



CROSSROADS NEWS

The Official Journal of
Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW

Autumn 2011
Volume 50 Issue 2

NEWCASTLE CELEBRATES!

It was a real honour to be present at the **50th Anniversary Service of Crossroads Newcastle** on Sunday 15th May where, along with over 160 happy Crossroaders, accompanied by family members and friends at the **Mayfield Anglican Church** we celebrated fifty years of service. One of the high-lights of the occasion was the presence of **Hilton and Judy Hayes**. Hilton co-founded Crossroads along with the late **Rev. Chegwid-den** all those years ago and it was a delight to hear from this amazing man who gave a short address in the church hall following the Service.



During the Service, led by **Mr. John Mathieson**, President of Newcastle branch, **Greg Barnes** read from Colossians 3: 10-16 and this was later followed by the **Rev. Andrew Knox**, Rector of the church, who gave an entertaining address on the topic, **'Putting on Christ'**.

Two outstanding brackets of band music recitals were included and the **Cardiff Northlakes Brass Band** excelled under the conductorship of **Mr. Ron Boaden** with **Mr. Allan Shaw** presenting the titles and giving a brief overview of the music to be played. It was obvious that the Band was very much appreciated and well received and it was learned that this dedicated group gave its services to Crossroads Newcastle twice a year without charge!



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Subscriptions

Please check the top right hand corner of the label on the envelope to see when you have paid till. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year and are due April.

Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

A Ministry advocating for and involving people with Disabilities
Established 1961
ABN 90 070 601 357

Items for Spring Newsletter to Editor by 2nd August 2011

Chairman's Chat:

I have recently been reading some of C.S. Lewis and I came across the following quote; *"It is a serious thing to live in a society for possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would strongly be tempted to worship, or else a horror and corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You never talked to a mere mortal."*

Did you like that? I was struck by the truth that there is no such a one who is an 'ordinary person' or a 'mere mortal' and that everyone who reads these words is helping others to one destination or another. It is a truth that you are pointing those around you to a certain destination.

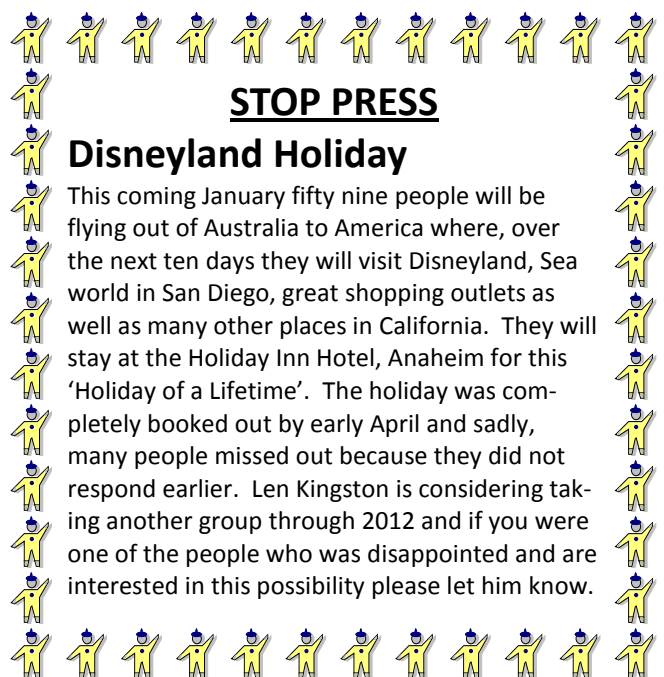
C.S. Lewis also said, "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Pretty straight forward talking, don't you think? If Jesus is all He claims Himself to be then we have a choice to follow or reject Him. If we follow Him, then, as Lewis states, you are already one who will be like a shining star! *(Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed— not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence— continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe).*

May you as a Crossroader be the very one who points people to the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let's make the rest of 2011 count for eternity!



