



## 2023 Wrap Up

2023 has been a busy year! So far we have cared for 65 families of patients in Intensive Care. It has been a joy and a privilege to partner with the Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Public Hospital to provide wrap around support for so many families in their time of need. We continue to work closely with Social Workers across multiple hospital wards and want to acknowledge them for the work they do with families.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our donors. Without you, The Mooring could not operate. The impact that The Mooring has on families is so significant. Below are some messages that have been written in our guest books:

*“I can’t thank you enough for the help this apartment has been to keep me right beside my baby through his NICU journey. It’s so close to everything you could ever need. Thank you Liz and The Mooring Group for your kindness during my stay.”*

*“We are so grateful for The Mooring. It has relieved us of so much stress! And allowed us some comfort and normality at the end of a long and worrying day in the ICU beside our girl. We will forever be thankful to you all for your generosity and kindness.”*

These are just two of the dozens of heartfelt thanks we receive every year. The work you are contributing to has a powerful impact and, for that, we give you our deepest thanks.

On Christmas morning we will again deliver hampers to the nurses, workers and patients in ICU and NICU at Gold Coast University Hospital. They are filled with goodies like chocolates and puzzle books. We hope this brings some joy to everyone who will spend Christmas Day in the hospital.

We look forward to seeing what 2024 holds for The Mooring. We will continue to serve our community with love and faithfulness, shining the light of Jesus in all we do. A very merry Christmas to you and your loved ones, from The Mooring Team.

*The following pages include stories from clients and carers.*

## Thank You Hannah!

This year we have had new volunteers join our team and we have farewelled others. We would like to thank Hannah for her faithful service to The Mooring over the years, we wish her all the best with what her future holds!



Hannah (centre) with cooks Karen (left) and Kim (right) at our farewell morning tea for Hannah.

You may have noticed that we have rebranded! Thank you to Churches of Christ in Queensland who have been collaborating with us to give our organisation a fresh new look. Our new logo wonderfully encapsulates the heart of The Mooring: providing secure support when times get rough.



**THE MOORING**

## Baby James accessed 'Children's Hospital in the Home' in The Mooring unit!

*A message from a mother who stayed in The Mooring unit this year:*

At 2 am on a Friday morning I was awoken to a sound coming from my 2 month olds crib, a sound no mother would ever want to hear. He was almost unresponsive and struggling to breathe.

After a very emotional day being flown from hospitals in rural NSW, we arrived at the Gold Coast University Hospital where baby James was put in critical care on life support. He was diagnosed with sepsis meningitis - an infection that attacks the brain. We were devastated, emotionally and physically exhausted and distraught with no family on the Gold Coast.

We spent the first few hours of sleep we had after 48 hours in our car, not being able to find accommodation at 3am in the morning after everything had settled down. That's when we were contacted by a Social Worker who had been in contact with the amazing team from The Mooring.

They provided us with a beautiful unit right near the hospital, relieving us of all burdens and worrying. What we thought would be a two week course of antibiotics turned into a six week stay and they helped us through the whole time, checking we had everything we needed whilst also giving us a safe haven to grieve and emotionally work through the difficult time we had ahead of us.

After strong courses of antibiotics and MRI after MRI, spinal taps and CT scans, we were able to be blessed enough to do CHITH (Children's Hospital in the Home). Living hundreds of kilometres away from the hospital, the kind people at The Mooring allowed us to stay and have the treatments at the unit they had provided us with.

Everyday we had a nurse come to the unit to administer antibiotics and check all of his vital organs and body movements. We were lucky enough to escape this infection with no loss of limbs or hearing or even eye sight to our beautifully baby boy. At one point we were even able to bring our other three children to stay with us, making us a family again after many weeks apart.

One week after James turned four months old we were able to go home with a thriving vibrant bundle of joy. Had The Mooring not been there to help us in our darkest hours I don't know if we as a family would have gotten through this ordeal as greatly as we did. Not only did they provide us with a sanctuary, but restored our faith in our Lord and Saviour. It is a debt we can never repay but every one of their beautiful team are forever in our thought and prayers.

James is now six months old and while he is out of the storm, we still have a long way for a full recovery. This is our story of how The Mooring saved us.



## Introducing carer - Julie



Having had my career in the Medical field, combined with an inbuilt desire to care for people, when I first heard about The Mooring, I was very interested.

The idea of a safe mooring in a foreign harbour, during a severe storm in someone's life, appealed very much to me. I had been wondering what voluntary positions I could take up in my retirement - and this appeared to be one of them! I felt like I could really be the hands and feet of Jesus to the suffering people we meet in this ministry.

I have now been with The Mooring for over 5 years, and find I am as blessed by the ministry as are the people we help. In addition the camaraderie and fellowship we share within the team are wonderful. Seeing God provide financially for The Mooring is inspiring, and it's also great to see the very positive response from the community to our ministry.

## Volunteer awards

At the Moncrieff Community Awards in August, The Mooring volunteers Ed Lambie and Tina Rutherford received awards for outstanding community service, alongside Pam Brabeck who serves in English Corner at Southport Church of Christ. Tina also received the Gladys Moncrieff award in recognition of outstanding service to the central Gold Coast community.

Tina has been a part of the Mooring since its beginning in 2015 and is our longest serving member. As a Family Support Volunteer Tina has cared for over 100 families, sensitively meeting their needs in practical ways, as well as offering the comfort and companionship of a listening ear, frequently over a cup of coffee. A recent client whose partner was in ICU wrote "Dear Tina, I can't explain what your kindness and generosity has meant to me and my family through this tough time...and the unit gave us a base from which to support.. (his partner)."

Tina also manages the three crisis units that the mooring rents, ensuring all equipment and supplies are provided, and that units are cleaned and beds changed when a family vacates, ensuring they are fresh and ready for the next family in crisis.

Ed is currently the only male Family Support Volunteer on our team. He has the unique opportunity to come alongside men in crisis and provide the comfort of an empathetic listening ear and help with their immediate needs. This was particularly evident during Covid lockdown when Ed was supporting an elderly man from NSW whose wife was unexpectedly diagnosed with a brain tumour and underwent urgent surgery. It was a critical time for the husband, with the additional stress of restricted access to visiting his wife, and for the wife who was quite confused and distressed at not seeing her husband. Ed was able to provide a listening ear and personal and practical support to help the husband through this anxious time, as well as transporting him to the hospital when the opportunity came to see his wife.

The Moncrieff Community Awards are an incredible acknowledgement of how highly The Mooring is valued by the community around us! Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for your commitment to sharing Christ's love with our community.

