



Crossroads News

The Official Journal of
Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.

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Cardiff Northlakes Brass Band

News From Newcastle

Newcastle Crossroads is continuing to bounce along with good attendances despite the very cold weather we have been experiencing lately. Fortunately the flu does not seem to have affected many of our Crossroaders so far this winter, and we are hoping that everyone remains well.

One of the highlights for the year at our Thursday evening entertainment meetings is the appearance of the Cardiff Northlakes Brass Band. This wonderful band comes twice each year at the invitation of the Garden Suburbs Uniting Church and provides us with an excellent musical program. The Crossroaders love to march around in time to the music and thoroughly enjoy themselves. One of our Crossroaders, David, is even given the honour of conducting the band for a brief period.

We hope to be providing subsidised tickets to the musical Mary Poppins next month which will be put on by the Newcastle Metropolitan Players. Our Crossroaders are always very keen to attend good musicals so we hope our finances can manage the outing.

We hope that all the other branches are doing well.

God Bless
John Mathieson - President

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Milne Alexander



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Crossroads Christian
Fellowship NSW Inc.

A Ministry advocating for and
involving people with Disabilities
Established 1961
ABN 90 070 601 357

Items for Spring Newsletter
to Editor by 10th September 2015

The Chairman's Chat

It's winter time - a time which is unpleasant to many because of the cold days and long dark nights - and even for some of you, the frost and snow which are all an indispensable part of life in this season. But the truth is that without winter, spring and summer wouldn't be what they are! Our Heavenly Father has arranged the seasons all for a good reason.



There are seasons in our lives too and we often have difficulties in understanding why they are there. Why do we have to pass through winters with barren branches and frozen ground, times without flowers and fruit, without singing and joy? Why? It's good to learn from the way nature works, because He who created us also created nature, and through His works we can better understand Him, and His ways.

Winter is preparation for new flowers and new fruit. Under the snow, in the unseen depths something is going on. It's only on the surface that it looks barren. Under the surface, life is active and stirring! Roots are filling up with nourishment, and buds are bracing themselves for spring. In late winter it only takes a sunny day, and you see how the buds begin to break forth! They were ready for it.

So, if you're in a winter season in your life right now, it's not the end! After winter, comes spring. All part of God's plans for His children. Be prepared, one day you'll suddenly become aware of an irresistible pull in your spirit that tells you winter is past, and the time for singing is upon you again.

Len Kingston

Creativity in Dubbo

Each year in Dubbo there is an Art Exhibition called "Waste to Art". The annual community-based art competition encourages people to look at creative ways to reuse resources that would normally be thrown away. The Waste to Art competition is open to everyone of all skill levels.

This is artwork (below) we contributed to the "Waste to Art" exhibition titled "Nature's Best". We used recycled materials to create something beautiful.

The various pieces were made at our Crossroads evening and put together by Julie who is part of the Uniting Church team who help us each year at Crossroads. We received a Certificate of Commendation from the judges.

Robyn



Left: Julie at the opening of "Waste To Art"



Right: Crossroads' entry "Nature's Best"

Snippets From the Southern Highlands

Greetings to all our Crossroads friends.

We have been enjoying lots of fun here in the Highlands. Although it is very chilly outside, it's warm and cosy indoors and we have enjoyed doing lots of craft and cooking.

In April we celebrated Easter. We had a colouring-in competition with prizes for the most colourful, the neatest and the brightest and also all had a delicious chocolate treat. In May we made name badges and decorated them with colourful tape. We also made zucchini and corn fritters for lunch with salad and cut up fruit for dessert.

This month we made baked apples which we ate after our pasta bake. We had fun coring the apples and filling them with dates, sultanas and brown sugar - they were very yummy! We danced to great music and enjoyed chatting with each other.

We have had some new people join us - a new helper called Cheryl and a new Crossroader called Gloria. We welcome them both to our group.

We look forward to hearing what our friends at the other Branches are doing and being able to catch up with some of you at the Blue Mountains at our AGM in August.

Love and Blessings to all of you
from Sandra and Jim x



Above and Below:
Fun in the Southern Highlands



From The Editor

In June, at Parramatta Branch, we enjoyed our second annual Footy night where everyone came dressed in their favourite team colours. We had a great time making footy shirt boxes and playing games testing our knowledge of team mascots and team captains.