Rev. Len Kingston



STOP PRESS

Disneyland Holiday

This coming January fifty nine people will be flying out of Australia to America where, over the next ten days they will visit Disneyland, Sea world in San Diego, great shopping outlets as well as many other places in California. They will stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Anaheim for this 'Holiday of a Lifetime'. The holiday was completely booked out by early April and sadly, many people missed out because they did not respond earlier. Len Kingston is considering taking another group through 2012 and if you were one of the people who was disappointed and are interested in this possibility please let him know.

Newcastle Celebrates
(Continued from page 1)

An excellent afternoon tea (well done to those who organised the spread and made sure everyone present got something!) followed the Service at which **Hilton Hayes, Rev's. Len Kingston and Felicity Amery, and Mr. Nathan Juchau, Health, Safety, Environment and Community, (HSEC) Manager of NCIG** spoke. Hilton, still full of 'get-up and go' challenged those present never to stop upholding and presenting the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This, he said, was the goal and reason for Crossroads! As Crossroads New South Wales Chairman, I spoke of my involvement with Crossroads and how I became associated with the organisation twenty years previously. Felicity Amery, representing the **Uniting Church**, spoke of the close association of Crossroads in Newcastle with that branch of



the church and Mr. Nathan Juchau, representing the **Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group** spoke of the privilege it was to be a

sponsor by way of donating the transport needs of the organisation. **The value of this sponsorship over the next three years totals \$20,000!** Finally, **Mr. Warren Dalton of Centennial Coal Myuna Colliery** distributed a beautifully monogrammed cap, provided by management of the Colliery, to each of those present with a disability.

Crossroads Newcastle appears to be in good hands as it begins another 50 years of happy service!

Rev. Len Kingston 

Elaine Beddie from Macathur District Crossroads also attended the Newcastle celebration and submitted the following report:

The old St Andrew's church at Mayfield was quite crowded for the service. A local brass band played during the service and some local members felt "quite at home" marching around the church to some of the tunes. At the refreshments and speeches in the hall, Hilton Hayes, one of the co-founders said that "the purpose of crossroads is to tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ and when that stops happening then there is no point in having Crossroads". A celebration wouldn't be such without a special cake. This was baked and decorated by a daughter of one of the co-founders, the late Rev. J. Chegwiddden. This has been done

heard her say that it would have to be the last one due to some ailments she suffers.

Elaine Beddie.

Crossroads Committee

- Chairman *Len Kingston*
- Secretary **Vacant**
- Treasurer *Ken Rumble*
- Advancement Officer
Elaine Beddie
- Publications (News)
- Editor *Judy Thompson*
- Public Officer
Andrew Blamey
- Regional Advancement Officer

- Web Site Editor
Elly Byrne
- Training Coordinator
Lesley Gilbert
- Touring Officer
Len Kingston

Two Committee positions are vacant. One is critical to the smooth running of Crossroads NSW.

If you are able to serve as secretary and sense a call to fill this position please contact either the Chairman or Public Officer at your convenience.

Editorial

The year has been exciting for some branches. Newcastle has celebrated their 50th anniversary and Shoalhaven will commemorate their 10th birthday in July .

Congratulations to both branches.

To all branches and their members: This is your newsletter. To make it interesting, informative and keeping each other up to date I need your photo's and reports. Just a few lines to let us know what you have been doing or might be doing in the future. We can also exchange ideas for activities and outings.

Keeping in touch is very important. Many of us find travelling to meet up with other branch members is not easy. However via our newsletter we can keep the Crossroads family well informed.

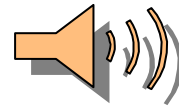
Articles do not have to be reports we can include short stories or poems as well.



Judy Thompson
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Phone: 02 4421 8565
Post: 40 St Anns Street Nowra
NSW 2541

Having trouble reading Crossroads News?

A wonderful volunteer by the name of **Ted Baker** who lives in Bradbury presently has a service available for all sight impaired and folk with reading difficulties. Ted reads the Crossroads News and sends it out on a CD! If this service would be a help to you he is contactable on **4625 0507**. Give him a call and discuss your needs with him.



2011 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

July 29th-31st

To be held at the

***Lionel B. Fletcher Christian
Training Camp***

69 Alexander Avenue, Hazelbrook

***All Branches urged to be present at
these***

50th Anniversary Meetings

Contact: Len Kingston

Email: len@abvn.org.au

Mobile: 0408 241 020

Top Five Regrets By Bronnie Ware

For many years I worked in palliative care. My patients were those who had gone home to die. Some incredibly special times were shared. I was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives.

People grow a lot when they are faced with their own mortality. I learned never to underestimate someone's capacity for growth. Some changes were phenomenal. Each experienced a variety of emotions, as expected, denial, fear, anger, remorse, more denial and eventually acceptance. Every single patient found their peace before they departed though, every one of them. When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again. Here are the most common five:

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me

This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people have not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made. It is very important to try and honour at least some of your dreams along the way. From the moment that you lose your health, it is too late. Health brings a freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it.

2. I wish I didn't work so hard

This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence. By simplifying your lifestyle and making conscious choices along the way, it is possible to not need the income that you think you do. And by creating more space in your life, you become happier and more open to new opportunities, ones more suited to your new lifestyle.

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings

Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep

peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.

We cannot control the reactions of others. However, although people may initially react when you change the way you are by speaking honestly, in the end it raises the relationship to a whole new and healthier level. Either that or it releases the unhealthy relationship from your life. Either way, you win.

Tell people how you feel about them, whether you love them, disagree with them or want to help them.

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends

Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.

It is common for anyone in a busy lifestyle to let friendships slip. But when you are faced with your approaching death, the physical details of life fall away. People do want to get their financial affairs in order if possible. But it is not money or status that holds the true importance for them. They want to get things in order more for the benefit of those they love. Usually though, they are too ill and weary to ever manage this task. It is all comes down to love and relationships in the end. That is all that remains in the final weeks, love and relationships.

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier

This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content. When deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again. When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying. Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness.

Reflection

Last month Andrew Blamey kindly sent me the list of Crossroad Branches to contact regarding the Annual Meeting and Conference for Leaders the last weekend of July. Of the thirty eight Branches listed it was sad to see the demise of twelve of them. Twelve Branches that closed for reasons best known to them.

Of the remaining I noted that in many situations the contact names listed were not current and I am hoping we shall see a change to all of this at the Annual Meeting.

This year's Annual will also be marking fifty years of service in New South Wales. Did you know that Crossroads was founded in 1961 by the late Rev. Chegwidden and Mr. Hilton Hayes. (A 50th Anniversary Service was held on May 15th at 1:30pm at the St. Andrews Anglican Church, Church Street Mayfield at which Hilton and Judy Hayes were present). I am also hoping Hilton and his wife will be able to attend the Meeting in July at the Camp Fletcher site, Hazelbrook.

We shall also be blessed with the presence and contribution of Prabhu and Nancy Rayan who just happen to be in Australia at that time. I know their input will greatly encourage all those who attend.

Crossroads is an ecumenical organisation which provides Christian Fellowship for all people with disabilities wherever a Crossroads Branch is to be found. And did you know that other States of Australia have also followed NSW's lead and started Crossroads organisations?

Crossroads NSW has retained its interdenominational character with branches hosted by local congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Anglican Church of Australia, the Baptist Union of Australia, the

fellowship of Congregational Churches (NSW) and other Christian denominations.

In 1995, Crossroads NSW became an incorporated association under NSW law and is recognised as a charitable organisation under NSW law and under the law of the Commonwealth of Australia donations to Crossroads NSW of more than \$2 are tax deductible.

Whilst the work of Crossroads NSW began amongst people with an intellectual disability residing in large institutions, it has expanded to include amongst its members, people from all walks of life and with a variety of disabilities (as we all have a disability of some sort).

