

Parklea expansion gets underway

Junee wins education award	2
New manager at Fulham	3
Focus on cultural identity through art	4
Graduation marks first step in recruitment drive	5
Junee chaplain receives national honour	6



An artist's impression of the 500-bed maximum-security facility to be constructed within Parklea Correctional Centre.

Construction of a 500-bed maximum-security facility within the grounds of Parklea Correctional Centre has begun following the appointment of a building contractor.

The additional beds will help meet the demands of the rising prison population in New South Wales.

The project will create up to 250 jobs during construction and 160 new jobs when the facility is operational.

Minister for Corrections David Elliott said there was an urgent need to provide more beds close to the city as the number of inmates on remand has increased.

"There are now more than 12,700 inmates in correctional centres across the state and the recent unprecedented rise in numbers is creating operational challenges, particularly in metropolitan Sydney," he said.

"The expansion of corrective services at Parklea will alleviate these pressures and make operations more efficient."

An initial expansion of the centre is already underway and will provide beds for an additional 150 inmates as well as an extra visitor car park.

This first stage of the expansion will be completed late this year, while the 500-bed facility is due for completion in 2019. The two expansions will take Parklea's total capacity to 1675.

Corrective Services NSW commissioner Peter Severin said the Parklea site was selected for expansion because it is in Sydney where most inmates' families live.

"It is important that inmates stay in touch with their families through visits to improve their chances of successful reintegration and reduced reoffending when they finish their sentences," he said.

In August last year the NSW Government announced it would spend \$3.8 billion over four years to expand the capacity of the state's corrections system by an additional 7000 beds.

As part of that investment the GEO-operated Junee Correctional Centre will be expanded

to house an additional 480 maximum-security prisoners. This will increase the prison's population to 1355.

The works will include refurbishments and extensions to several areas including the health centre, reception, administration, stores, kitchens, laundry and industries building. The SHINE for Kids facility will also be expanded.

Over 250 jobs will be created during the construction stage and about 130 positions when the works are completed.

"The proposed expansion of this centre will not only help ease the prisoner population challenge, but will also make a significant contribution to the local area," said Peter Severin.

"The centre is dedicated to keeping the community safe and reducing reoffending through education and vocational training and GEO, which manages the facility, will continue to keep this as their priority as it expands."

The centre currently houses just over 800 medium-security inmates.

MD'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this edition of *GEO Insights*.

One of the great strengths of GEO — and indeed a key part of the GEO Continuum of Care model — is that each correctional centre we manage benefits from a diverse team of

dedicated staff and external service providers.

GEO employees work in partnership with a wide range of individuals and organisations to achieve each centre's outcomes.

I am particularly pleased that in this *GEO Insights* we take time to examine some of these partnerships and highlight two individuals who embody the Continuum of Care ethos.

The first is Sister Rosemary Terry who, as chaplain at Junee Correctional Centre for the last 24 years, was recognised in the Australia Day honours with an Order of Australia Medal.

Starting as a volunteer — one of the countless number that have enriched our centres over the years — Sister Rosemary has helped innumerable inmates in their quest to turn their lives around.

The second is Col Caskie. Building on a career that started as a trainee correctional officer, through supervisor and periods as contract compliance manager, offender services manager and operations manager, Col has now been appointed general manager at Fulham Correctional Centre.

I congratulate Sister Rosemary and Col and thank them for their exceptional contributions to GEO over many years.

In terms of partnerships, we also look at Junee Correctional Centre's long-standing relationship with TAFE NSW Riverina Institute and Fulham

Correctional Centre's involvement with The Torch organisation and the outstanding artwork prepared through the centre's Indigenous arts program.

Elsewhere in this edition we report on the work underway to expand Parklea Correctional Centre. With each of our jurisdictions facing growing prisoner populations, this expansion (and the proposed Junee expansion) reflects the confidence of our customers in selecting GEO-managed centres to help them address prison system capacity challenges. I know the Parklea team is working hard to prepare for when this additional capacity comes on line.

Our leadership in community engagement is also detailed in this edition. Through sponsorships, scholarships and community work programs our centres continue to be very active and supportive members of their local communities.

Pieter Bezuidenhout
Managing Director

Junee wins education award

2 Junee Correctional Centre has been acknowledged for its commitment to vocational education and training, taking out an annual TAFE NSW Riverina Institute award.

The award for 'Outstanding Support to Technical and Further Education in 2016' was presented at the TAFE's Annual Graduation and Awards Presentation Night.

"Each year we acknowledge an organisation or enterprise that has provided significant support to students through its commitment to vocational education and training," said TAFE NSW Riverina Institute director business compliance Anne Lowe.

"TAFE NSW Riverina Institute has had a successful eight year partnership with the Junee Correctional Centre and this year

that relationship was elevated to an even greater level.

"GEO recognises the significant benefit to be gained by providing inmates with vocational training and education. As a result a range of skill sets in automotive, warehousing and Indigenous arts were developed and delivered to inmates with more planned for 2017."

