets in Crisis' program, which assists families that are unable to care for their pets.

All three dogs have now been relocated to previous or new homes and a further five have since been cared for at Arthur Gorrie.

"In little time the dogs are very much at home in the units," said Arthur Gorrie prison services manager Sue Noordink.

"The biggest change has been with the prisoners as they have taken on the responsibility of this program whole heartedly and are very positive with their interaction with the dogs.

"Already it appears that the prisoners have gained more from the program than the dogs that require their help."



• • • Bella looks right at home at Arthur Gorrie.

## IN BRIEF



••• Parklea K9 handler Edward Sua with Baileys.

### K9 succession plan

Parklea Correctional Centre has implemented a succession plan for its K9 Unit with the purchase of pups that will eventually replace the existing dogs.

A breeder that supplies the NSW Police Force and Corrective Services NSW was sourced and a 12-week-old English springer spaniel was acquired with a second pup to be taken from the next litter. The breed is renowned for boldness and drive.

Parklea has two four-year-old labradors in the K9 Unit and it is anticipated that these will be due for retirement in about three years. The first pup has started basic training with Parklea's dog handlers and the labradors are playing a role as mentors.

After 12 months the pups will commence a six-month training program in the detection of drug odours at Corrective Services NSW's K9 Unit and following that will be ready for operational service.

### June rewards top students

June Correctional Centre has continued its support of June High School with the presentation of the GEO Bressington Scholarships to the school's leading students.

Worth up to \$1500, the scholarships are awarded to the top scoring students in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) who go on to further education.

Megan Puttock and Aiden Harrison achieved the best results from the class of 2012. Megan is now studying nursing at Charles Sturt University, while Aiden is studying psychology at University of Southern Queensland.

The scholarship trust fund was started by local resident Bill Bressington in 1990 and when it finished in 2010 GEO stepped in to ensure it continued.

### Citizen of the Year nominee

June Correctional Centre was nominated for 'Citizen of the Year' in the 2013 June Shire Council Australia Day Awards.

The centre was nominated for its commitment to the June community, which in 2012 included more than 1000 hours of community service provided by inmates and significant financial contributions to festivals, community organisations, charities, schools and sporting clubs. The centre was the only

organisation nominated for the award, which was won by June resident Estella Hyde.

In 2012, The GEO Group Australia and June staff and inmates supported many local organisations with some of the highlights including a \$2000 donation to the Edel Quinn Men's Shelter for their Drum Beat program, sponsorship of the Wagga Toy Run, ongoing support for June High School and raising money for local schools damaged by floods.

Other events and organisations supported by GEO included the Rhythm 'n' Rail Festival, the June Junction Recreation and Aquatic Centre Fun Run, the SHINE for Kids program, Bethungra On The Up community group and the June Poker Run.



••• From left: TAFE NSW Riverina Institute's educational delivery director Graeme Stuchbery and community services, health and vocational access director Anne Lowe with inmate Nicholas Wood and June's manager education and training Mark Apps.

### Inmates graduate

A graduation ceremony was held at Fulham Correctional Centre recently for a group of inmates that have completed TAFE and distance education courses. Nine inmates graduated from a wide variety of courses ranging from a Certificate II in automotive studies to a Masters Degree in applied linguistics.

About 40 per cent of some 750 inmates at Fulham are enrolled in courses at Kangan TAFE studying English and mathematics or trade courses such as furniture making and horticulture. A small number are undertaking tertiary studies.

A similar ceremony at June Correctional Centre in February saw 61 prisoners receive qualifications from TAFE NSW Riverina Institute. Inmate Nicholas Wood was presented with Outstanding Student of the Year 2012 for his dedication to studies in Certificate II Work and Training and Certificate II in Building and Construction.

### Cultural program a success

A group of 27 prisoners recently completed the Aboriginal Cultural Immersion Program (ACIP) at Fulham Correctional Centre.

The ACIP is an intensive workshop that encourages indigenous prisoners to connect with their culture. It helps strengthen identity and examines their responsibilities to themselves, others and the community.

Fulham's Aboriginal liaison officer Daniel Skipper organised the four-day program, which was funded by Corrections Victoria and facilitated by Kelly Faldon and Wanda Braybrook.

Sessions featured guest speakers and musicians including Peter Robinson, the education officer at National Rugby League club Melbourne Storm, singer/songwriter Lee Morgan, Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Centre manager Shaun Braybrook and musician Travis Demsey.



••• From left: Kelly Faldon, Daniel Skipper, Wanda Braybrook and Troy Ittensohn hold a flag signed by ACIP participants and presented to the facilitators.

### Environmental initiatives continue

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is continuing its environmental initiatives, with prisoners undertaking horticultural courses nurturing trees for community organisations and for koala feedstock.

The centre recently supplied Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary with 1200 trees, while the sanctuary along with Nerang Riverkeepers and Friends of Crane Creek accepted 7400 native seedlings. Many of the seedlings were Allocasuarina and Casuarina, which are the primary food source for the threatened red-tailed black cockatoo.

Additionally, 19,000 trees were allocated to the Jensen Swamp Reservation in the Somerset region, which has been flooded four times since 2011. All of the trees are indigenous to the area and flood tolerant.

Koala fodder continues to be nurtured by prisoners and is collected regularly by a number of organisations with the Moggill Koala Hospital the latest to develop a relationship with the centre.



••• Arthur Gorrie trade instructor Cobus Havenga with Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary wildlife and environmental manager Jenny Lunney.