

HAPPENINGS

News of churches of Christ in Australia – April 2015

Greetings to all our readers this month! Please email your news to **tedpaull@hotmail.com**, or ring **(02) 9888 9664**, **(02) 9878 3008** or **(02) 9878 1078**, or mail it to **P O Box 41 NORTH RYDE NSW 1670**. If you would like to receive your own email copy of *Happenings* please let us know. Ted Paull

Queensland Baptism

At the Morayfield (Brisbane) church they rejoiced with **Damien Grasso** who was baptized into Christ there on March 12.

PNG Trip

Stephen Collins from the Warwick (Queensland) church is planning to lead another mission trip to Papua New Guinea in June. He has been involved with trips there for the past 14 years. He is seeking financial support for a team of about six to make this trip. He is also looking for volunteers to go with him. The purpose of the visit is to help and encourage the native brethren with teaching and practical help and to seek the lost, as well as giving the Aussies experience in assisting in a mission field. Participants will be responsible for their airfare to PNG. The in-country cost of the work is about \$15,000 of which \$6,000 has already been raised. If you would like to help or have enquiries please contact Stephen at glenallyn@bluemaxx.com.au.

Cam Passes

Cam LaSpina passed away peacefully in Innisfail on March 6. He had come to Australia from Sicily in 1928 aged 6. The LaSpinis were friends with the Casellas, also Sicilians, who lived on another sugar cane farm nearby. Cam was friends with their son **Carmelo Casella** and the two boys spent many hours of discussion about the meaning of life, and about God, but didn't find the answers in the Catholic Church. In 1956 Cam went to Sydney in an effort to "find the true God" and unexpectedly met Carmelo who had just become a Christian after studying

with **Colin Smith** of the Merrylands church. Cam also studied the Bible and became a Christian, returning to Innisfail to work on the family farm when his father became ill. He established a congregation there and preached and taught for several decades, also often travelling to Cairns on Sunday afternoons to help with teaching there. Cam's wife **Margaret** passed away suddenly in 2008. Cam is a wonderful example of patient service!

Picnics

The Southwest congregation is hosting the Anzac Day picnic at Auburn Community Picnic Area, **Sydney** this year on April 25. They will be cooking a sausage sizzle and request those attending bring salads, drinks and desserts to share.

In **Melbourne**, Jells Park, Wheelers Hill, in the Stringybark Picnic Area is the venue--anytime from 10:30am onwards on April 25.

In **Perth**, the venue will again be Kings Park but the date will be the holiday Monday April 27.

NSW Retreat

This year's Fifty-N-Over Retreat is Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May 2015 on the theme of "REJOICING". The cost of the Retreat is: Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May = \$240; Friday 1st May to Sunday 3rd May = \$180. They would encourage everyone to stay until Monday afternoon if at all possible. If anyone requires single accommodation a \$50 surcharge will apply. For those travelling further than 300 kilometres a discount of \$25 is applicable. Further enquiries: **Alan Bottle** (02) 9671 2243 or 0422 106 065; **Warren Thorburn** (02) 8197 2671 or 0414 893 330.

NSW Camp

The Southwest (Campbelltown) congregation is planning its Youth & Young Adult Camp for May 29-31. It will again be held at the Long Point Christian Conference Centre, Ingleburn. The theme for the week-end is "improveyourselfie". Speakers will be **Travis Powell** (Wollongong), **Roberto Quintanilla** (Kurrajong), and **Peter Tickner** (Macquarie).

Melbourne Workshop

On Saturday April 11, **Steve Joiner** from Lipscomb University, USA, will present a full-day workshop, on "From Conflict to Christian Collaboration: Managing through Change & Difficulty", at the Belmore Road congregation's building. To register, contact **Alan Rowley** on 0419 264 931 or rowley@klesis.com.au.

Vanuatu Help

Most of us are aware of the cyclone in Vanuatu in mid-March. Brethren in New Zealand have been involved in the Lord's work in Vanuatu for several years and they report that there is a specific need for food, water, building materials and plants and seeds for gardens since most people grow their own food and their gardens have been flattened. So far brethren in NZ have given \$16,000 and Australian brethren \$14,000. If you would like to assist, donations can be sent via the Belmore Road church in Melbourne.

Queensland Lectureship

The 'Set on a Hill Lectureship' in Toowoomba will be happening this year from September 25th to September 27th.

W A Family Camp

The Family Retreat this year organised by members of the Malaga (Perth) congregation is set for Friday 17th– Sunday 19th April. It will again be held at Serpentine Camping Centre, 22 Transit Road, Jarradale, about 60km SE of Perth. You can contact **Sonya Parker** (sonyalk@yahoo.com or 0401 394 894) for more information.

Sydney Seminar

This year's Bankstown family seminar has been scheduled, God permitting, for September 25-27 (the second weekend of the school holidays). The possible theme is: "Family Life & Spiritual Development: The Hurdles".

Enrichment Seminar

The Coffs Coast (Coffs Harbour, NSW) congregation plans to conduct the North Coast Enrichment Seminar beginning with a welcome and devotional on the evening of Friday April 17

followed by two days of lessons and worship at the Bayldon Community Centre, Toormina. The theme of the lessons will be "Healthy Relationships – Healthy Families". Guest Speakers are **David Payne** from the Belmore Road church in Melbourne and **Steve Wilson** from The Point congregation in Brisbane.

Victorian Camp

"If I Had to Pick a Favourite..." is the theme this Easter weekend at the Victorian Autumn Camp at Lake Nillahcootie on April 3-6. Teachers have been asked to pick a favourite Bible book and talk about it. Those speaking are **Rick Niland, Peter Tickner, Peter Thomson, Rod Poynton, Micah Kirkpatrick, Dale & Bryce Christensen, and Geoff & Jarrod Thomas.**

CALENDAR

April 3rd-6th

Victorian Autumn Camp @ Lake Nillahcootie, Vic

April 3rd-6th

Camp Barnabas @ Bridport, Tas

April 11th

Workshop @ Belmore Road, Melbourne

April 17th-19th

2015 Family Camp @ Serpentine, WA

April 17th-19th

North Coast Enrichment Seminar @ Coffs Harbour, NSW

April 25th

Anzac Day Picnic @ Kings Park, Perth

April 25th

Anzac Day Picnic @ Auburn Botanic Gardens, Sydney

April 27th

Anzac Day Picnic @ Kings Park, Perth

May 1st-4th

50-N-Over Retreat @ "Meroo", Kurrajong, NSW

May 29th-31st

Southwest Youth and Young Adult Camp @ Ingleburn, NSW

June

Mission Trip to Papua New Guinea

July 8th-12th

MSOBS Lectureship @ Macquarie, Sydney, NSW

September 25th-27th

Family Seminar @ Bankstown, Sydney, NSW

September 25th-27th

Lectureship @ Toowoomba, Qld