

# HAPPENINGS

## *News of churches of Christ in Australia – February 2014*

Welcome to a New Year of issues of *Happenings*! Please email news to [tedpaull@hotmail.com](mailto: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 an email copy of *Happenings* please let us know. Ted Paull

### **NSW Baptism**

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, **Jamie Thorpe**, 39, made the good confession before the congregation at Warners Bay. Jamie was baptised later in the day. His conversion was a great thrill for the small group meeting at Warners Bay. Jamie is young and energetic, and keen to enhance his knowledge and participation in the Lord's work. Jamie lives locally and has numerous contacts he is hoping to influence.

### **Victoria Baptism**

The Peninsula church of Christ in Frankston, south-east of Melbourne, is pleased to announce the baptism of **Gabi Mackay** on January 11, 2014.

### **Challenge Camp**

Ninety-four happy souls participated in the 2013-14 Challenge Camp at Tahmoor, near Picton, NSW. Held at a new venue of 120 acres with kangaroos out the back the campers meditated on the theme of "We're in this Together!"

### **Family Retreat**

The Malaga (Perth) church of Christ is making final preparations for their 2014 Family Retreat at the Serpentine Camping Centre, 22 Transit Road, Jarradale, about 60km SE of Perth, on Friday February 28 to Monday March 3. Several youth and young adults from the Southeast church in Melbourne are planning to attend.

### **Victorian Autumn Camp**

This year's camp at Lake Nillahcootie in north-east Victoria will focus on the theme of "What does the Bible say about Work, Rest and Play?"

Held across the Easter long weekend (April 18-21), fees for the full weekend are \$165 for adults, \$105 for 10-15 year olds, and \$75 for under 10. Applications and a 20% deposit need to be paid by Thursday, April 3. Registration forms and further details are available from **Brett & Lesley Christensen** on (03) 9776 6215.

### **Indian Visits**

**Mary Bailey** of the Southeast (Melbourne) church has had a keen interest in the Kakinada Children's Home in India. She organised to travel there in January with her husband **Clive**, her son **Stuart** and his girlfriend **Kelsey Martin** and **Dale Christensen, Phil Drew, Roger Donnelley, Janet Queay and Richard Burkitt**. They went to construct vegetable beds (to help them be more self-sufficient), do maintenance on their buildings and give general encouragement to the children and staff. Mary's daughter and son-in-law, **Jess Late** and **Nuwan Leitan** also plan to visit in February to follow-up on this work. After the Kakinada visit Roger, Phil, Richard and Janet are also going to Sathupalli and Chennai to visit other children's homes.

**Peter Mandalidis** of the Eastside (Sydney) church went to India in January to spend three weeks working with **Rusell Bell**, long-time evangelist in India. Most of the time they are preaching in two places each day. They have reported 53 souls baptized into Christ. Rusell hopes to visit Australia again in July.

### **Belmore Rd Retreat**

The Belmore Road (Melbourne) congregation plans its annual CampING (I Need God) during March 7-10 at Mt Eliza. The theme will be "Knowing Jesus Better" with **Peter Tickner** from the Macquarie church as the guest speaker.

## **Youth Day**

Nearly 70 people gathered for the Warringah (Sydney) church's Youth Day on January 19. After lunch and beach volleyball they gathered in the evening for worship and a lesson on "Loving the Lord our God with all our Heart, Soul and Strength!" taught by **Andrew Hastings** from the Central Coast.

## **Bankstown seminar**

The Bankstown (Sydney) congregation is planning to host a "marriage enrichment weekend", tentatively scheduled for September 19-21. A primary focus will be on how congregations and parents can work together to help children to grow up to be faithful, active Christians despite the increasingly ungodly influences in society. They plan, God permitting, to have a range of speakers addressing topics for married couples, parents, singles and others.

## **Sisters Pass On**

Two ladies from the Malaga (Perth) church who have been faithful and helpful servants of Christ for the last half-century passed away in January. They are **Pat Thew** and **Dee Taylor** who will both be remembered for their thoughtfulness and help to many in the west and also overseas.

## **MSOBS Lectureship**

"Faith in Operation" is the theme for the MSOBS Lectureship in Sydney planned for July 9-13. **Dale & Sheila Hartman** plan to visit again for this event.

## **CALENDAR**

**February 28th-March 3rd**

**2014 Family Retreat @  
Serpentine, WA**

**March 7th-10th**

**Belmore Road congregational  
retreat @ Mt Eliza, Vic**

**April 18th-21st**

**Victorian Autumn Camp @ Lake  
Nillahcootie, Vic**

**July 9th-13th**

**MSOBS Lectureship @  
Macquarie, Sydney**

**September 19th-21st**

**Marriage Enrichment Week-end  
@ Bankstown, Sydney (tentative)**

## **CHURCH HISTORY**

### **Wynnum, Brisbane**

In the eastern suburbs of Brisbane, Queensland, congregations had begun meeting in the 1950s and some members of these who lived in or near the suburb of Wynnum began public meetings there in the Band Hall in Tingal Rd on May 4, 1958.

Visiting preachers from overseas and interstate often helped with the preaching, especially Colin Smith who was working with the church at Strathfield in Sydney. In the following year Colin & Elvera accepted an invitation to move to Wynnum for full-time work with the church beginning in March.

In 1960 the church bought and renovated a house at its present meeting location on the corner of Tingal Road & Chestnut Street. They recorded 32 members by May 1962 with an average attendance of about 45 souls and over 70 in Bible school.

Outreach efforts in the late 1960 included Holiday Bible Schools, Lectureship and Campaigns, often with interstate and overseas brethren helping. Because of Colin's poor health Claude & Sammie Guild moved from Perth to assist the congregation in February, 1968, which they did until replaced by Thurman & Fay Self in June 1969. They stayed for about a year. Membership was just over 100 at this time.

Keith & Elvis Moore & Hugh & Mary-Sue Galyean came to work with the congregation in 1970 for a couple of years. Scripture classes, foreign evangelism, youth rallies, lectureships, bus ministry and correspondence courses were all methods of outreach in the 1970s.

Ron Watkins worked with the church for 2 years from 1975 and attendance was 88 and contribution \$176 per week in the mid-year.

After this, the church continued for some time with men of the congregation filling the teaching role. After some time Doug Taylor became the full-time worker for some 9 years and the congregation experienced some growth. Around 1988 a number of families left the church over doctrinal differences and started a new work in the area. Not long after this, a number of members moved with Doug and his family to start a new work in Capalaba, which eventually became the church at Cleveland.

The church began paying an existing member, Derek Lightowler, to work full-time with the church. The church also secured American, Steve Bates, who had been working with the church in Melbourne, around 2003 to work full time. The congregation grew with a number of families moving from other congregations and some baptisms. Steve and his family, with the majority of the congregation, moved to start a new work at Wellington Point around 2004. After this the church was reduced to about 4 families.

The congregation received a boost around 2008 with 2 younger New Zealand families from the Cleveland church placing membership. Both families moved on after about 4 years.

The congregation continues to the present with local men and visiting preachers doing the preaching. The current membership is about 15. At the beginning of 2014, the church finds itself in the position of possibly not being able to continue with its own building because of running costs and few members employed. The congregation has met now for some 55 years in its present location.

*(Thanks to Ken Ford & Colin Simpson for information for this article.)*