

# Community Connect

june 2016

## About acQure Community Connect:

acQure has been contributing to local communities in all our regions for many many years. Last financial year, we took it to another level and introduced an ongoing yearly benefit of an extra day's leave. This additional day's leave, called the Community Connect Day, can be taken to fulfil charitable or community work of the employees choice. Several of us throughout the regions have used our Community Connect day to volunteer our time to make the community a better place.

The Community Connect Committee will continue to make special efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships with charities who make a difference within our local communities. By supporting local charities and local initiatives, we can continue to make real positive change within our society, whether that be in the form of financial support or giving up some of our free time to volunteer.

This years Community Connect report celebrates the voluntary work within the community and the financial contributions made by Q People all across the globe, in the last financial year.

## Contents of Report

### 1

Qpeople Activities

### 2

acQure Connections

### 3

Budgets and Expenditure

### 4

Commuter Allowance



*The Greening Australia crew - ready for action!*

acquire Perth



# Greening Australia

## TREE PLANTING DAY

Perth's Community Connect team organized another day to give the Perth office an opportunity to use the Community Connect leave day. Greening Australia, a not-for-profit organisation, have been around since 1982 and work to conserve and restore Australia's most threatened landscapes so wildlife and people can thrive together. In the last five years, Greening Australia has planted 15.5 million seedlings, conserved 340,000 hectares of native vegetation and direct seeded 19,000 km of tree lines across Australia.

On Friday 24th June 2016, some keen QPeople volunteered for a tree planting day in the aid of restoring the habitat of the endangered Carnaby Black Cockatoo down near Mandurah, about an hour south of Perth. That group consisted of Ashleigh, Steph, Astrid, Deblina, Matt M, Jamal, Max, Shane and Chris. After much confusion over the actual location of the tree planting location, the group assembled around 930am. After a brief intro and lesson on the background of the project they were helping with, and how to work the tools, the group was split into pairs and proceeded to become expert tree planters!

After a quick stop for lunch, the group continued throughout the beautiful sunny afternoon, and over 760 trees later, eventually downed tools at around 4pm after quite a workout!



## acquire Johannesburg

**KUIER KIDZ**

Pieter attended a charity golf day where more than 100 golfers participated, for a charity called Kuier Kidz. Kuier Kidz learning centre is a non-profitable organisation that empowers children living with severe disabilities, to reach their utmost capabilities and be accepted into society so they can live a meaningful & fulfilled life.

Our Johannesburg acquire office donated ZAR 4,100 for the day.



*Pieter Enslin*

**BONOKUHLE HIGH SCHOOL**

Babongile volunteered at one of the local high schools called Bonokuhle High School. She spent the day with students, motivating them before their trial exams. Babongile also handed out information from different tertiary institutions to help them apply for next year, as well as financial assistance information to those in need.

She felt her day spent at the school was very fruitful, and the students really needed to be motivated. By the end of the day, she felt she had made a positive difference in helping to motivate the students to reach their full potential.

*Babongile Mqwathi*



*acquire Perth*

# YARLOOP BUSH FIRE SCHOOL APPEAL

In January 2016, the south west of Western Australia was devastated by catastrophic bushfires, the state's worst ever bushfire disaster. Constant wind changes and very windy conditions meant the fires burnt for 17 days. Its perimeter was in excess of 392 kilometres, burning more than 69,000 hectares of land (which included 181 properties, 166 houses, prime dairy and beef regions and several vineyards).

Perhaps one of the most devastating stories from the fire, was the fact that it completely destroyed the small historic town of Yarloop, about 120 kilometres south of Perth. The town tragically lost two elderly gentlemen in the fires, along with so many homes and almost all their historic buildings.

**acquire has a direct link to Yarloop – Alison Atkins grew up in Yarloop, living there from primary school through to high school. She knows people directly affected, which made the devastation all the more personal.**

Alison came to know about a group of teachers that had got together and liaised with the school community of Yarloop and surrounding areas to organise school supplies for the children and schools affected. The families in Yarloop were left with absolutely nothing when the fires ripped through the town, and getting their kids ready for school was the last thing on their minds.

In the next three days, the Perth acquire office banded together and donated various school supplies. These included school backpacks, lunchboxes, pencils, notepads, glue, highlighters, paper towels, tissues etc.

