



Tiffany and Joy at Uluru

## OUR HOLIDAY TO CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Under the very capable leadership of Linda Dean & her helpers, 38 people in total, coming from as far as Toowoomba & Canberra, set off for Central Australia for a holiday that will have many lasting memories.

After spending a night at the Ibis Airport Hotel we left Sydney in pouring rain. However, it wasn't long before we were back in sunshine as Qantas flew us to Adelaide. One of our passengers enjoyed his first flight in an airplane! From Adelaide Airport we were whisked away to our overnight accommodation before setting off on the Sunday to catch the infamous GHAN train to Alice Springs. What an experience that was with the train three times coming to an abrupt stop due to faulty airbrakes!

It was good to arrive in Alice Springs to be met by our coach driver and personal friend of mine. His name was David and he soon became a good friend to all of us on the coach.

We don't know if we were a blessing or otherwise to Central Australia but it seemed as if the rain followed us everywhere we went. Fortunately, it didn't spoil our fabulous holiday!

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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 \$12.00 per year and are due April.

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 September 2016

## The Chairman's Chat

Phil. 3:14 says: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Someone said, "A life without a goal is like the captain of a ship without a map and a compass. His ship will just drift aimlessly from day to day hoping to arrive somewhere". As we see in the verse above, the apostle Paul set for himself a goal! He pressed forward in search for his goal - he pressed toward the mark of the high calling in Messiah! He had a clear direction of where he was going and he was focused on the Lord!

I have some goals I would like to share with you and even invite you to make some of these your own! The first is to increase my Faith because, as the Word of God says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Faith is acting on what God says at the risk of rejection, failure, being labelled a fool, and in spite of your doubts and fears. I want to be a MAN OF FAITH – do you?

Then I want to increase doing good and sharing blessings with others because again the Bible says, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16. If doing good and sharing blessings makes God happy then wouldn't this be a great goal to have?

By setting a goal, we are making a decision to act. We are providing ourselves a map and depending on the Lord to be our compass - to provide the direction He wants us to go! A goal is more than a dream. It's a dream acted upon. It's not saying "oh, I wish I could", it's declaring what we want to do for the Lord. It's a declaration of faith!

Let's make our lives interesting. Let's set for ourselves a goal! Let's make a clear declaration of faith, saying "This is what I am going to do for the Lord and then press forward!" I can't wait to see where the Lord will take us!

Len Kingston

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## News From Newcastle

Newcastle Crossroads is powering along quite well this year even though we have had some very late cancellations from entertainers due to ill health and other reasons. We always manage to provide a good program for our evenings entertainment despite these last minute problems.

We recently had the Cardiff Northlakes Brass Band provide a wonderful musical program followed by the Cardiff Heights Baptist Church the next Thursday evening. The latter made Crossroads the part recipient of their 50th. Anniversary Celebration Thank Offering last weekend providing us with nearly

\$3000.00. How wonderful!

It never rains but it pours. The Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) has also donated several thousand dollars over the next two years to help us with our quite expensive transport costs, which take up most of our budget. Well it seems our financial problems are taken care of for the next year or two, praise the Lord!!

We are hoping to also provide some good outings for our Crossroaders as these have been on hold for some time now.

I have attached a photo of the many recipients of the NCIG charity program amongst whom are our Treasurer, Warren Dalton (2nd. from right front row), and our Transport Co-ordinator Michael Perkins (2nd. from left back row) . We trust that all the other branches are progressing well with their programs. May God bless you all as you continue to serve him through Crossroads.

John Mathieson - President





# Shoalhaven Update

Here in the Shoalhaven we continue to enjoy getting together on the second Friday each month.

In our June TAG (Thinking about God) time we thought about how to be a good friend. We can pray for our friends, we don't say or do things that will hurt our friends and we can give good advice. *Proverbs 16: 28 says "Troublemakers are always causing problems, their gossip breaks up the closest of friends"*

There was a very special event that took place in April-The Wedding of John and Glenda.

John and Glenda, who both attend Shoalhaven Crossroads, met about 5 years ago when they were both working at Flagstaff Industries in North Nowra. They were friends for a few years then became good friends then they decided that they wanted to get married. They talked about getting married for some time and their families could see that they were serious about their relationship as well as both having a love of art and painting.