Earlier this year more than 50 inmates graduated with a wide range of "ready for work" qualifications.

Currently 60 per cent of the centre's inmates are enrolled in 33 different courses through the TAFE, which tailors courses in consultation with GEO and industry to ensure inmates receive real world practical employability skills.



Col Caskie — from trainee to general manager.

New manager at Fulham

3 Long-serving GEO employee Col Caskie is an exemplar for the company's internal career path after starting as a trainee and recently being appointed general manager at Fulham Correctional Centre.

Col started his career with GEO at Junee Correctional Centre in 1993. Over a 24-year period he has worked at Fulham, Junee and Arthur Gorrie correctional centres and also spent time on secondment at a GEO facility in South Africa.

Col was the operations manager at Fulham from August 2011 through to his appointment as general manager in February.

"It is tremendously pleasing that Col commenced his career as a trainee and has progressed through the ranks," said The GEO Group Australia managing director Pieter Bezuidenhout.

"His versatility and broad experience in various roles provides a sound background for his appointment."

Former Fulham general manager Trevor Craig has accepted the same role at the new GEO-operated Ravenhall Correctional Centre that will open late this year.



From left: TAFE NSW Riverina Institute campus operations manager Narelle Hogan, Junee Correctional Centre general manager Scott Briedoake and service and programs manager Trevor Coles with TAFE NSW Riverina Institute relieving campus director Paul Ingwerson at the awards ceremony.



Fulham vocational services manager Phil Munnings and senior education officer Chris Paynter at the Confined 8 Exhibition with artwork prepared at the centre.

Focus on cultural identity through art

4 Indigenous prisoners at Fulham Correctional Centre contributed 20 pieces of artwork to the Confined 8 Exhibition staged in Melbourne early in 2017.

The annual exhibition features new works by Indigenous artists currently in, or recently released from, prisons in Victoria.

It is the most significant annual event for the Statewide Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community Program delivered by The Torch organisation to incarcerated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through Corrections Victoria.

The program focuses on the role of culture and cultural identity in the rehabilitation of prisoners and supports the development of self-esteem and confidence through art.

This year's exhibition featured 185 artworks including many acrylic on canvas paintings as well as ceramic pieces, paintings on traditional Indigenous items such as boomerangs and even

intricate paintings on a football and sunglasses.

A total of 103 pieces were sold during the month-long exhibition, many in the first few days, generating more than \$60,000 in sales.

Under the Aboriginal Arts Policy Model implemented by Corrections Victoria and the Victorian Government in late 2015, Indigenous artists in custody may sell their artworks if they participate in The Torch program. The policy provides prisoners with an opportunity to support themselves financially while in prison as this may improve reintegration outcomes post-release.

The art program at Fulham Correctional Centre has a high level of participation, with a teacher attending the dedicated art room in the Indigenous unit on a weekly basis to help inmates develop their artistic skills.

Pieces from 17 current and former Fulham prisoners were accepted for the Confined 8 Exhibition.

Graduation marks first step in recruitment drive

5 The ranks of custodial staff at Fulham Correctional Centre have increased significantly following the recent graduation of 24 recruits.

The graduation ceremony marked the first step



The daughter/mother combination of Georgia and Vivienne Everett are among 24 new recruits at Fulham.

in a major recruitment drive by the centre with two further correctional officer intake courses to be staged in the first half of this year to meet additional staffing requirements.

Some officers will also have the opportunity of transferring to the new GEO-operated Ravenhall Correctional Centre that is being constructed in Melbourne and will open in late 2017.

A focus on rehabilitation and case management was a key part of the seven-week pre-service course that was completed by an equal number of males and females.

Three pre-service course awards were presented at the graduation ceremony. Chelsea Hurley received the Overall Participation and Achievement Award, David Edwards the Leadership and Teamwork Award and Natasha Hunt the Academic Excellence Award for the highest overall score from test results and ongoing assessments.

National honour for chaplain

6 Junee Correctional Centre chaplain Sister Rosemary Terry has been recognised for her outstanding community service with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

A member of the Society of Presentation Sisters in Wagga Wagga, Sister Rosemary was awarded the medal for "service to the Catholic Church and to the community".

Sister Rosemary has worked at Junee Correctional Centre for 24 years. When the facility opened in 1993 she rang the then chaplain and asked if she could volunteer.

With 20 years experience working in schools throughout New South Wales she was able to bring teaching skills in literacy and numeracy along with many other attributes to the prison and when the chaplain retired Sister Rosemary took on the position. She currently spends three days a week at the centre.



Sister Rosemary Terry. Photo courtesy of The Daily Advertiser.

Sister Rosemary recently told Wagga's *The Daily Advertiser* newspaper that she takes great delight in seeing prisoners turn their lives around and considers Junee Correctional Centre a place of hope.

"I think it is a case of trying to support and encourage inmates but at the same time challenging them to look at what is causing their offending behaviour," she said.

Sister Rosemary said she was humbled and overwhelmed to receive the award and felt she was doing so on behalf of many people including those she worked with at the prison.