Rev. Len Kingston



"There are two kinds of people: those who say to God 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, 'All right then, have it your way.' " Tragically, many people will have to endure eternity without God because they chose to live without him here on earth. When you fully comprehend that there is more to life than just here and now, and you realize that life is just preparation for eternity, you will begin to live differently. You will start living in light of eternity, and that will color how you handle every relationship, task, and circumstance. Suddenly many activities, goals, and even problems that seemed so important will appear trivial, petty, and unworthy of your attention. The closer you live to God, the smaller everything else appears.

This life is preparation for the next. **C.S. Lewis**

Disneyland 2012

Look what you get

-
- A night's accommodation with dinner/breakfast in Sydney prior to flying out to America.
- Carer supervision.
- Transport to the departure terminal from the hotel.
- Travel Insurance for the group.
- Coach travel from Los Angeles International Airport to the Holiday Inn, Anaheim.
- Twin (or single) accommodation.
- All meals
- Transport to and from the hotel to Disneyland
- A five day pass into Disneyland
- A day's outing by deluxe coach to Los Angeles.
- A day's outing to SeaWorld
- A day's shopping expedition to outlet malls.
- Return transport to Los Angeles
- Breakfast with Disneyland Characters.
- Lots more!!!

ALL OF THIS FOR ONLY

\$5,600

For further information including registration and other necessary papers

contact

Len Kingston

Email: len@abvn.org.au

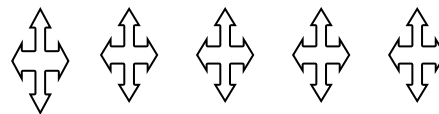
Mobile: 0408 241 020

Around the Branches

MACARTHUR DISTRICT

For some time Macarthur District Crossroads has been struggling to get people to help at meetings and think up fresh activities. Saturday 28th May was the first time they met at their new location with the Narellan Community Congregational Church as hosts. These people are of mixed ages, very vibrant and full of ideas and energy. The member numbers were down, but hopefully as they get to know of the new arrangements and location there will be an increased attendance.

Praise God and thank you to this Congregation for coming forward to assist otherwise they would have had to fold. They did have three months "holiday" from Crossroads.



SHOALHAVEN

Members are very excited and looking forward to the **10th Anniversary** of the formation of Shoalhaven Crossroads.

Over the time they have been meeting the number of people attending each month have increased greatly.

The committee meet on a regular basis. They have formal meetings and at other times meet for morning tea or lunch.

The meetings are held at the Nowra Baptist Church on the 2nd Friday of the month, hosted by one of the local church communities. They have 10 meetings a year and 10 different groups are involved as host including the Christian Motorcyclists.

Crossroads Branches

COUNTRY

Bowral	02 4421 5129
Dubbo	02 6884 1380
Shareability Canberra	02 6254 2012
Lismore	02 6621 2725
Mudgee	02 6372 7609
Newcastle	02 4951 8106
ShellHarbour	02 4297 6425
Shoalhaven	02 4421 8137
Tamworth	02 6764 4243
Wollongong	02 4225 3436

SYDNEY AREA

Annangrove	
Kenthurst	02 4587 8841
Bankstown City	02 9773 4754
Central Sydney	02 9817 2289
Kindilan -Trips	02 9809 4235
Kingsway(Caringbah)	02 9527 2410
Macarthur District	02 4628 6386
Wesley Video	
Fellowship Sydney	02 9267 5555
Parramatta	02 9624 3130

STATE OFFICES

NSW

02 9980 8911

Queensland

07 3350 8500

Tasmania

03 6431 2289

Victoria

03 8809 3000

Western Australia

08 9380 9427

Disneyland



Are you able and willing to push a wheelchair during the 2012 trip to Disneyland?

Two people are needed for this important task. Subsidised cost available: Include: Travel Insurance, all meals, entry into attractions and accommodation on a twin share basis, coach transfers and airfare. This trip needs to be seen as ministry to people who otherwise would never be able to have a holiday such as this.

If you are interested in this unusual ministry, for further detail please contact

Pastor Len Kingston : 0408 241 020
Email: lenkingston@gmail.com

Crossroads News is a publication of Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW INC. It serves to be a voice for Crossroads Christian Fellowship as well as being a forum for ideas to help stimulate thought and action.

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