John proposed to Glenda on the bus stop on Illaroo Road, North Nowra. The marriage took place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at John's family home north of Berry. There were ten in the wedding party. Glenda

wore a traditional bridal gown and John and his groomsmen looked amazing in their suits and gold bow ties.

It was a glorious day and a joyous occasion. John's sister Pip, a marriage celebrant performed the ceremony and 120 family and friends witnessed the event and the scrumptious wedding banquet followed. There was a lot of fun too with a photo booth, speeches and dancing.

John and Glenda have settled in North Nowra. They are supported by Catholic Care and HWNS as they both have Active Ageing support packages.



## From The Editor

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Crossroads NSW News. I trust that you are staying warm and keeping well.

This is another great collection of updates from the branches. Read about the exciting trip to Uluru with Sydney Crossroads, and about the joyous news of the marriage of John and Glenda from Shoalhaven Crossroads. Also read about the Tasmanian get together and the variety of activities in Bankstown and Parramatta. You can also catch up on what has been happening in Tamworth and Newcastle and all of their exciting news.

I would also like to bring your attention to the Crossroads NSW AGM which is being held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August at Panania Uniting Church. Have a look at page 7 for all of the details. It would be great to see you there and it is a good way for you to show your support of Crossroads.

Take time to sit down and rest with this edition. Be encouraged by the great news from the branches and be inspired to pray that God will continue to bless Crossroads.

God Bless  
Lesley Gilbert





# Our Holiday To Central Australia

*Continued from page 1*

Each morning, David would pick us up from the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel (a very swanky establishment) to escort us to many of the world famous sights around Alice Springs including Uluru, Simpsons Gap, Ormiston Gorge as well as many other well-known local landmarks.

Like all holidays, the time seemed to fly by before once again we were heading to an airport to come home! The holiday was given a 'thumbs up' and appreciated by all who went.

The next two holidays planned by Crossroads Sydney will be to Disneyland next January

(bookings close August), and then in August 2017, a 12 day cruise on the Carnival Spirit to Fiji and back to Sydney. Bookings are now open for this

holiday also.

Hope to see you on one of our exciting ventures.

Len Kingston



Left: Tour leader Lynda with Nadine

## Parramatta Update

Since we last gave an update, Parramatta Crossroaders enjoyed a day out in April to Manly. Despite the less than perfect weather, the crossing of Sydney Heads was an exciting adventure and lunch in the warm and dry pub was extra welcoming. It was a good day of fellowship together and very tasty food.

In May and June, our hall meetings were great get togethers. We continued to hear from God's Word about our best friend Jesus and the wonderful gift of eternal life that He offers to all who have faith in Him. We also thought about how we can tell our friends about Jesus so that they too can know Him as their best friend.

At our last few meetings we have also welcomed some new members and new helpers and look forward to meeting some

more new people when we next get together in July.

God Bless  
from all at Parramatta



Above Left: Scott and Wayne smiling despite the weather



Above Right: Christine on the Manly ferry



Left: Phillip enjoying the ferry ride



Below: Phillip and Natalie also relaxing on the ferry



# Reflections On the Holiday to Alice Springs

## Jennie



“What an eye-opener and experience of a lifetime,” said Jennie as she reflected on all that she had seen on the holiday. Visiting all the sights our great coach driver was able to show us including Flynn’s grave, Simpsons Gap, the Ochre Pits where indigenous tribes still collect ochre for rock and body painting,

the beautiful Ormiston Gorge just to name some of the places seen.

Another great thing about the holiday for her was meeting and making new friends – something Jennie was able to do very naturally! Having never slept on a train before, she said she could recommend the experience to others since travelling on the world famous GHAN overnight from Adelaide.



## Joe

Joe lives at Ryde and his very first holiday with Crossroads was to Canberra. He enjoyed it so much that he decided he would try and go on other tours so when the holiday to Central Australia was advertised he was already sold!

“Was it worth it?” he was asked. Joe replied enthusiastically that everything was great! He loved the experience on the GHAN, the train that took us from Adelaide to Alice Springs. He loved the hotel we stayed in and he most definitely loved ULURU!

When asked if he was considering any other holidays he already had in mind Disneyland this coming January as well as the cruise to Fiji in August 2017.

## Lee



Lee has been on many holidays with Crossroads and loves the fact that we always include daily devotions when we go away. Lee also said that every thing about this holiday to Alice Springs was enjoyable. She appreciated the care provided by leaders as well as the attention to details if anyone was sick. The next holiday Lee is looking forward to

attending is the cruise in 2017.



## Paul

Paul is one of those people for whom it is a pleasure to take away on a holiday (like all the other people) - his friendly and cheerful disposition makes him a very likeable person. This holiday provided for him a FIRST as it was his first ever time in an airplane! Like many others he really appreciated seeing ULURU (Ayers Rock) close up and personal!



## Cathy

It's always good to get an opinion from a 'First Time Traveler' and Cathy, a friend of Lee's, stated that she enjoyed the friendship of everyone on the holiday. Cathy also appreciated the care of her helper and she said that this would not be the last time we saw her.



## News From Tasmania

Over the weekend of 15 - 17 April, **86 CROSSROADERS** shared some very special times together checking out the tourist spectacles of the southern peninsula of our state, Tasmania.

**Crossroaders** left their homes about lunchtime on Friday and travelled by bus (or ability taxi if you came from Hobart) to gather in Richmond for dinner and reconnect with lots of friends from around the state. Folk came from Wynyard, Ulverstone, Launceston and Hobart to join together for a weekend of fun and fellowship.

On Saturday we left our Airport hotel early and travelled by bus to Port Arthur via the Tasman

Arch and 'Do' town – where we had our chuckles! Arriving at Port Arthur we were treated like kings and queens as the management helped make the day the best it could be for us all (really fine weather also helped) as we were shown the sites either by strolling around or getting rides in the Port Arthur buggy. The cruise around the harbour was a highlight for many while for others it was the lovely lunch and attention we were given. Many of us were tired as we got back to our hotel – but not too tired to check out the footy scores and get ourselves decked out in our finest to climb on our buses again for our evening dinner and night-time

entertainment. We were really well cared for at dinner by all the folk at Hatcher's Manor and then ecstatically entertained by an acrobatic pair – PopEye and Son. They were great contortionists with the most amazing movements and funny behaviours. Our laughter and noise brought in the staff and other guests to enjoy what this pair had to offer. A really great night.

Sunday morning saw us back at Hatcher's for breakfast and some time checking out the farm animals. Heather Cowled led us in worship reminding us of God's love and care for us all as he continues to be our 'Good Shepherd'. After lunch it was time for heading home.

Tired, but content that we could share with so many blessings that God offers us - in each other's company and in Tasmania's beautiful scenery.

Janet Day



## Tamworth Times

It's the first Thursday of the month and there's a buzz of excitement at the Baptist Church.

This is Crossroads night with a feast of games, singing, craft, story, supper and there's always a whole lot of laughter.

Last Thursday, the theme was Abraham. After a hotly contested round of carpet bowls, Steve Lalor recounted the story of Abraham, complete with song and even a little dance.

Belinda showed pictures of the family trip to the Gold Coast, courtesy of the Starlight Foundation. Craft tonight was decorating star-shaped biscuits with 100's & 1000's because that's how many descendants God promised Abraham, followed by a yummy supper, then we packed into the bus and home.

You get the feeling that we're



all friends and it's all right to be you. There's a freedom to participate and everyone cheers when you succeed.

The helpers reckon they have as much fun as the members and everyone leaves uplifted

Howard Barnes



# Bankstown Bulletin

Our April Hall Night was led for us by Susan Curd, one of our resident chaplains, and it was an exciting night of group games, most of which were won by either Paul and his team, or Scott and his team! Our May night was run for us by the girls from Mount St Joseph Milperra Girls School with craft activities which included the making of Mother's Day cards.

The June Hall Night included a number of games run for us by the LifeGate Church, Padstow,

this included a memory test for the devotion period. The group were asked if they remembered names, numbers and sizes as they went through the story of David and Goliath.

In March we enjoyed an outing on the train to the movies at Campbelltown. In April we went to Putt-Putt Golf and Chris was so happy to get a hole-in-one. In May it was a train trip with the light rail from Town Hall to Dulwich Hill and

back, with a stopover for lunch at Darling Harbour.

One sad point in our lives was in May with the sudden passing of Darryl Pendlebury. Darryl was one of our most dedicated of members and scarcely missed a Hall Night or outing. He was a very caring person, always concerned about the welfare of others. He was well respected at Crossroads and will be greatly missed.

Michael Smith



Left: Susan directs the teams



Above: Lenka and Jenny watch Chris get his hole-in-one



Left: Members having a great day at the Putt-Putt golf

**NSW Crossroads AGM** will be held on  
Saturday 13th August  
at **Panania Uniting Church (Grace Christian Church)**  
206 Marco Avenue  
Panania 2213

We will meet for a *BYO to share* fellowship lunch together from  
**12 mid-day to 1:30**

Over this time we will catch up with one another, hear reports  
from the branches and think together about the future.

The **AGM** will then follow at **1:30** and should finish before **3pm**.

**Branch Annual Reports Due!**

Return to:  
The Secretary  
NSW Crossroads  
PO Box 3132  
North Nowra 2541

or email

Secretary  
[doddery@bigpond.net.au](mailto:doddery@bigpond.net.au)



## Crossroads Branches

Annangrove / Kenthurst  
02 4587 8841

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  
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Parramatta  
02 9624 3130

Shareability - Canberra  
02 6242 9549

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Shoalhaven  
02 4423 2525

Southern Highland-  
Bowral  
02 4421 5129

Tamworth  
02 6764 4243

Wesley Crossroads  
Fellowship - Sydney  
02 9263 5555

Wollongong  
02 4225 3436

## STATE OFFICES

### NSW

02 9980 8911

### Queensland

07 3229 9011

### Tasmania

03 6431 2289

### Victoria

03 9808 3677

### Western Australia

08 9380 9427

## Once Again We are off to Disneyland Anaheim, America January 17th - 29th 2017



Owing to popular demand we have planned another holiday to America visiting Disneyland and other great sites.

You will need a current Passport and Travel Insurance for this holiday which starts in Sydney the night before we leave. Meeting around 4:00 p.m. at a Sydney Airport Hotel on the 17th January you will be introduced to your carer and then the opportunity to meet all your travelling companions at Dinner. Following breakfast the next morning, we head off to the International Terminal for our flight to the USA with Virgin Australia arriving in America where we will be staying at the Marriott Springhill Suites 1160 West Ball Road, Anaheim. This holiday requires a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 40 travellers with a 1 to five carer ratio unless otherwise advised.

All meals are included

If you enjoy shopping you will not be disappointed!

**\$5975.00**

Crossroads Sydney is a Member  
Branch of Crossroads Christian  
Fellowship NSW Inc  
ABN 90 070 601 357

Level of care determined by organisers

### What This Holiday Provides

All Meals; Twin or Triple share accommodation (single supplement available); Carer Oversight; Economy airline seat (unless otherwise requested); All entry fees/taxes; All coach travel; Visa; Breakfast with Disneyland characters; 5 Day Entry Pass into Disneyland & Adventureland; Great Outlet Shopping.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE 31ST AUGUST 2016**

**It's Cruising Time again with Crossroads Sydney,  
August 20 - September 2, 2017**

**12 Day  
Holiday**

**Cost  
\$3825\***



### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is on a twin/triple or quad share basis in a **Balcony Cabin**

**COIN OPERATED  
WASHING FACILITIES  
AVAILABLE FOR DAILY  
USE ON THIS SHIP**

**For both of these holidays..**

Contact: Rev. Len Kingston

Crossroads Sydney PO Box 143 Narellan 2567 NSW

Mobile: 0408241020 email: [lenkingston@gmail.com](mailto:lenkingston@gmail.com)

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Checker: Chris Gilbert

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Email address for the Crossroads News:

[news@crossroadsfellowship.org.au](mailto:news@crossroadsfellowship.org.au)

Telephone: 02 9980 8911

Postal Address: PO BOX 3132, North Nowra, NSW 2541

Web: <http://www.crossroadsfellowship.org.au>

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