



Above: Mudgee Crossroaders at Dubbo Zoo

## Mudgee Adventures

Mudgee Crossroads began 2016 with a well attended Annual General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> February followed by the regular monthly fellowship dinner and worship Service. In her report to the AGM, Chairperson Judy likened the relationship between Crossroads members to belonging to a family rather than an organisation. She thanked them for their commitment and genuine care for each other - reflecting the love of Jesus.

Since then the group has enjoyed a variety of social outings. The first for 2016 was a visit to the Gulgong Show where members loved patting the miniature ponies, found the snake handling information session particularly interesting and the magician a lot of fun. In March the group travelled by small bus to the historic town of Wollar. After a good walk around the village, Kim Peach (owner of the local store) supplied a very nice Asian meal that was appreciated by all – evidenced by exceptionally clean plates! Many thanks Kim.

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involving people with Disabilities  
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# The Chairman's Chat

From the Chairman's Pen

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." – Psalm 100:4

Someone said that life would be a bit boring without the seasons that God has created. Not only does each seasonal change add interest to daily life, it also is a beautiful way to observe all the facets of God's power through nature. Spring brings with it new life - it really is exciting to feel change in the air. It creates a feeling of expectancy as you wait for the first signs that Summer is coming, and each little change is a reminder of God's transforming power.

Did you notice the new shoots of grass suddenly appearing along with new buds on the trees? Out where I live you don't have to travel very far and you are in rural territory where new animal babies are born. Spring lambs along with calves are everywhere! Spring is the time when the world slowly shows signs of life again after a long winter. Before you know it the small changes add up and the world is transformed.

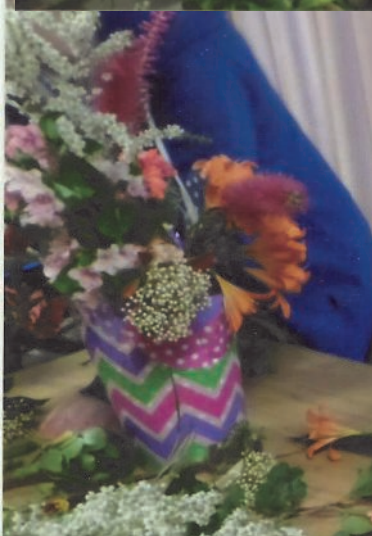
The change of Spring is a beautiful picture of what Jesus does in our hearts when we repent of our sins and give our lives to Him. He changes us until we are no longer spiritually dead, but alive and beautiful and flourishing in Him. He gives us new life and transforms us when we ask Him to forgive our sins, and Spring reflects that.

So then, we have every reason to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise as we celebrate together God's goodness in the seasons He gives us!

Len Kingston

## Spring is Sprung in Annangrove/Kenthurst

Annangrove Kenthurst Crossroads celebrated the start of spring in a very beautiful way.



Above and Left:  
Crossroaders  
hard at work  
creating  
beautiful Spring  
floral displays

# News From Shoalhaven

At Shoalhaven branch, we continue with our usual meetings every second Friday night of the month.

In August our theme was favourite colours. Lots of people wore clothing in their favourite colours. We did a little survey and found that blue was the most popular colour. It was also Olympics month, so we had an Olympics quiz and a great game of balloon volleyball.

In our Thinking About God time we heard that in the Bible there are verses that encourage us to be like athletes. Living life as a Christian is like being an athlete. We have Jesus as our prize, and we should do our best for Him.

Sadly, one of our Crossroads' friends passed away. We had a time to remember Jenny and her cheerful smile.

In September our theme was

Spring! People wore colourful clothes to celebrate Spring. We had a Flower quiz - there are so many beautiful flowers in the world.

Many Crossroaders enjoyed the craft activities. They made beautiful cards with crocheted flowers.

Others had fun playing card games and the singing group was loud and cheerful.

In our Thinking About God time we heard that just like we can use a phone to keep in touch with our family and friends, so we can use prayer and reading our Bibles to keep in touch with God.

In the next two months we have a talent night to look forward to, and our celebration church service at the Salvation Army in Nowra.

Shona



Above: Willing workers and busy hands preparing Supper for Crossroads in September

## From The Editor

Winter is over. Spring is here and the weather is warming up day by day. Look at the beautiful photos that Annangrove/Kenthurst branch sent in. What a wonderful meeting they must have had as they put together the glorious displays of flowers.