There were 60 students enrolled at the Yarloop Primary School but the donated supplies helped many more families and students from surrounding areas that were affected by the fires.

*Alison Atkins*

acquire  
Belo Horizonte**CASA DE APOIO AO PORTADOR DE CÂNCER BEM VIVER**

Casa de Apoio ao Portador de Câncer Bem Viver is a charity aimed at increasing the life expectancy of people with cancer. They especially focus on children and teenagers suffering from cancer, ensuring the quality of patient care, as well as support to their families, is to a high standard. In addition to supporting the cancer patient, the institution also helps their families by providing food baskets, bedding, toys and toiletries. They do not receive any financial help from the government and are completely reliant on donations and volunteers.

This year, our acquire office in Brazil donated 100 baskets of food and basic items at a time where the charity was in dire need.

**ABRIGO IRMÃ TEREZA DE JESUS**

Abrigo Irmã Tereza de Jesus takes care of 25 elderly ladies, 19 of which are totally dependent on the carers, are mostly bed ridden, and suffer from incontinence & must wear diapers. They receive a small amount of financial help from the government which is not enough for the entire month. Our office in Brazil supports this charity financially and volunteers their time.



## acquire Manchester

For the second year running our Manchester acQuire office used their Community Connect Volunteer Day to participate on a conservation project in conjunction with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). TCV is a community volunteering charity that works to create healthier and happier communities for everyone through environmental conservation. This project fits well with other environmental based initiatives currently in progress in acQuire.

This year's project involved renovating flower beds around the Sale Water Park Visitor Centre. This involved removing the overgrown bushes and plants that were currently in the beds, then digging it over and planting it up with a new scheme of plants to attract to bees and insects.

Each year, over 10,000 volunteers help TVC to improve wellbeing, conserve well-loved outdoor spaces and to bring people together to promote social cohesion, combat loneliness and enhance employment prospects.

BEFORE



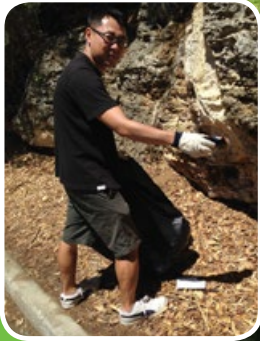
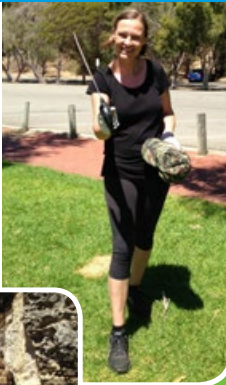
AFTER





As part of the Clean Up Australia campaign, the 'Business Clean Up Day' was held on 1st March 2016. Manuel registered acquire to take part in the day and Sabine researched a suitable spot, with the help of the Perth's local shire office.

## BUSINESS CLEAN UP DAY



Marianne, Andrew, Tony and Sabine met up at Point Walter in the morning, equipped with plastic bags, gloves, sunscreen and cold drinks.

Point Walter is a very well visited area. Therefore, the team was surprised as at first glance, the main area in front of the café and playground seemed quite clean. When they had a closer look, they soon discovered their first impression was wrong. They spent the day picking up uncountable bottle tops, straws, bread bag clips, hundreds of cigarette butts, hair ties and random bits of plastic.

In the bushes at the golf course and near the car park area along the river they found larger bits of rubbish like plastic and glass bottles, drink cans, take-away food containers, plastic bags, etc.

Despite the team being very sore afterwards from all the bending down and picking things up, they felt it was very satisfying to know that they'd taken all that rubbish out of the environment and disposed of correctly – in the bin!





# CHRISTMAS APPEAL

## acquire Perth

The Perth office participated in the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal again this year. They donated goodies which ranged from bon bons to lollies & chocolate treats to Christmas pudding, and the usual items which are needed by members in our community that are less fortunate than us like toiletries and tinned food.

The Perth office also donated via the Salvation Army Christmas Wishes appeal. There were a number of 'Wishes' staff could choose to buy, which included a 'Gift from Santa' - a gift for a boy or girl, a 'Warm hug' - was a clean, warm blanket to provide comfort for a person living on the streets, or a 'Street Pack' - a blanket, dry gloves and socks for someone sleeping rough.