We thought about how living for Jesus is very like playing a game or running a race. We thought about how we need to persevere to the very end if we want to win the prize of life forever with Jesus.

We also talked about a faithful Crossroads' helper, Frank, who was nearing the end of his race and how he would soon meet his Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Today, Friday 17th July, was Frank's funeral. He is now home with Jesus and he has been given his victor's crown for following Jesus to his life's end.



May we all be like Frank, so that we too may one day hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



Until Next Time
Lesley Gilbert

ADVANCE NOTICE

Get ready for a holiday on the famous Ghan train leaving from Adelaide to Alice Springs next May (2016)

For more information contact:
Rev. Len Kingston (0408241020)
Or Peter & Lynda Dean (0409772653)
(0432201897)

Shoalhaven Sharing God's Love

On 12th June Shoalhaven Crossroads split into two groups.

Hennie led one of the groups and went with her husband Peter, her guitar, Shona and 8 Crossroaders to minister in music to the residents of a Group Home.

Hennie writes....

It was such a privilege to be invited to Wallace St. Group home to share in music, fun and fellowship. As it was a new home, Peter was asked to pray a blessing over the home:

Bless this home oh Lord we pray, keep it safe by night and day.

Make each person firm and strong, help all residents know they belong.

Bless all living and working here, give them guidance love and cheer.

May all live a Godly life, free from selfishness and strife.

Bless all families represented here, may they be to all most dear.

May our lives before them be, such as makes all move like thee

Bless and guide us all we

pray, Keep us safe both night and day...

So that all together we may be, happy and blessed, at peace with thee!

It was a positive and wonderful time together.



Above: Hennie and Shona leading singing



Above: Listening to the beautiful singing and prayer



Right: and below Crossroaders singing along



Beth led the second group and she writes.....

The other 60 of us had a games night at Nowra Baptist Church. We enjoyed our usual games and activities – carpet bowls, bunco bowls, skittles, giant jenga, quoits and bobs, we also set up table games and a small group made pizzas in the kitchen.

We had a dance before settling to listen to TAG (Thinking about God) time when we thought about being part of a community, God's community. Psalm 133:1 Oh how wonderful, how pleasing it is when God's people all come together as one.

News From Mudgee

On the 14th February, members gathered under the shady trees in Blackmans garden for morning tea. That was followed by a walk to the Markets in Lawson Park to look at all the different stalls displaying food, craft, clothing, homeware and even a baby goat. Walking back along the pathway beside the river was delightful and for some people the first time they'd seen the fantastic new swinging bridge. A picnic lunch at Drapers' home then a tour of China thanks to Graham and his great photos completed a very pleasant day for all.

Saturday 7th March was a glorious Autumn day for members attending the Health & Fitness Festival in Lawson Park. The Circus acts, dance classes and gym displays were a great attraction along with the

Dragon Boat on the river. Special thanks to Renae, Jennie, Alison and Kate who helped with the Crossroads stand. The photo display showed Crossroads members participating in various fitness activities including use of the equipment in Lawson Park.

On Saturday, 14th March, twenty six people enjoyed a Crossroads outing and dinner at the Chinese restaurant. It was a good time to meet new people and catch up with some old friends. Cindy's beautifully braided hair was the envy of everyone. Thanks to Andrea for booking the restaurant and making sure everyone had a good night.

Fellowship teas on the first Sunday night of the month have been very well attended and members are grateful for the

effort put in by Vera, Margaret, Mary, Helen, Andrea, Dale and Judy to serve a nutritious and enjoyable meal.

Worship following the meal has been enthusiastic with members singing lustily and participating in various ways. We are all grateful to Peter and Andrea for helping us with the music.

Everyone enjoyed the talk given by Nigel last month on "Jesus - the Good Shepherd" and I think we will all think about his talk when we walk through a gate or choose which path to take. This Easter we have again remembered the death and celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope it has been a blessed time for you.

Jesus has risen! Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord!

Judy Blackman
Chairperson



Left: Dinner at the Chinese Restaurant



Right: Cindy's beautifully braided hair

Below: At the Draper's home



What's Been Happening in Tasmania

Greetings from Tassie, to our Crossroader friends in NSW.

