



Crossroads News

The Official Journal of **Crossroads Christian Fellowship NSW Inc.**

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News from Bankstown

Crossroads Bankstown has had a busy year so far. Here is a report on what what they have been doing this year.

Once again in 2018 we are so blessed with the support from other churches and organisations for our branch of Crossroads. A team from Grace Christian Church, Panania, started the year off for us In February. This year we have also had support from two of our own members with Val running the March night and Susan running the April night. Plenty of fun and games as well as educational segments during these nights with Sandy, Scott and Michelle being very active. In May we had the Girls from Mount St Joseph Milperra Girls School who led us in a craft night. June was our 400th Hall Night and we were entertained with games and a trivia night led by Felicity from Panania Community Church. Michael Smith is our regular photographer at the meetings.



Here Chris and Scott enjoy a joke whilst the two Sues and Judy look on.

In July we enjoyed the entertainment brought to us by the Bankstown Uniting Church Couples club. In August we became very active when we were led by Nathan from the LifeGate Church, Padstow.

All the Hall nights, of course, finish up with a devotions period where we promote the claims of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.



"Elvis" from the Couples Club.

See page 3 for more photos taken by Michael.

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions are
\$12.00 per year

Crossroads Christian
Fellowship NSW Inc.

A Ministry advocating for and
involving people with disabilities
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Shoalhaven News

Sometimes we wonder if anyone notices what we are doing. Sometimes we wonder if Crossroads makes a difference. Shoalhaven Crossroads recently got an email from someone who had only just started attending Crossroads. This person is a disability support worker who attends Crossroads with some of the people that she supports. After attending Crossroads, and asking about how and why we do what we do, and the challenges we face, she wrote to her employers. This is what she said:

"I want to promote a fabulous community event that is going on here on the South Coast at the Baptist Church Nowra.

Crossroads is a church run organisation. I believe many many years ago the gentleman who started this programme used to knock on doors of private homes in the hope of bringing community inclusion to all. That was a bleak time in history when families with children with disabilities used to feel ashamed and keep their children hidden in some remote back room of the house.

Today this brilliant organisation brings hope smiles and laughter to faces of all individuals despite their abilities or their dis-abilities.

I delight in the enthusiasm of the organisers and seeing the social interaction of the participants. I see smiles and laughter, and hear voices loud and in tune along with the loud out-of-tune voices. This is such a marvelous community event I feel it necessary to shout it from the roof tops.

I was privy to absolute sheer joy the other night when a participant in a wheel chair was thrilled with being included in a loud and fun filled round of Hokey Pokey led by the marvelous Cindie. The joy on this participant's face alone was worth all the effort it takes to pop her in the bus and drive her to Crossroads. The theme was 'The Gift of Music' and it was a wonderful night. One only had to hear the voices and see the smiles to know that this is a community event worth keeping afloat."

This letter really encouraged everyone at Shoalhaven Crossroads, and they are sharing so that you can be encouraged too.

Here are some Shoalhaven Crossroaders doing the Hokey Pokey.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Lots of people enjoy the NSW Crossroads Newsletter. If you know someone who wants to get the newsletter, give them this information! It costs \$12.00 per year.

How to pay:

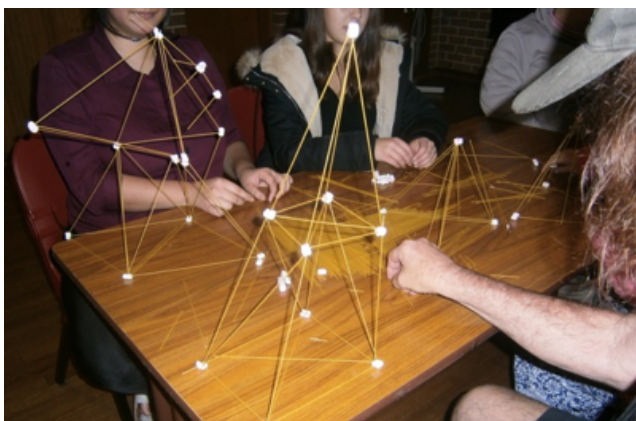
1. Give your \$12.00 to your branch. They will collect all the names and money, and send it together to Crossroads NSW.
2. Pay by electronic funds transfer, BSB: 062 225 Account no: 10063013. Email transaction details, name and address to nsw@crossroadsfellowship.org.au
3. Send a cheque or money order directly to CrossroadsNSW, at PO Box 3132, North Nowra NSW 2514.



Here are a few more photos by Michael Smith. They show the fun and games at Bankstown Crossroads.



Miriam and Cheryl leading the teams in a balloon activity.



Felicity had our members making structures out of Spaghetti and Marshmallows.



Susan helps Sandy in one of the activities.

A life well lived – Rosemary Gray

"A Sprig of Rosemary"

This is a book about Rosemary Gray, written by her sister-in-law Laurel Gray. Rosemary was part of Crossroads for a very long time. Laurel wanted others to be inspired by the life of Rosemary. In the book she describes Rosemary's life, her interests, her skills and her many challenges. Through all her challenges Rosemary never let her disability be a handicap or a disadvantage. She was sometimes upset, and sometimes had to work very hard to overcome challenges, but she never gave up. Rosemary's family and friends were very important to her. They were the ones who helped her face challenges and keep up her determination to live her life well. This is the same for all of us. God places people around us to help us and to care for us. We are also called to be the helper and friend to those around us.

Rosemary was a person of short stature. This meant that she had great difficulty managing everyday things, like buying clothes of the right size, managing stairs, being able to drive a car or even attending school. Many people with disabilities face these same challenges every day.

This is what Laurel says in the introduction to her book:

"I would like you to meet Rosemary Gray, a person of small stature, but great dignity and influence, loved and respected by many. At first sight, she may be seen, perhaps, as a person to be pitied, sitting in her electric wheelchair. Children would ask their mothers: "What's wrong with her?"

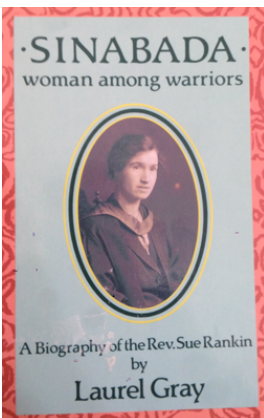
Look again, and you will see a well-groomed woman of consequence. Her wheelchair has not been a sentence. Rather it has been a symbol of liberty, of leading a full and active life that has impacted hundreds, perhaps thousands of people."

Earlier this month I met with Laurel and Margaret Gray, Rosemary's sister. They told me about the inspiration that Rosemary had been for them. They remembered that even though Rosemary couldn't go to Kogarah High School, because there was no access to the school, she persevered in her education and was able to continue her schooling at St George School. She learned to drive a car by practising in the peak hour traffic in Newtown, Sydney. This made passing her driving permit test very easy! They remembered Rosemary and Margaret's long-term friendship with Marilyn Glover, another Crossroader that you may know.

Laurel has an interest in the lives of strong women who love God.

She has also written another book, 'Sinabada', about Rev Sue Rankin. Rev Rankin was a missionary to the people of Saroa in Papua New Guinea.

You can order copies of the book for \$18.00 incl postage from Laurel at: asprigofrosemary@gmail.com
All profits from the sale are donated to charity.



Laurel , Shona and Margaret meet to talk about Rosemary.