The Salvation Army helps more than 1 million Australians every year. Families struggling on low incomes, elderly people stretching to make ends meet on the pension, people with nowhere to live and no other support to rely on, are helped by the Salvos every day, with the help from donations from all of us.



## acquire Brisbane

For the last couple of years, Mitch has been involved with the Calisto Park Equestrian Centre, which provides riding therapy lessons for people with disabilities. The centre is the brainchild of Claire Byrne, an accomplished para-equestrian, who has represented Queensland in the sport, while legally blind and suffering from osteoporosis. Touching animals and horse riding has shown proven results for people with disabilities, helping them to open up and bringing them great joy and confidence. Mitch's involvement with his Rotary Club, Wellington Point Rotary Club, has been assisting with Australia Day BBQs and other events at the centre. These have had a small fundraising focus but are mainly designed to give the clients of the centre a chance to have fun, relax and socialise with one another.

*Mitch Parsons*

The centre has nearly folded and struggled for funding - any donations would be kindly appreciated and can be given at:

[www.givematcher.com.au/calisto-park-equestrian-centre-inc](http://www.givematcher.com.au/calisto-park-equestrian-centre-inc)





Our Santiago acQuire office continue to support Fundación Las Rosas, a charity who houses and cares for the countries more poor and disadvantaged elderly. The average age of their residents is 81 years old. They provide 24 hour care in their homes, with residents suffering from a range of illnesses including Dementia, Alzheimer's and Diabetes.



Our Santiago office & our visiting Managing Director, Dave Stephen, visited one of Fundación Las Rosas' retirement homes in December for a Christmas afternoon tea. The same retirement home they have been visiting for the last 5 years! They prepared the afternoon tea, pies and cakes (sugar free!) and handed out presents to the residents. The most valuable part of the day was sharing good conversation, listening to some old school music and spending genuine quality time with each of the residents.

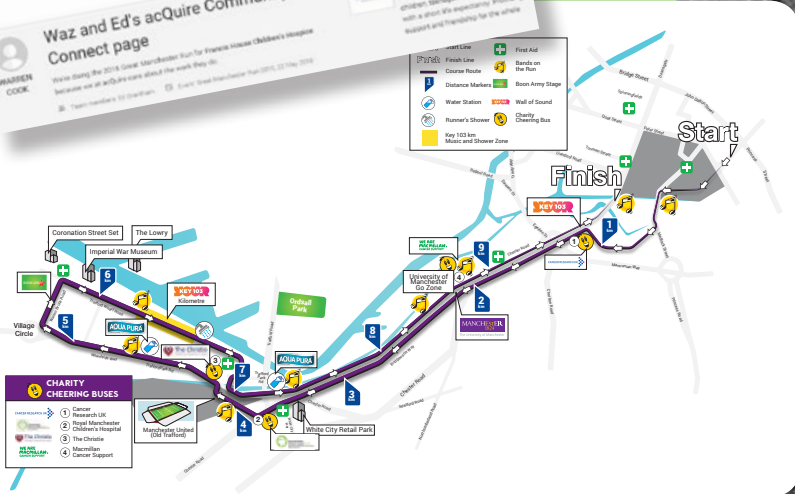


*acquire Manchester*

On 22nd May 2016, Ed and Waz ran the gruelling 10km Great Manchester Run in support of Francis House Children's Hospice. The Great Manchester Run is the biggest of its kind in Europe, and the UK's third largest mass participation event with nearly 40,000 runners. The Great Manchester Run has seen millions of pounds raised for numerous charities.

Francis House Children's Hospice has been acQure Manchester's primary community connect beneficiary for many years. Francis House provides a home away from home where families of children with a life threatening or a life limiting condition can receive professional care, support and friendship. Care is given free of charge and regardless of faith or cultural background.

*Warren Cook & Ed Grantham*





*Federico Arboleda*

## CENTRAL ARIZONA WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fed & a team of fellow fundraisers, hosted a fundraising event in May, for Alexandra Arboleda (Fed's sister in law). She is running for the board of The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) who operates and manages the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal, which delivers Arizona's Colorado River water supplies to Maricopa, Pinal and Pima Counties. CAP is designed to bring about 1.5 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River to Central and Southern Arizona every year. More than 5 million people, or more than 80% of the state's population, live in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties, where CAP water is delivered. It also delivers water to the southern Arizona Indian Tribes.

