



Great mates Matthew and Luke enjoying their cruise in Canberra

## Sydney Crossroads Holiday to Canberra

When the XPT pulled out of Central Station this past December, there was an air of expectancy in the carriage as Crossroaders set off for an adventure in Canberra for the next 10 days.

Arriving in the Nation's Capital around 4:30p.m., we caught up with 7 of our friends who live in Canberra who were to join us as we headed off to the **Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre**, a beautiful retreat centre at Murrumbateman some kilometres out of Canberra. Here we were spoiled with great meals and suppers; fabulous views of the surrounding countryside and wildlife which frequented the site. We also had the attention of the most amazing and lovely staff & volunteers who worked there. We could not fault the facility, which became our home for the duration of the holiday!

Over the time away, we visited a licorice & chocolate factory, went for a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin, and enjoyed feeding birds at the Canberra Walk-in Aviary – what an experience!!! We had an awesome time at

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Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

A Ministry advocating for and involving people with Disabilities  
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Items for Summer Newsletter to Editor by 1st June 2016

## The Chairman's Chat

Are you one of the people who make New Year's resolutions? Many people religiously make resolutions at the start of each year hoping that 'this year' will be better than the last and we even find that we promise ourselves or God things we will or will not do over the ensuing months in order that we might make changes for the better. Can I suggest at least three ideals which God might endorse? They are three life applications to help you make resolutions that promote godly living and change.



### **1. Make getting familiar with God's Word a priority this year. Yet, don't just be a listener of it but a doer!**

Remember, it is God's Word that instructs you in what is important to God, so you will know what the best resolutions are for this New Year of your life.

An idea on how to get truly familiar with God's Word might be to buy a Bible you can easily write in; you know, the type that has room in the margins to write. Prayerfully ask God each day as you read a verse, or a chapter, or the whole book, what does He want you to learn from it and apply to your life. Write the insights that the Holy Spirit has given you in the margins. The other suggestion is to buy a Bible you can listen to if you find reading difficult.

### **2. The second thing follows the first, which is to rely on or trust in God and His Word, so the Holy Spirit can guide and empower you to do His will this year.**

As you go about your year, mentally ask the Holy Spirit to use His Word to guide you moment by moment. The fact is that if I don't constantly keep the mindset, "I need God to guide me," my sinful nature can cause havoc throughout any given year.

### **3. Ask God to make prayer as natural as breathing is to you this year.**

You need to remember communication with God or anyone has two components which are listening and responding. You listen to God by allowing Him to speak through His Word. You respond to God by talking to Him. How do you make praying as natural as breathing? Well, it doesn't mean you need to go about your day trying to say stuff that sounds spiritual to God. God doesn't want your relationship with Him to be on the surface and phony. His heart's desire is for you to consistently talk with Him, and to do it with honesty and openness, as you would with a trusted friend. He also wants you to desire to talk with Him, as you would someone you love.

May 2016 prove to be a year that you will grow stronger in Him!

God bless you  
Len Kingston

## News From Tasmania

Here in Tasmania, Burnie Crossroads is in a state of transition at the moment. Our December meeting at the end of last year was the last in the format which has been used since the group began 34 years ago. The Branch was started by our chief cook and kitchen organiser, Betty Brown, who has just tendered her resignation, as she was about to celebrate her 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday! A very good innings.

At present, the Branch is in recess while investigations are being made regarding continuation, but probably in a different format. That is still to be worked out.

Thank you for accepting us so willingly, to be part of NSW Crossroads News.

Yours in Christian Fellowship,  
Patsie Schramm



Above: Betty with Santa, giving away her delicious brandy sauce to all helpers.



Left: Betty with a wonderful local Christian policeman who attends Crossroads when he is able, greatly encouraging the Crossroads members



# Shoalhaven Crossroads

Shoalhaven Crossroads got off to a great start in February this year.

We held a "Welcome Back" sausage sizzle on the lawns outside the hall. The weather was ideal for time outdoors.

Crossroaders enjoyed catching up with friends that they hadn't seen since 2015. There were a few new people and it was encouraging to see how long-time Crossroaders made them welcome.

Later we went indoors to play games, make cards for Valentine's Day and enjoy some



singing. Our new music leader, Jeremy, did a great job. At the end of the evening we had time to think about God. Peter stood up to remind us that just like we could enjoy catching up with old friends, so we will have a glad reunion with Jesus when He returns one day. We prayed for some Crossroaders who were in hospital.

It was a lovely time of laughing, sharing, chatting and celebration. It has helped us look forward to all our future meetings.



Kind regards,  
Shona

## From The Editor

**H**appy Easter. I hope that you had a relaxing break over the long weekend and that you were able to spend time reflecting on the amazing gift of new life that God offers us through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

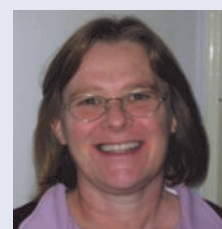
The Bible says that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. We did not deserve His great love for us and we can do nothing to earn it, but God in His great mercy showers it upon us anyway. We can choose to ignore His love or we can come before Him, saying sorry for how we have treated Him in the past and gratefully accept His gift of eternal life.

If this is something that you would like to do, all you need to do is talk to God and ask Him to forgive you and to put your trust in Jesus, and He has promised that He will forgive you and give you eternal life. If you decide to do this then it would be good to find your local Christian church and get to know other people who also love and follow Jesus. Belonging to a church will help you to keep following Jesus and learn more about Him.

We often think of the great holiday but the real treasure is found in the true meaning of Easter.

May God Bless you greatly

Lesley Gilbert



## Shoalhaven Crossroads mourns the loss of Peter Court

Peter attended Shoalhaven Crossroads very faithfully over the past 7 years. Peter was our Security Guard for our meetings, he made sure all cars were safe in the car park and that no one left the hall without permission. This was a self-appointed position but Peter enjoyed this role and was diligent in it. Peter lived independently in Nowra and worked 5 days a week at Flagstaff Industries.

An avid train enthusiast, Peter collected model trains, planes and trucks. He loved to share his knowledge of them and was our train spotter on our weekends at Bundanoon.



Peter died after a short illness in Wollongong Hospital on 15th February; he was 55 years old. A good number of Crossroaders and supporters were able to attend his funeral on 19th Feb at Worrigea Memorial Gardens. We think of Peter, give thanks for his life and remember Jesus' words "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16.

Peter will be greatly missed by all at Shoalhaven Crossroads.



# Sydney Crossroads Holiday to Canberra

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Cockington Green where we rode the miniature steam train, visited the miniature sights from around the world and spent lots of money in the café and souvenir shop!

Another day's outing took us to Old Parliament House, a visit everyone enjoyed. We listened to Greg Brian, a friend of Len's, tell us something of the background and history of the building and those who had occupied it. We were going to visit New Parliament House but the crowds were very large so we gave it a miss – another day maybe!

New Year's Eve was spent playing lots of games and eating lots of cake – especially the fabulous birthday cake for Cedric cooked by our resident chef who seemed to take great delight in making sure we were well fed.

The saddest part of the holiday was leaving Canberra because we had to say goodbye to many old and new friends we had made. Now we look forward to the next two exciting trips planned for June this year and January next year!



Left: John feeding the birds at the Canberra Bird Aviary



Below: One of our happy people, Bronwyn, with the captain of Southern Cross Cruises



Above: Michelle and Tammy on the train at Cockington Green



Left: Six great men in Canberra – Will, John, Greg, Michael, Joe and John



# News From Newcastle

Crossroads got off to a good start on the second Thursday in February. Our entertainers were a group led by Alan & Carol Bissett representing the West Wallsend area. They have been faithfully coming for many years and provided excellent entertainment with an interesting visual presentation using a felt board to illustrate the story. Since then we have had other regular entertainers who always put on a great evening of music, games, craft and devotions.

The Shortland Uniting Church once again made us the recipient of funds raised on



Pancake Tuesday. Warren Dalton and I both spoke briefly at the event explaining what Crossroads is all about. We were very warmly received and around \$500 was raised for which we were extremely thankful.

Newcastle Crossroads needs your prayers!

We have a very small group of faithful volunteers who work

hard supporting Crossroads members. We are under tight financial pressure as well as "volunteer fatigue", issues which need to be addressed in order to continue. Of course our members are generally blissfully unaware of these pressures, which is probably a good thing.

Nevertheless we continue to bat on, our reward being the enjoyment our Crossroaders display every Thursday evening.

Blessings to all the other branches!

John Mathieson  
President

## Dubbo Update

We have had a great start to this year with an evening of fun and fellowship.

The team members who organised our programme have small children who enjoy coming along each time, playing the games, making the craft and generally being delightful company for our Crossroaders.



Above: Delightful children Abi, Matthew and Eliza showing the flowers they made during craft



Left: Craft is always so important and these three lovely ladies enjoyed every minute



# Bankstown Bulletin

Our first Hall night was held on 6th February and was led by our own Val Hull. We had a great evening as always with Val running a few games for us and also on the piano leading us through choruses. Val is so energetic that she soon has the girls from Mount St Joseph up as a choir - usually joined by Scott and Sandy.

Our second Hall night was held on 5th March and once again we had the pleasure of Steve Chard and his puppets. The message we heard was how we can be a good friend and the puppets led



us through a number of examples where a friend, helps, supports, encourages, and sympathizes "no matter what." This of course led us to the knowledge that Jesus loves us "no matter what."

Only one outing this year so far and that was on the 20th February for a swim at the Olympic Pool at Homebush. Sixteen of our members really enjoyed the day.

*Michael Smith*



Above: Cheryl showing her advert made during one of Val's games



Above: Enjoying our outing to Homebush

Left: Steve Chard with his puppets

## Vale Joan Black

Joan Black, wife of the late Max Black, passed away on February 10<sup>th</sup> in Camden Palliative Care. Joan knew that she was in "God's Waiting Room" and was ready to see her Maker. She is now in His presence forever and reunited with Max.

Joan and Max both had a long association with Crossroads. In 1983 they, together with their daughter Beverley, who has a disability, travelled to Queensland to research what was happening in the Queensland Crossroads organization. When they returned, Max got in touch with the Kingsway Crossroads branch and visited them to see what they actually did.



Max and Joan came back full of enthusiasm and, together with the Rev. Bob Wyndham, set about starting up a Bankstown City branch in what was then the Revesby Parish (Panania, Revesby and Padstow Uniting Churches). The inaugural meeting of this branch (our first Hall Night) was held on the 6th October 1984, with 15 people present. Max was elected as Chairman/Treasurer and Bill Edwards was elected as Secretary. Max held the position of Chairman until he handed over to Bill in 2001. Max, Joan and Beverley were

granted a Life Membership of Bankstown City Crossroads in 2001 in recognition of their devoted service.

Max quite often acted as a bus driver during the times that we used to hire a bus for our outings. Bill left Crossroads for a couple of years (1995 to 2000) and during that time Joan acted as Secretary.

Max and Joan obviously had the vision of a need for the Crossroads activity in the Bankstown area and their legacy still continues with a current membership of 70. Our Hall Nights now are blessed with a varying number of visitors and we have an average attendance of 55 every month. Thank you to both Max and Joan for their many years dedicated to serving the Lord at Crossroads. They are greatly missed.

# Disneyland Holiday January 17th – 29th 2017

Everyone loves Disneyland Park. It's a delight for people of all ages, with eight lands filled with timeless attractions, world-class entertainment and favourite characters. While at Disneyland Park we will get to see and experience **Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage, Pirates of the Caribbean, Space Mountain, Sleeping Beauty Castle** just to name a few of the great attractions.

On top of all that, we shall also be experiencing **Disney Character Dining** where a delicious meal, along with some hearty laughs with your Disney Character friends, will be enjoyed.

Then there is **Disney California Adventure Park**. There's mountains of fun to be discovered in Disney California Adventure Park. All around you, Disney stories come to life - from incredible shows, to amazing attractions; from

favourite Disney Characters, to exciting dreams-come-true entertainment experiences. There's no end to the adventure as your imagination runs free in this one-of-a-kind Disney Theme Park!

All this and more as you join the Crossroads Sydney Disneyland Holiday at a cost of **\$5975** which includes all meals, flights, taxes, tips, accommodation in one of the BEST hotels and carer oversight. Book early as this holiday sells out fast!

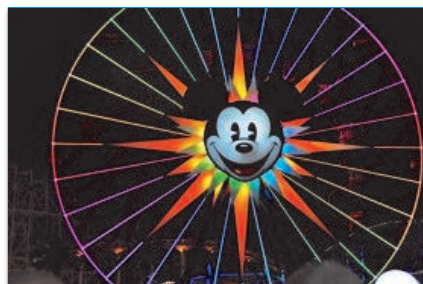


## Crossroads Sydney

Crossroads Sydney has been conducting escorted holidays for people with a disability for over 30 years.

Bookings are being taken for the holiday to Disneyland, Anaheim USA

# JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2017



**Everyone loves Disneyland!  
Crossroads Sydney will be going in  
January 2017. Limited places  
book early!**

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## Change to the Cost of Crossroads News Subscription

Due to increased postage and printing costs it has become necessary to increase the cost of the Crossroads NSW News annual subscription from \$10 to \$12. If you have already paid for your 2016 subscription the increase will apply for you when your subscription next falls due. May you be blessed as you read of God's work through the Crossroads Branches.



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## What's Been Happening at Parramatta Branch

Parramatta Branch started off the year with a very relaxing outing to Elizabeth Farm at Harris Park in January. Here we enjoyed Devonshire tea and a very interesting tour of the historic building.

In February, we enjoyed making our calendar for 2016 highlighting all of our Crossroads' dates for the year. When we met in March we did decoupage and made some beautiful Australian scenes to hang up at home. We do enjoy our craft.

We have been learning from God's Word about how we can

be loving friends to each other and we also heard about how Jesus is the best friend that we will ever have. He died on the cross and rose to new life so that we could be rescued from sin and death. We learnt that if we trust in Him and indeed call Him friend then we will live eternally with Him. What great news!

As always when we meet, everyone brings their prayer requests and we together take these to our great God and Father. This is a huge privilege that our Crossroads members truly value. It is always a blessing to be a part of Crossroads.

Greetings from all  
at Parramatta



Above and right: Three beautiful decoupage canvases of Australia

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