Junee Correctional Centre general manager Scott Brideoake said management and staff were thrilled when they learned Sister Rosemary had been honoured with an OAM.

"Sister Rosemary plays an incredibly important role at the centre and her commitment over more than two decades is simply amazing," he said.



From left: Woodside Beach Surf Lifesaving Club president Anthony Banik, nippers participant Jye Williams and Fulham's Phil Munnings.

Surf club sponsorship

The GEO Group Australia and Fulham Correctional Centre have continued to support the Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club with a major contribution for the 2016/17 summer season.

A \$2000 sponsorship allowed the club to purchase four new rescue boards for its nippers program — an activities-based program for children aged between five and 13 teaching beach safety and lifesaving skills.

Fulham also donated a trailer to the club to transport first aid and rescue equipment from the clubhouse to the beach in times of emergencies and search and rescue call outs.

Additionally, prisoners undertaking automotive studies have serviced and repaired the club's Polaris all-terrain vehicle which is used to transfer equipment from the clubhouse to the water's edge and to patrol the southern end of Victoria's renowned Ninety Mile Beach.

Food for koalas

Prisoners at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre have contributed to the wellbeing of koalas in the Somerset region of Queensland by growing thousands of trees for consumption and habitat.

The trees — all tube stock — were provided to residents by Somerset Regional Council during a 'free tree day' promotion.

Various types of koala food and habitat species were available including grey gum, spotted gum, blue gum and ironbark with more than 2000 trees given away.

Somerset mayor Graeme Lehmann said the free tree day complemented a range of council activities that targeted environmental awareness and conservation.

"Council supports the planting of koala food trees and other native trees through its annual free tree program," he said.

The council is obliged to provide more koala habitat as development expands in the regional

shire located about 100 kilometres northwest of Brisbane.

The plant propagation and distribution program is a partnership between the council, Arthur Gorrie and Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN).

Celebrating young achievers

June Correctional Centre has again acknowledged young achievers in the local community by awarding scholarships and recognition awards through its annual 'Youth in Focus' program.

Eight nominations were received for the 2017 awards across four categories — academic excellence, creative arts, sporting distinction and financial hardship.

A \$2000 academic excellence scholarship was presented to 17-year-old Jacky Zhao. Elected Junee High School captain for 2017, Jacky has an outstanding academic record and was presented with the prestigious Victor Chang School Science award last year. He also received The GEO Group Australia award at the school's end-of-year presentation night for scholarship, citizenship and sport in the senior school.

A scholarship for sporting distinction was won by 15-year-old Hayley Stevens. A state representative in netball for the past five years, Hayley is a member of the Southern Sports Academy and played in Wagga Wagga Netball Club's A-Grade premiership team. She is also an elite swimmer and member of the Riverina and Christian Schools Sports Association swimming squads.

Recognition awards valued at \$1000 were granted to Nastarsha Miller, Catherine Dietrich and Hayley Hocking for academic excellence as well as Jasmine Phillips, Kasey Miller and Ricky Russell for sporting distinction.



Scholarship winner Hayley Stevens with Junee Correctional Centre general manager Scott Brideoake.

Report shows reoffending down in Vic and Qld

by Dom Karauria
Director Correctional Services

In the April 2015 *GEO Insights* I discussed the release of the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (RoGS). Released annually, RoGS reports on how government services are performing across Australia with a chapter dedicated to corrective services.

RoGS 2017 has just been released and it is opportune to look at the data from the three states in which GEO manages correctional facilities — New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

After a long period of increasing reoffending rates, both Victoria and Queensland reported welcome decreases last year. However reoffending continues to increase in NSW with now over 50 per cent of prisoners returning to prison within two years.

Turning to prisoner-on-prisoner assaults, all three states experienced significant increases. Victoria's rate went up 32 per cent, Queensland's by 40 per cent and NSW's by 57 per cent with on average 24 assaults for every 100 prisoners.

In terms of cost-per-prisoner, both Queensland and NSW showed continued growth restraint with the NSW figure similar to that reported in 2009. Victoria also showed a decrease, albeit that its rate is considerably higher than both other states.

Finally, the rate of prison utilisation is increasing. Although no data is available for Victoria, both Queensland and NSW continue to hold growing prisoner populations that exceed the original capacity of their prisons.

This reflects the data in the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics 'Prisoners in Australia' report that shows a 5 per cent (Vic), 6 per cent (Qld) and 7 per cent (NSW) increase in prisoner numbers during 2015/16.

Significantly, this growth was driven by an increasing rate of imprisonment — 3 per cent (Vic), 4 per cent (Qld) and 5 per cent (NSW) — in addition to normal increases attributed to population growth.

So what does this mean for corrections in 2017? Expect a continuing focus on strategies to tackle the issue of assaults and ongoing pressure for prisoner places, particularly remand places. On the rehabilitation and reintegration front, expect a continuing drive to engage prisoners in programs, work and education in an effort to reduce recidivism rates.

The 2017 RoGS and 2016 Prisoners in Australia report are available online.