CAP works hard to protect and preserve central and southern Arizona's Colorado River water supply and to responsibly manage energy consumption. For Arizona, water is a big issue.

Alexandra will work to ensure:

- Secure, safe water supplies
- Clean, renewable energy sources
- Preservation of the Colorado River ecosystem
- Wise growth and drought management
- Affordable water rates that also promote conservation
- Consideration of environmental and economic impacts
- Fiscal responsibility and accountability

This is a non-political appointment which receives no remuneration.



# Ukeff.. VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK

Altaf has been volunteering since April 2015 at the local Food Bank in Oldham. The aim of the Food Bank is to help the local needy, destitute and the homeless. The Food Bank has three parts:

- 1. Hot food** – this is provided on sight at the café. The needy are served with (hot) food at the table. The differing dishes are brought to the table and selected and taken, no queuing.
- 2. Advice clinic** – this is in the form of signposting and assistance with form filling.
- 3. Food Parcels** – People can fill two carrier bags per person with as much food from the Food Bank as they can carry.

The Food Bank also includes providing company, a friendly chat and a listening ear to those who need it.



*Altaf Mohammed*



## TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The Munda Biddi is Australia's premier long distance off-road bike trail, running 1000 km from Mundaring to Albany. Using a mixture of old fire roads and some single track, it was completed in 2013 after ten years of planning and building and features purpose-built shelters along the way for riders to sleep and prepare meals.

Being surrounded by bush, the trail requires regular maintenance and a team of keen volunteers, each assigned a section, makes sure that signage is maintained, trees are pruned back regularly and fallen timber removed.

acquire contract graphic designer Ian Pavey looks after the section from Mundaring Weir to the Dell, which features some of the toughest climbing on the whole trail. Armed with secateurs and a pruning saw, you'll see him keeping the overhanging vegetation trimmed back so it doesn't smack you in the face!



*Ian Pavey*



Kidsport is a charity that helps to remove financial barriers from families that prevent children from playing organized sport. They provide support to families with children who cannot afford organized sports and activities such as hockey, soccer, dance, etc. Kidsport has had a much higher need for assistance over the last 9 months due to the current state of the economy. Our Calgary office has chosen to support Kidsport, having them as their major charity beneficiary for this financial year.



**SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES**

*A loving home for every child*

Our Calgary acQuire office continue to sponsor a little boy called Jose Luis as part of the SOS Childrens Village charity. The office has supported Jose since November 2008, making a significant difference to his life had he not been supported in such a way.

Violence and widespread rural poverty make Mexico a dangerous place to grow up for many children. Human traffickers and street gangs prey on lone children. SOS Children have helped children in Mexico since 1971.



## VOLUNTEER MEMBER ON PARENT COUNCIL AT SCHOOL

Neilla is a volunteer member of the Parent Council for her daughters' schools, providing assistance with various school fundraisers and events. She volunteers on a regular basis for school events, performances and field trips.

Neilla volunteered on a recent school field trip to the Calgary Mayor's Environmental Expo, with her youngest daughter Clare's Grade 4 class from Dalhousie School. The class (& Neilla!) learnt a lot about sustainable and renewable energy, water conservation, protection of local rivers and streams, and many other things. Neilla thought it was eye opening on many levels for the children and herself, and enjoyed the interactive hands-on learning experiences that were available.

Neilla also volunteered her time to help her daughters' Girl Guide Unit, spending the morning planting trees in a City park that was badly damaged during the 2013 floods.

*Neilla King*



## 2 acquire Connections

### Organisations we connect to: ➔

In Australia, acquire has a Workplace Giving scheme in place, whereby staff members can nominate to donate a certain dollar amount from their pay each month to one, or both, of our major nominated charities—the RSPCA or the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. All donations are fully tax deductible.

#### RSPCA



For all creatures great and small.

The RSPCA runs 40 shelters and employs around 1,000 staff. It costs more than \$80 million each year to deliver all of our services which help improve the lives of Australian animals. Most of this money comes from public donations and fundraising initiatives, as well as business partnerships, grants and RSPCA patrons.