The highlight of the last few months has been our Statewide Holiday Weekend, 1st – 3rd May, when Crossroaders travelled by car from Hobart, bus from North and South Launceston, and car from Burnie and Ulverstone, to join the Devonport Crossroaders settling in at the Gateway Inn Hotel in Devonport on Tasmania's North-West Coast.

A Saturday trip to the Wildlife Park at Gunn's Plains was a curious mixture of expectation and reality – the reality being that on the trip in the bus, it was so wet, and the windows were so fogged up, that we could hardly see anything outside! Never mind! Joined by some of the Burnie members

who came just for the day, we were given a warm welcome by the staff at the Wildlife Park Visitor Centre, where we were well fed, with morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea. This was interspersed with a wander around the under-cover exhibits; throwing food into the fish tanks and watching the fish "grab" it; looking at some snakes and lizards behind glass, and a young orphan wombat snuggling into a surrogate "mummy" rabbit. Some even had the opportunity to pat a baby black rabbit. The well-stocked stalls of local items of interest were a drawcard for many. In spite of not being able to get out and look at the range of animals outside, the day still fulfilled its purpose of providing an opportunity for folk who only see each other about three

times a year to spend time together.

Saturday evening, following a great meal provided by the Hotel staff, we were entertained by members of the Devonport Brass Band, and a trio of ladies who had us in fits of laughter with their comic antics.

Sunday morning, we joined with the congregation at the Devonport Uniting Church where one of the local preachers who knew the Crossroaders, led the worship service, with strong congregational participation.

We then had a fill-in visit to the Devonport Bluff and Beach which gave opportunity for re-connection with a former Crossroads member before returning to a local hall for light lunch, then "Farewell till

next time". We then went our separate ways home – with the general feeling abroad that everyone had "had a good time". For safety, food, fun and fellowship, we give God our thanks.

Patricia Schramm
Tasmanian Secretary



Above: George with the black rabbit



Below: Dancing to the band music



Above:: The Devonport Brass Band

Right:: At Devonport Beach foreshore



Bankstown Bulletin

Right: Sue, Tiffany, Bradley and Michael working with Mount St Joseph girls.

Below; Ella in the foreground is working well with her craft while Paul, in the background, ponders what to do



Right: Dimitri waiting patiently to get involved

Below: Darryl and Sue say, "You try eating chocolate with a knife and fork."



In April we enjoyed a train trip to the movies on the 18th April when about 18 of our members, led by Andrew, went to see "Mall Cop 2" at Campbelltown. All had a good time and reported the film as being very funny.

Mount St Joseph Milperra, Girls School ran our May Hall Night for us with about 60 members and guests attending. This was a great night for crafty people as they set about making Mother's Day cards and gift boxes full of chocolate for their Mums and Grans.

Also during May, 20 of our members and three carers, Andrew, Cathy and Kath, enjoyed a bus ride and a visit to Old Government House,

Parramatta. They toured both upstairs and downstairs except for Tony - he waited patiently downstairs because he was unable to make the climb upstairs - God Bless him. We had fewer numbers at our June Hall Night because it was the long weekend and some were away. We welcomed Barry back - he had been on holiday since early April, touring the Mediterranean, India and Asia. This night was run for us by Nathan from the Panania Salvation Army. There were some mind testing games followed by a hilarious time of trying to eat a block of chocolate using a knife and fork - no hands.

We have been missing the talents of our kitchen leader, May, who has not attended since February due to a very bad bout of pneumonia. Happily, May is now well on the way to recovery and we look forward to her returning soon.

On a much sadder note, we lost one of our dearest members, Gail, who passed away in May. Gail was always happy and quite often acted as a mother to others when they were feeling down. We all miss her very much.

Bill Edwards

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Parramatta Footy Night

Left: John and Natalie support the Bulldogs.

Below: Scott in his Rabbitohs colours and Phil just having a great time.



Below: John, Derek, Ray and Wayne proudly wearing their team colours



Can't come for
the whole weekend –
why not visit for
Saturday?

\$25 for morning tea,
lunch and
afternoon tea
+ a great day

August 28th – 30th 2015

Crossroads NSW Conference & AGM

**Blue Gum Lodge, Fells Ave, Springwood,
IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

See attached form for more details

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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