



A Sailing We Will Go!

And a sailing we did go last August when twenty nine happy & excited people boarded the Carnival Spirit bound for Singapore after meeting the night before at the Rydges Hotel where we were reunited with old and new friends for this holiday.

As usual, everyone received a distinctive cap (blue this time) with a badge with the person's name on it and we soon became known as the 'blue hat brigade' as we were seen all over the ship. Many of our team became well known (& liked) by the other passengers – especially Terry who won the hearts of many!

And we discovered some unknown talents amongst us when they stood to sing at the karaoke nights. There was John, Bandy, Carol, Terry, Cedric and a few others who showed their skills!

Life onboard ship was a dream with everyone more than happy with the choice of meals. Most times we ate in the restaurant but we also had the opportunity of eating at many self-serve places on deck 9 where pizzas, tempting cakes & pies, ice cream and many more temptations were available and which helped us maintain our beautiful figures!

We were able to use the ship's chapel for our morning devotions and even had some people join us a few times. Bandy was a great help leading the singing!

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For all your Church & Organization's Insurance needs contact:

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Fellowship NSW Inc.

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involving people with Disabilities
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Items for Summer Newsletter
to Editor by 1st December 2015

The Chairman's Chat

When 29 happy Crossroaders enjoyed a cruise holiday last August it became our habit to meet regularly in the chapel on the ship for our devotional time and one of the thoughts shared was this; *'He who provides for this life, but takes no care of eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.'* The verse of Scripture that accompanied the saying came from Matthew 16:26 and it reads, *'What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'*



All sounds a bit upside down, doesn't it? In fact, if you think about it, Jesus preached an upside down Kingdom. In many ways, His values are against "Conventional Wisdom." Instead, Jesus teaches a wisdom that calls us to surrender our lives to the will of God, live for Him, and serve others. It is in giving up our lives for something and Someone greater that we truly find life.

There are so many things we can invest our lives in that ultimately become our masters. The harder we work to attain them, the more we find we have lost that vital essence of living that is God's gift to us.

The radical example and call of Jesus is to follow him in laying down our lives to honour God —there are no short-cuts. The cross casts its shadow over all of us.

Matthew Henry wrote, *"Thousands lose their souls for the most trifling gain, or the most worthless indulgence, nay, often from mere sloth and negligence. Whatever is the object for which men forsake Christ, that is the price at which Satan buys their souls."* Which leaves me to finish with the words of an old hymn:

1 Have you been to Jesus for
the cleansing power?
Are you washed in the blood
of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His
grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood
of the Lamb?

Chorus:
Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul cleansing blood of
the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless?
Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood
of the Lamb?

3 When the Bridegroom
cometh will your robes be
white?
Are you washed in the blood
of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for
the mansions bright,
And be washed in the blood
of the Lamb?

4 Lay aside the garments
that are stained with sin,
And be washed in the blood
of the Lamb;
There's a fountain flowing
for the soul unclean,
O be washed in the blood of
the Lamb!

Len

Shoalhaven News

This year we changed the organisation of our meetings. Instead of our usual once a month Friday night gathering we had some regular meetings and organised other different events in the community; a picnic at Ulladulla, a morning tea in the garden of a home, a movie night at the Roxy and we saw ABBA Gold at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

Even though these events have been popular and well attended the decision was made at our AGM to return to regular monthly Friday meetings in 2016 because Crossroaders generally enjoy the predictability of a set meeting time and venue.

Our September meeting was a DISCO and the Youth Group from Nowra Baptist Church helped us have a great night. We also divided into 4 groups to compose a dance to a short section of AGADOO. Each group had different items or prompts to use in the dance – hats, hoops, scarves or musical instruments. Each group practised then performed.

In our TAG time we thought about the fact the God is with us wherever we are. The Holy Spirit is the Helper that the Father God sends, this is His way of being with us always.

At the end of our meetings we sing the 'Blessing Song' It is a lovely song to sing to one another.



Above: A great time doing the conga line

The Blessing Song

The blessing of God be upon you
and around you wherever
you go.

The blessing of God be within
you and among you wherever
you go.

Wherever you go, whatever you
do
May the blessing of God go with
you

Beth

Update from the Southern Highlands

Greetings to all our Crossroads friends.