#### Telethon Institute for Child Health Research



Established in 1990 by Founding Director Professor Fiona Stanley, the Telethon Kids Institute is one of the largest, and most successful medical research institutes in Australia, comprising a dedicated and diverse team of more than 500 staff and students.

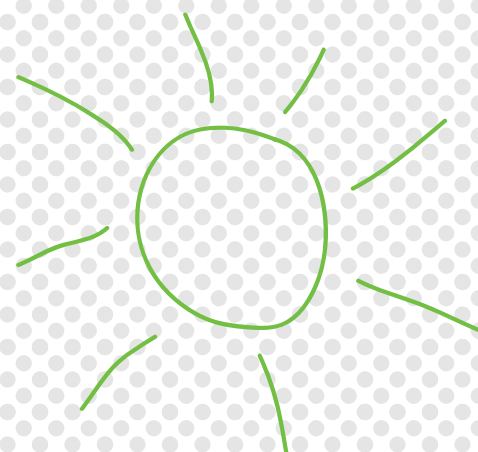


#### Manchester – Francis House



Francis House and Francis Lodge exists for the provision of appropriate care for children and young people with life threatening conditions and the necessary support and short-term rest for their families.

# 3 Donations



Event / Donation	Office	Total
Kuier Kidz	Johannesburg	ZAR 4,100.00
Royal Brisbane Hospital	Brisbane	AUD 300.00
Perth Special Children Christmas party	Perth	AUD 200.00
Lions Cancer Institute	Perth	AUD 200.00
City of Melville	Perth	AUD 500.00
HOWA – Hoodie Project	Perth	AUD 195.00
Vinnies	Perth	AUD 200.00
Salvation Army	Perth	AUD 205.00
Homeless Connect	Perth	AUD 200.00
Staffy & Bully Breed Rescue	Perth	AUD 425.00
RSPCA	Perth	AUD 425.00
Greening Australia	Perth	AUD 381.45
Lovelandforwildlife	Perth	AUD 250.00
AIME - Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience	Perth	AUD 500.00
Beyond Blue	Perth	AUD 400.00
Rotary Club Health	Perth	AUD 200.00
National Breast Cancer Foundation	Perth	AUD 300.00
UKEFF	Manchester	GBP 1,380.00
Conservation Volunteers	Manchester	GBP 240.00
SOS Children's Village	Calgary	CAD 396.00
The Lung Association	Calgary	CAD 100.00
Indigo's Love of Reading Foundation	Calgary	CAD 100.00
BC Children's Hospital	Calgary	CAD 240.00
Red Cross Fort McMurray Fire Relief	Calgary	CAD 1,833.00

Quorum Donations		
Telethon Kids Institute	Perth	AUD 24,318.55
Door of Hope	Johannesburg	ZAR 32,400
Casa de Apoio ao Portador de Câncer Bem Viver	Belo Horizonte	BRL 10,700
Abrigo Irmã Tereza de Jesus	Belo Horizonte	BRL 10,700
The Animal Welfare League of QLD	Brisbane	AUD 2,700.00
Rotary Club QLD	Brisbane	AUD 2,700.00
Francis House	Manchester	GBP 1,780.00
Fundación Las Rosas	Santiago	CLP 2,000,000
Kidsport	Calgary	CAD 1,833.00

CCC Budget for the next Financial Year : AUD 40,000

# 4 Commuter Allowance

We believe we have a social responsibility to improve the lives and health of our employees and the health of our planet.

acQuire offers all employees a daily commuter allowance for each day they commute to work by means other than driving their car, and therefore requiring an acQuire car bay. The most popular alternative means of travelling into work are running/walking, cycling, public transport, carpooling or being dropped off.

By taking advantage of the Commuter Allowance and traveling into work without our cars, we make a huge positive change in our lives and our environment. We save money, are more active, healthy & less stressed, reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and harmful carbon emissions. For example, one person cycling 10km each way to work would save 1500kg of greenhouse gas emissions each year!

This financial year, 69% of us worldwide have taken advantage of this great incentive. Below are the modes of transport we claimed our commuter allowance on in each of our offices:

