



Joan and Beverly with a friend

Narellan Christmas Party

For the thirteenth time, the Narellan Community Congregational Church once again organised a wonderful afternoon of fun, food & fellowship on Saturday 22nd November to which over seventy Crossroaders and friends attended with everyone leaving with a gift from Santa & a reminder of the true meaning of the season!

As people started to arrive around noon the excitement built up as old friends from different parts of Sydney met again to renew acquaintances. The team from the Narellan church then conducted games which everyone enjoyed and this was followed by a scrumptious lunch. With everyone feeling very full it was then time to return to the main hall for a sing-along of favourite carols and a brief message.

This was all topped off with a visit from someone who could have been the real Santa as he had a long white beard, looked the right shape, and

Continued page 4



Inside this issue

Narellan Christmas Party.....	1
Chairman's Chat & Newcastle.....	2
Southern Highlands & Lismore & From The Editor.....	3
Narellan Christmas Party cont & Tamworth.....	4
Shoalhaven & Tasmania.....	5
Bankstown & Shellharbour.....	6
Dubbo, Parramatta, & Annangrove/Kenthurst.....	7
Croaroads News Letter & Sydney Crossroads Cruise Advert.....	8

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 Summer Newsletter to Editor by 6th March 2015



This colour edition of Crossroads News has been generously sponsored by Snap Castle Hill. 9680 1858

The Chairman's Chat

As many of are aware, Christmas has taken on so many other things over the years. We have the story of Santa - we have the gift giving which everyone seems to love! Now these things aren't bad in themselves, as the gift giving started with the Wise Men. But it can take away from the real meaning of Christmas - what is Christmas really all about.



Unfortunately, for many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. There is no extra money to buy presents for children, family, or friends. Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Big dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, for all of us, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

I am sure you are aware that the events leading up to the birth of Christ weren't coincidental, but were put in place by God, so that the prophecies of old would be fulfilled, in Isaiah 7: 13-14; Isaiah 9: 6-7; Micah 5: 2-5. The birth of Jesus, while Joseph & Mary were in Bethlehem, was orchestrated by God. Out of Bethlehem, a small town in the City of David, came the Messiah!

This event was the beginning of something so incredible. Jesus Christ left His throne in glory and took on human form just to bring us reconciliation to our Father God. He came into the world, miraculously conceived, and then born as all humans are. He was first a baby, then became a toddler, then grew into a child and went through adolescence before becoming an adult. He experienced humanity at all levels. He truly can identify with all people at all stages of life.

This very first Christmas, God gave the greatest gift ever. His Son! And His Son gave the gift of His life - which was why He came. Because of this, we can have relationship with God as His children. Through Jesus Christ, we are Sons and Daughters of the Most High God.

So this Christmas, bear in mind the 'True' Christmas story for this event has the ability to change our lives forever!

No matter how 'secular' the world is becoming, disregarding the truth of Christmas, let us boldly proclaim the truth about the birth of Jesus as the reason for the season.

Let us claim 'CHRISTmas' back!

Len Kingston

News from Newcastle

Newcastle Crossroads finished for the year on November 27 with our Christmas Service and Party. It was a great night with good food and drinks and a visit from the man in red who distributed small gifts for all the Crossroaders present, much to their delight.



On a sadder note we have had the retirement of three of our long time helpers, Elaine Coffee, Pat Cleary and Gary Burnham, all with a service of around thirty years. You can imagine how they will be missed. Pat and Elaine worked the kitchen and Gary was bus driver and Transport co-ordinator.

As you can see our volunteer base is becoming quite critical so please



remember Newcastle Crossroads in your prayers.

Our very best wishes to all branches over the Christmas break!!

John Mathieson - President

Southern Highlands Update

Hi to all our friends at Crossroads at this wonderful time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Although it's a very busy time with lots of things going on it's good to remember what Christmas is all about.

We have had lots of fun this year at Bowral.

In October the Christian motorcycle group came and played games, sang, and told us about being happy, sad, angry, and afraid and how God knows and understands how we feel and sends friends to help us. We looked at the motorbikes and had our photos taken. We really enjoyed them coming to see us.

In November we played board games including Bingo and made lunch and finished with an ice cream cone.

In December we enjoyed our Christmas party. We decorated star biscuits and made gift tags then danced to the Macarena. We ate Christmas lunch and played Christmas Carols - it was a lovely way to finish the year.



From top left clockwise:
Jodie, Claire,
Miriam, and
Louise



We send greetings to you all and pray you will have a wonderful Christmas and a happy healthy 2015. God Bless from all of us at Bowral

From The Editor

Christmas is almost here. If you are anything like me then it may not feel like it is Christmas at all.

You may be very busy, or sick, or lonely. You may have a mountain of work to do and not be sure how you will get it all done.

Thankfully the joy of Christmas is not dependent upon how we feel. Thankfully the message of great joy is for everyone regardless of whether we feel joyful or not.

Christmas is the time to remember that God loves us so much that he sent his Son Jesus, as a tiny baby. His love did not stop there—he gave his Son to suffer and die in our place that we might have Life Eternal in all its fullness.

So this Christmas remember with joy the Father's great love for us and share that love with all you meet.

Enjoy this jam packed edition with news from 10 branches and Tasmania too.

Merry Christmas

Until next time
Lesley Gilbert



News From Lismore

At the end of each month we have a dance/disco and all thoroughly enjoy it. We draw an average of 60 people from Lismore, Ballina, Casino and surrounding areas to each dance.



Hope everybody has a happy and safe Christmas.



Marilyn and Graham

At the end of each year we have a camp at the Fitness Camp at Lennox Head and this year we took 28 campers and 10 carers and we all had a fantastic time.



Narellan Christmas Party

Continued from page 1

Below: Enjoying a delicious feast

said he lived in Australia for most of the year because the North Pole was too cold for him!!

A big 'Thank you' to the people of the church for providing such a wonderful day!

Len



Bandy with Santa (left) and Sue(right)



Tamworth Tidings

Greetings from Tamworth of the "stormy summer". We are at present experiencing lots of thunder storms, lightening and gusty winds, but the Lord has sent us much needed rain after drought conditions.

At Tamworth Crossroads last week we celebrated the completion of our activities for the year 2014 with a formal Christmas Dinner. We have had these every second year, catered for by the Baptist Church ladies. What a feast! Guest speaker, Rev Allan Beaver, assisted by his muppet puppet, helped us to understand more about Jesus, God's gift to us.

Throughout 2014 under the leadership of Chairman Geoff Turnbull and his wife Jillian,

our monthly programs have been conducted by several different Tamworth church teams. Craft, singing, games and devotions followed by supper make up our regular evenings. The theme for the year has been "God is faithful and worthy of our trust". Old Testament stories were brought to life by creative actors during devotion time.

Earlier in the year we had a

special treat – a visit by Peter Halyburton from Newcastle. Peter and his wife Julie had started the Tamworth Crossroads Fellowship over 25 years before. Some of the Crossroaders remembered the Halyburtons. Julie's father, Hilton Hayes, had been involved in starting the original Crossroads movement. The Crossroaders are looking forward to 2015 with more and

varied activities, as we together learn to serve Jesus.

Geoff



Proudly displaying their craft

Greetings From Shoalhaven

Shoalhaven Crossroads wishes all branches a very happy Christmas.



The end of 2014 went well for us – the October meeting was a music night with help from the Salvation Army and in November the Talent Quest brought out some repeat performances of ABBA!

Some of our members were selected to participate in a 'live in' art workshop for three days at Bundanon, the home of Arthur Boyd that he left to the Australian people. The project was jointly

funded by Accessible Arts and Dept of Ageing Disability and Home Care in conjunction with 'Don't Dis my ABILITY'. Keith Rutherford, a visually impaired artist led the workshop and the works created are now in a 2 week exhibition in the Shoalhaven Library. The 13 participants had a wonderful full time; the experience of living together, the moving out of your comfort zone and learning another method of creating an art work left each one with an unforgettable memory.

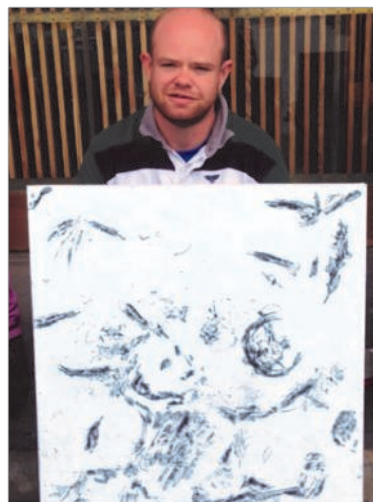


View from Riversdale / Bundanon

Shoalhaven Crossroads will run differently next year – some of the regular monthly meetings on Friday nights will be replaced with a social evening, picnic or other event. Some people don't like change, so we hope that the changes will be embraced by all members.

It is good to be reminded that Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) All may change but Jesus never does, glory to his name.

Beth
Dodd



Lee with
his
artwork

News from Tasmania

Members from Hobart, North & South Launceston, Devonport & Burnie Branches gathered on 15th November for our Tasmanian State Crossroads Rally at Evandale, near Launceston. Rev. David Webster gathered in members from various Branches to mime, while he told the Christmas Story, and of course, we sang a Christmas Carol together.

One of the local Uniting Church people rounded up the owners and families of people who owned a variety of bicycles – a full size and a child size Penny Farthing, a Unicycle, a very decorative 3-wheeled Malaysian Rickshaw, a Unicycle (one wheel) and an early wooden bicycle. The riders all donned various coloured balloons and Crossroaders waved the appropriate coloured streamers



as they yelled and encouraged their choice of bicycle – all of which raced around the Oval (photo above). Even the Unicycle rider was still sitting about 2 metres above the ground when the race finished; perfect balance!

Crossroaders shared a BBQ lunch together (provided by the local Rotary Club) before moving to the nearby Evandale Light Railway & Steam Society for a ride – or two – or three on one or other of

the one steam and two diesel miniature Railway Engines. The owners took great delight in driving their little engines & sit-astiride carriages as many times as Crossroaders wanted to go for a ride (photo below) – until it was time to say farewell and board buses for the journey home. Thank you God, for a perfect day - for all the willing helpers and for a successful Day Rally.

Patsie



Bankstown Bulletin

On 4th October we held our AGM Hall Night. Val did a great job of leading us in our choruses. This was followed by "news" and the Birthday Cake. Val then led us in a game she played and learned on a cruise ship in Russia. With the fun over we moved on to the serious business of the AGM.

The Rev. Rob Rutzou then took over to lead us in our devotions. He reminded us that while we were having a happy time now, we are not happy at all times

during our life. The Bible uses the word 'joy' for happiness and if we have the joy of knowing Jesus in our heart then our joy is complete. It is there at all times and forever.

On 18th October, thirty one excited Crossroaders went for a trip to the Blue Mountains. The day started with a sombre note as Michael informed the passengers of the passing of our dear member Cyril McColough following a stroke. Michael led the passengers in a prayer for

Cyril's journey to be with his Lord, and for Cyril's family as they go through the grieving period.

The coach left and travelled to Blaxland for morning tea. Then we travelled on to Govetts Leap to admire the view, then through Blackheath to Mount Victoria where we stopped for lunch. We returned to Padstow via the scenic Bells Line of Road. Everybody enjoyed the day and our thanks go to our wonderful driver, Merv.

Bill Edwards

Vale Cyril McColough

Cyril was the News Reporter for Bankstown City Crossroads and had been a member for about 20 years. Cyril passed away from the effects of a stroke on 14th October 2014, he was 88 years old.

Cyril attended all Hall Nights and Outings and produced a comprehensive report of each event. His Hall Night reports were particularly detailed with the names of all the students who attended from the Mount St Joseph School, as well as all the activities that occurred during the night. He also attended all the outings as a carer/helper as well as completing his report of the day's activity.

Cyril was the comedian of the leadership team, well known for his one-liners, and when someone pronounced his name as "Squirrel" he was willing to accept that as his nickname from then on.

He was loved by all and will be sadly missed.



Michael Smith

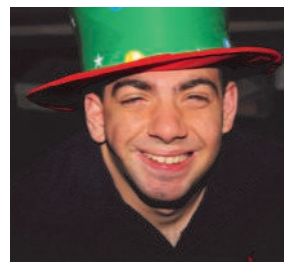
Snippets From Shellharbour

Shellharbour Branch, had a blessed gathering for Christmas this year, it was held at the Salvation Army Citadel.

We had 65 people and a delicious Buffet roast dinner was served by our lovely volunteers Conny, Shaniya, Michelle, Graeme, Denise, Louisa, Anne, and Faye

Scott Matthews opened in prayer and told the Christmas story, along with Conny who spoke on the biblical story of the Candy Cane.

Merry Christmas form all at Shellharbour



From Top Left (Clockwise) Tiffany, John, Shane, Scott and Marina all enjoying the Christmas party with visitor Chris Kelly KRINGLE and everyone enjoying the feast.



What's Happening In Dubbo

We have had a wonderful year here in Dubbo.

Our evenings together have been times of fun, fellowship and learning.

At our Christmas get together we were again reminded of God's gift of Jesus.

Everyone made a decoration of the Christmas story.

We wish all our Crossroads friends a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Robyn Stack

Right:
Malcolm
showing his
craft



Right:
Samantha
and
Stephen



Below: Janelle showing
the finished craft



Left: (Left to
right.)
Sharon,
Mark, Paul,
Matthew,
Chrissy

News From Parramatta

On Sat 13th December, friends, both old and new, joined to celebrate Christmas at the Parramatta Branch Annual Party and Carols. We had great fun making Jesus Christmas crackers and a Christmas card for another Crossroads member. We sang carols together and listened to the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of Jesus. Of course we enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by all of our hardworking volunteers.

We then gathered with the local community in a nearby school for Carols run by Dundas Anglican Church.

We would like to wish all other Crossroads groups a Merry Christmas.

Lesley and all at
Parramatta Branch



Above Left: John proudly showing his card
Above Right: Philip singing carols



Below Left to right: Scott, Phillip, John,
Wayne, Darryl, and Derek around the tree



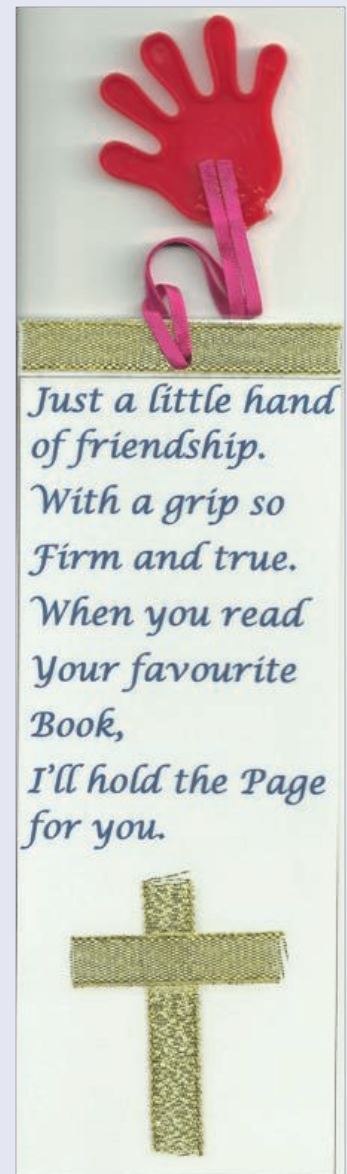
Update From Annangrove/ Kenthurst

Greetings to all the Crossroads Groups.

The other evening we had our sing-a-long, where our people love to entertain our friends. This year the shepherds even had a real dog as we had a beautiful poem about a dog at Bethlehem.

Wishing all a Happy and Holy Christmas from all at Annangrove Kenthurst

(Below is a bookmark that we made as gifts for all of our guests.)



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
02 4951 8106

Parramatta
02 9624 3130

Shareability - Canberra
02 6242 9549

ShellHarbour
02 4262 0981

Shoalhaven
02 4423 2525

Southern Highlands—Bowral
02 4421 5129

Tamworth
02 6764 4243

Wesley Crossroads
Fellowship - Sydney
02 9267 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

Dear Crossroads News

Thank you for again giving us the copy of Crossroads News. As usual, we have not put it down until we have read it from cover to cover! Everyone mentioned and seen in the News is so happy and contented with all they see, read and do. God bless each of you as you go to so much trouble to make your News so interesting for everyone.

I wish all of you every grace and blessing for the remainder of this year and for next year. God bless and keep each one of you. We pray for you and ask that you pray for us.

Sincerely The Carmelite Nuns Varroville NSW



It's Cruising Time with Crossroads Sydney, July 31 - August 18, 2015

Cost: \$5,500



Sailing from Sydney on August 1, 2015 to Singapore on the beautiful Carnival Spirit and visiting Brisbane, Airlie Beach, Darwin, Lombok, Bali, before arriving in Singapore on the 15th August. This holiday does not insurance (unless otherwise advised), all meals, accommodation & travel! A \$1,000 deposit is required no later than January 31st, 2015 to secure a place for this holiday.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is on a twin share basis in an Interior Cabin

(Single supplement is available on request)

**YES, I WANT TO BE PART OF THE 2015 CROSSROADS HOLIDAY TO SINGAPORE ON THE CARNIVAL CRUISE
JULY 31ST 2015 & RETURNING TO SYDNEY BY AIR AUGUST 18, 2015
I ENCLOSE A DEPOSIT/FULL PAYMENT OF \$1000 OR \$5500
(Please make cheque payable to Crossroads Sydney)
Deposit/Full Payment by January 2015 Balance by May 2015**

RETURN FORM TO:

CROSSROADS SYDNEY. PO BOX 143, NARELLAN 2567 NSW

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

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.

Editor: Lesley Gilbert

Checker: Chris Gilbert

Production: Microsoft Office Publisher 2007

Email address for the Crossroads News:

news@crossroadsfellowship.org.au

Telephone: 02 9980 8911

Postal Address: 2B Azalea Grove, Pennant Hills NSW 2120

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

The views expressed in Crossroads News are not necessarily those of the Editor or Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc. The right is reserved to reject or amend any article or advertisement.