We have been enjoying lots of good times here in Bowral. In July we made Crossroads calendars for the last half of the year so that everyone knows the date of our meeting and what we are doing. We also had morning tea and chicken wraps for lunch.



Then, in August, we played bingo which was great fun and then we made lunch. Everyone had fun catching up and finding

out what others had been doing.

Jim & I missed our September meeting as we were both sick but we are looking forward to October when the Christian motorbike group comes to share with us and show us their amazing bikes.

We hope that everyone who went to the Blue Mountains for the AGM had a great time and enjoyed listening to what the other branches are doing.

Till next time

God Bless

From Sandra & Jim

News From Newcastle

Newcastle Crossroads has been continuing along in a very positive manner since our last News update. One of our recent highlights was an organised

outing to see Mary Poppins at the Civic Theatre. The show was great and everybody enjoyed themselves immensely.



Crossroads subsidised the ticket costs which made it much more affordable for everyone. Recently we received a grant from Uniting Aged Care in the Hunter which was aimed at providing opportunities for Crossroaders to experience good entertainment. Mary Poppins certainly did that!

This month we again welcomed the Cardiff Northlakes Brass band to our Thursday evening program. They come twice each year and provide a spectacular program of music which is thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. There is always much marching to the music and involvement by our Crossroaders. Sometimes it may be a little chaotic but is oh so much fun!!

Well, the year is slipping away very quickly and it won't be too long before we will be thinking about our Christmas party.

We hope all the other branches are all running along successfully and we wish them well and God bless !!

John Mathieson
President



Right: Daniel Stoddart as Bert and Alana Silcock as Mary Poppins at the launch of Civic Theatre's season with Metropolitan Players.

From The Editor

Spring is here. The cold mornings are slowly warming up and the flowers are in full bloom. New life is all around. It is a beautiful time of the year.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of Crossroads News. It is wonderful to again catch up with what God is doing both in NSW and around Australia in Crossroads.

Pray for each other as you bring the Good News of Jesus to our Crossroads friends. Pray that all who hear about Jesus may all experience the new life that only He can bring - Life Eternal.

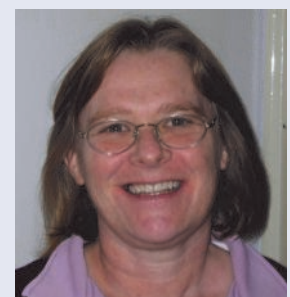
When you have read your copy of Crossroads News, pass it along to a friend so that they can also benefit from the encouraging words and pictures that it contains.

May God Bless you as you continue to follow Him and share His love with those around you.

Until next time

Your Fellow Servant in Christ

Lesley Gilbert



A Sailing We Will Go *Continued from page 1*

Our first port of call was Brisbane where a coach was waiting to take us around the local sights as well as the Botanical Gardens where we enjoyed morning tea and a stroll around the beautiful gardens. Later that day, we set sail for our next stop which was Airlie Beach. Here some took the tender ashore, and spent time looking at another beautiful North Queensland holiday city before then moving to Darwin.

Once again a coach was waiting

to take us around this hot but lovely town and time was spent at Crocosaurus Cove where we saw people enter the Cage of Death, (just a name really) which houses almost 200 crocodiles, including some of the largest saltwater crocodiles on the planet. This included an aquarium, where underwater viewing of these prehistoric creatures proved extremely popular!

The ship then sailed into Indonesian waters and stopped at Lombok and Bali where many

of our group caught a tender from the ship to shore for a day's exploration.

Finally, arriving in Singapore we headed off to our accommodation at the Salvation Army Praisehaven Retreat Centre for the next three days before heading home to Sydney with Qantas.

A big thank you to all of the carers who gave of their time and talents to assist everyone to have a holiday to be long remembered.

Len



Above: Devotions on the ship.