Enjoy reading of the exciting activities that Mudgee have enjoyed and the many things that Shoalhaven get up to each month.

I hope that you will be encouraged as you read of the faithful work that is carried on around NSW and in Tasmania in God's name taking His love to people at Crossroads.

It is with sadness that we hear of the closure of the Southern Highlands branch. I know that many branches are finding it difficult to recruit new leaders to assist in the vital work of Crossroads.

Please pray that God will provide the people that are needed so that the important work of taking God's Word to Crossroaders continues.

God Bless  
Lesley Gilbert



## Mudgee Adventures

*Continued from page 1*

In April, members enjoyed a Chinese meal at D & J's Restaurant followed by a birthday cake supper for valued member, Gwen Davis. On 21<sup>st</sup> May a very excited group travelled by bus to Dubbo to visit the Dubbo Zoo. It is hard to say what was most popular, but the meerkats and monkeys were certainly entertaining. Whilst all the social outings have been well attended and enjoyed, the monthly Sunday night meal and worship service continue to be a time of warm fellowship and enthusiastic worship.

July's outing was a bus trip to Dubbo to see a wonderful performance of the musical "Godspell" at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre. After first sharing a picnic lunch in the park, members enjoyed the opportunity to experience a live

performance that told of Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance, and love (which of course is what Crossroads is all about) and his death on our



Left: Patting the ponies at Gulgong Show

Right: Fun with the Magician at Gulgong Show



Left: Phillip holds the snake at Gulgong Show

Right: Jennie also bravely pats the snake



behalf from the book of Matthew – mostly in song and dance.

Judy

## Greetings From Tasmania

In Tasmania the Crossroads State Council meets three times a year. While being autonomous, we are still under the umbrella of the Uniting Church in Australia – Tasmania.

Crossroads Branches are currently functioning in Devonport (mid North-West Coast), North Launceston, South Launceston, and Hobart, each with monthly meetings and a variety of Speakers and Activities.

Each year an Autumn Holiday Weekend is held, and in November, a Day Rally brings members from around the State together for a time of fun, fellowship and always with a guest speaker for our worship service. The Branches take turns in hosting these gatherings, but the venues and

activities are overseen by the State Council.

This year's Holiday Weekend was held in Hobart, with a visit to Port Arthur – a now-beautiful site-, but still displaying the skeleton of the once mighty Convict Penitentiary. The Day Rally is to be held in November in Launceston – a central place for the whole State.

Whatever activity is organised, the main purpose of the event is to allow for members to spend

time with each other. Great friendships have developed over the years.

Our Crossroaders are a very caring bunch of people, and very much aware that "God is in the midst of us", as He is with those of us who are leaders, Magazine contributors / distributors etc.

So we, in Tasmania, send our greetings to all who receive "Crossroads News".

In Christ,  
Patsie Schramm



# Bankstown Bulletin

In June we had an excellent sausage sizzle at the Mount St Joseph Girls School, Milperra. The staff and the young ladies of the school turned out in force to entertain our members with activities as well as food.

Our July Hall Night was led for us by The Bankstown Uniting Church Couples Club and was an entertaining night of singing and dancing. This was followed by some games, including a game of "Who am I?"

Also in July it was our annual visit to the 'Gang Show' at the

Riverside Theatre in Parramatta. Everybody always enjoys this day and also the visit to Maccas afterwards.

Our August night was with the Panania Salvation Army. Included in this night was a magician who was very good, except when some of the technology did not quite work. And, as sometimes happens, another game of "Who am I?" In August we also went Ten-Pin Bowling at the Revesby Bowling Alley which is in the Revesby Workers' Club building. This

great day was led for us by Andrew.

At our September Hall night, Cheryl detailed some of her sporting achievements in Tennis and Bocce. This night was run for us by Andrew and the team from the Padstow Baptist Church. This was an interesting trivia night with keen competition between teams to see who won. But I think in the end all received a lolly and enjoyed yet another enjoyable evening!

*Michael*



Right: Michael, Barry, Greg and Warren take part in the trivia night



Above: The magician with the Sallies wonders why this bit of apparatus just would not work



Left: Susan, Cheryl and Ella take part in a game of "Who am I?"

## News From Newcastle

Everything is going along quite well here in Newcastle with regular attendance at our Thursday evening meetings, although we have had some bad weather nights which tends to keep numbers down a little.

We have had further good news financially after obtaining a generous grant from Hunter Uniting Aged Care to help cover our transport costs. We are now in a sound financial position which should cover us for the next two years. This also means that we can now plan more weekend outings and entertainment experiences for our Crossroaders. These have been severely curtailed over the last twelve months due to financial constraints.

Consequently we are organising a Saturday trip for our Crossroaders visiting Morpeth village (where antiques are on the agenda), followed by lunch at McDonalds Raymond Terrace, and then on to Oakvale Farm. It should be a very exciting day for all of us who

are going!!

We are also hoping for at least one outing to a show before the end of the year. It is great to be able to afford these subsidised outings again without worrying about costs.

We trust that all the other branches are continuing successfully with their programs. May the Lord bless you all in your service to him!!

John Mathieson  
President



Above: Morpeth Antique store  
Below: Oakvale Farm



## Crossroads NSW AGM 2016

On Saturday 13th August the Crossroads NSW AGM was held at Grace Christian Church Panania.

A fellowship lunch was held prior to the meeting and it was well attended by many branches including Sydney, Kindilan, Wollongong, Canberra, Tamworth, Shoalhaven, Shellharbour, Bankstown, Kenthurst/ Annangrove and Parramatta. The AGM included all the usual formalities and the election of Officers for the coming year. See the attached table for those who were elected.

The Crossroads NSW AGM for 2017 is to be held on Saturday 29th July with the venue to be confirmed.

### Elected Officers For Crossroads NSW 2016-2017

**Chairman – Len Kingston**

**Secretary – Beth Dodd**

**Treasurer – Pauline Wright**

**Advancement Officer – Vacant**

**Publications Officer – Lesley Gilbert**

**Public Officer – Len Kingston**

**Regional Advancement Officer – Vacant**

**Website Editor – Lesley Gilbert**

**Touring Officer – Lynda Dean**

**Training Officer - vacant**

# Parramatta heads to Wollongong

On Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sept Parramatta Crossroads set out in a small bus and a few cars to Towradgi in Wollongong, for a lovely day out.

The sun was shining brightly as we left and continued as we approached Wollongong. Everyone enjoyed the great view from the top of the mountain as we headed down towards the ocean.

We had a great destination in Towradgi Bowls Club restaurant but better still was the exciting reunion with our old friend Jackie for the day.

Jackie had been one of

Parramatta Branch's hard working volunteers for many years. Many had not seen her for about 6 years as she had moved to Wollongong when she married Paul, 6 years ago. Crossroads had been very fortunate to be invited to her wedding all those years ago and for many that had been the last time they had seen her.

We were welcomed enthusiastically by the staff at the club, who provided us with excellent service on the day. The food was delicious and we all relaxed as we chatted with our great friend.

After lunch we enjoyed a stroll

together along the beach front. The wind had sprung up and the clouds had blown across by the time we said our goodbyes and promised to get together again soon.

We all climbed aboard and headed back to Sydney. To help us along the way we stopped for an ice cream stop halfway, arriving back at 5pm in Rydalmere.

We headed home a little tired but happy. It was a great day that everyone said we should repeat next year.

Until next time

All at Parramatta Branch.



Above: Ray, Jackie and Natalie enjoying the reunion

Above: After lunch, a stroll along the beach front

Below: Graham, John and Darryl relaxing after lunch





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Mudgee  
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Newcastle  
02 4951 8106

Parramatta  
02 9624 3130

Shareability - Canberra  
02 6242 9549

ShellHarbour  
02 4262 0981

Shoalhaven  
02 4423 2525

Southern Highland-  
Bowral  
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Tamworth  
02 6764 4243

Wesley Crossroads  
Fellowship - Sydney  
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Wollongong  
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### Tasmania

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### Victoria

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### Western Australia

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# Farewell From Southern Highlands

Greetings to all.

After much prayer & soul searching we have decided not to continue with Southern Highlands Crossroads. The latter half of last year was a struggle with health issues, clashes with other disability activities, and the fact that we don't live in the area. We were hoping to find someone to take over from us and so kept going as long as we could. However that hasn't happened, so we feel the time has come to close Southern Highlands Crossroads. It has been a joy to serve God in this role and we will miss the Crossroaders but will continue to follow with interest what the branches are doing in the future. Kind regards to all involved with Crossroads. Our prayers are with you all.

God Bless

Sandra & Jim Hefferan x



## Crossroads Sydney

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