Above: Two of our great carers meeting new friends in Singapore

Below:
Junior, our
great waiter



Above: Two happy passengers

Below: Presenting our wonderful servers with a small gift

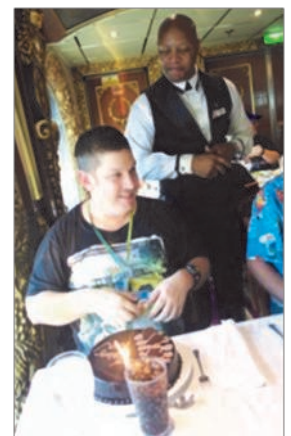


Above: The dining room on the Carnival Spirit

Below: Daniel celebrating a birthday on board

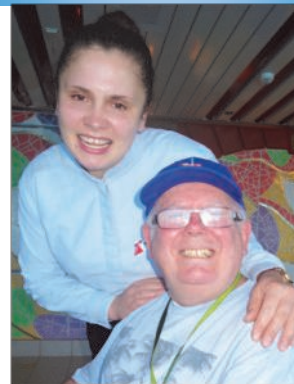


Above: All travellers together at the cruise ship.





Above: All together having fun



Above: Terry captured the hearts of many

News from Parramatta

Since our last update, Parramatta branch have been busy. In July we made cards to give to our family and friends. We also made 3 cards to give to Shirley who has recently lost her husband Frank, to let her know that we were thinking of her and praying for her.

In August we cancelled our usual meeting and instead went as day visitors to the NSW Crossroads Conference. We had a great time meeting up with people from other branches and joining in the painting and craft activities.

Last week we had our September meeting where we thought about what it means to know Jesus as our Lord and friend. We thought about how it is not enough to know things about Jesus but that we need to trust him and follow him every day. We also wrote out a Christmas card for our sponsor child Daniela and took some special photos to send to her.

Until next time
Lesley and
All at Parramatta Branch



Above: Wayne and Graham singing praise to God

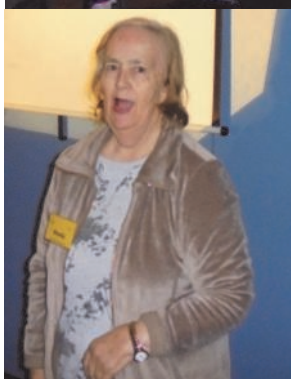
Below: John with his painting from the NSW Conference



Above: Amy, Brian, John, John, Clint and Lesley singing up a storm

Left: Wendy singing with gusto

Right: Natalie, Wayne, John, Hennie, Ray, and Darryl painting at NSW Conference (Clockwise from top left)



Bankstown Bulletin

For our July Hall Night we were entertained by the Bankstown Uniting Church Couples Club. Plenty of singing, dancing and a few games - this group always puts on a good show and provides plenty of pleasure for our members.

On the 11th July about 35 of our members went to see the "Gang Show" at Parramatta. This is always a spectacular event and we all have a chance to visit the big 'M' for a meal as well.

In August our night was run for us by a group from the LifeGate church - always energetic and entertaining. The most energetic part of the night was when a long net was stretched across the room and we split into two teams to play some games of "balloon badminton." This started off with one balloon being hit across the net but, of course, this soon escalated to two and then three balloons. Plenty of noise on this night.

In August we also went Ten-Pin Bowling at the Revesby Workers Club bowling alley. Whilst we found this venue OK, it was decided that next year we will go back to the Strathfield Bowl as we think it is more comfortable there.

A few of us also attended the NSW Conference and AGM for a great weekend.

The September night was run for us by the Padstow Baptist church, plenty more fun and games.

Michael



Left: Frances concentrates on getting one balloon back whilst the other one seems to have escaped!



Left: Greg and one of the girls from Mount St Benedict attack a lone balloon



Right: Kay, Michael, Barry and Jenny at NSW Conference



Check out our new look website at www.crossroadsfellowship.org.au/nsw-home.html

Elected Officers For Crossroads NSW 2015-2016

Chairman – Len Kingston

Secretary – Beth Dodd

Treasurer – Pauline Wright

Advancement Officer - Vacant

Publications Officer –Lesley Gilbert

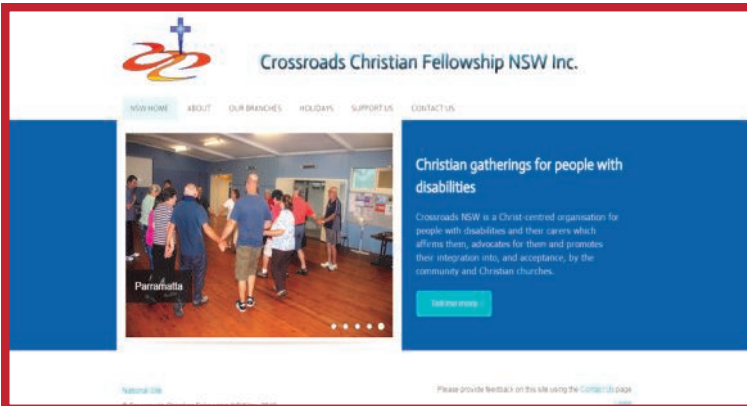
Public Officer – Len Kingston

Regional Advancement Officer – Beth Dodd

Website Editor – Lesley Gilbert

Touring Officer – Len Kingston

Training Officer - vacant



Crossroads NSW Conference 2015

Over the weekend of 29th and 30th August, members from 7 branches attended the NSW Crossroads Conference and AGM at Blue Gum Lodge in Springwood. It was a beautiful weekend and a blessing to all who attended.

After many years of faithful service, Andrew & Karen Blamey advised sometime ago of their intended resignation at this meeting from the many positions they have held in the organisation, causing a need to find replacements. Thank you to them both for their faithful service to Crossroads over many years.

After recommendations from

'Think Tank' meetings held over the year were considered, it was confirmed that Len Kingston would be appointed Public Officer and Pauline Wright Honorary Treasurer, with Beth Dodd re-elected to the Office of Secretary and Lesley Gilbert our Crossroads News Editor. Would you please uphold these people in prayer over the ensuing months?

One of the highlights of the weekend was to have a preview of the updated website being created by Chris Gilbert from our Parramatta Branch. You can see the new website at www.crossroadsfellowship.org.au All of our NSW Branches are mentioned so please check your

information to verify its accuracy. It would be nice if a photo depicting something of the activity your Branch was involved with was also sent to complement the photo collage on the home page! And don't forget, if the photo includes people you will need their permission for printing. If you want any changes or additions please email Lesley Gilbert at gil001@tpg.com.au.

To those Branches not able to attend the gathering be assured YOU WERE MISSED and it is hoped next year's meeting - to be held the last weekend of the July - will be the one where you are able to be represented!

Len



Left: Jeanette, Len, Hennie and Trent chatting over a meal

Below: Darryl proudly displaying his craft



Below: Ray and Graham showing their wonderful paintings



Above: Jenny with her framed work



Right: Jeanette instructing her painting students

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Bankstown City
02 9773 4754

Central Sydney
0408 241 020

Dubbo
02 6884 1380

Kindilan -Trips
02 9654 3070

Lismore
02 6628 2372

Mudgee
02 6372 7609

Newcastle
02 4951 8106

Parramatta
02 9624 3130

Shareability - Canberra
02 6242 9549

ShellHarbour
02 4262 0981

Shoalhaven
02 4423 2525

Southern Highland-
Bowral
02 4421 5129

Tamworth
02 6764 4243

Wesley Crossroads
Fellowship - Sydney
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Wollongong
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Update From Tasmania

Greetings again from Tasmania. The weather is starting to warm up, and lovely Spring flowers make many people happy.

Our most southern Branch in Tasmania – Kingborough - had quite a few of its people who travelled a long distance, and unfortunately their Branch had to close when there was no-one available to provide transport. However some leaders are working towards the possibility of forming a new Branch in Hobart where people will be able to use public transport to attend meetings.

Burnie, Devonport and South Launceston Branches all hold their meetings on the same night, but of course, many kilometres apart. Burnie Branch celebrated its 34th Birthday in July with a special meal, and a kind friend who played her harp to provide "Dinner Music". Some of the other Branches in the State have also



been providing a meeting place and Christian fellowship for over 30 years. Will you join us in thanking God for the dedicated people who have made this ministry possible?

Burnie Branch is greatly encouraged by one of the local Policemen – Sen. Const. Ian Edwards, who attends meetings when his duties permit, and recently brought some indoor footy goals and balls to provide opportunity for some energy output.

It has been very cold in Tassie this winter, but plans are being made for members from all our Branches to gather together for a Rally at George Town (at the mouth of the Tamar River in the North). We'll tell you about that in the next edition of "Crossroads News".

Best wishes from your friends in Christ, and through Crossroads Fellowship

Patsie Schramm,
State Secretary

Left: Burnie Branch
with Sen. Con. Ian
Edwards

Right: Happy
Birthday Crossroads



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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