

HAPPENINGS

News of churches of Christ in Australia – May 2012

Welcome to the latest edition of *Happenings*. If you contributed to this month's issue—we thank you! Please email news to tedpaull@hotmail.com, or mail it to **P O Box 41 NORTH RYDE NSW 1670** or ring **(02) 9888 9664, (02) 9878 3008** or **(02) 9878 1078**. If you would like to receive an email copy of *Happenings* please let us know!

Ted Paull

Melbourne baptisms

The Belmore Road church reports the three baptisms of **Lydia Zhang**, sister and brother-in-law of **Sarah & James Chan** on Sunday April 8, and **Joshua Campbell**, son of **Ian & Cath Campbell** on Thursday April 19 and **Patrick Donnelley**, son of **Roger & Cath Donnelley** on Saturday April 21. The brethren are all thrilled for them and their families.

Seminar

Coffs Coast congregation at Coffs Harbour (NSW) is planning to have a “North Coast Enrichment Seminar” in the coming summer which will be held on 16th-21st of January 2013. They welcome their brothers and sisters to come and encourage them and be benefited by this “NCES”.

More Deacons

On March 25, **David Tabe** and **James Chan** joined **Benny Tabalujan** as deacons with the Belmore Rd church in Melbourne. The church is also served by elders, **Charles Hooi** and **Ian Campbell**.

Autumn Songfest

This will be a gathering of hearts and voices for God, with song leaders from around Melbourne. It is planned for Thursday, May 10 at 7:30pm at Box Hill Town Hall, Whitehorse Road. The South East congregation is organising this.

Anzac Picnics

In **Perth** the brethren met in Kings Park where about 100 people turned up. It was a fantastic day, with beautiful weather, lots of fun, food and fellowship. Most people stayed on for 3 or 4 hours.

In **Melbourne** 25 brethren from three congregations were largely confined to a shelter in a virtually deserted Jells Park, as intermittent showers passed through during the cold day. It was a great time of encouraging fellowship, including singing.

In **Sydney** over 90 brethren from 12 congregations attended the picnic at Auburn Community Picnic Area organised by the Southwest church. The Eastside congregation will be hosting the picnic next year.

Sydney - Youth & Young @ Heart

Josh White was the speaker at the Warringah church on April 29. This month **Mark Whitcombe** from the Eastside church is the speaker planned for May 27 at 5.30pm.

Retreat

The annual Cataract Camp youth and young adult retreat hosted by Southwest (NSW) will be held on the weekend of May 25–27. The theme this year is “You Are God’s Field”. **Kent Hartman** is a featured speaker.

Special Saturday

The Southwest (NSW) church hosted a Super Saturday for children in the Rosemeadow/Ambarvale area during the school holidays. Ten children plus their parents enjoyed singing, skits, crafts and games based on the theme of Daniel in the Lions den. The children were encouraged to do what was right and trust in God.

Easter Camp

About 58 people from 10 congregations in five states attended the Victorian Autumn Camp at Lake Nillahcootie. Eleven speakers from among them covered topics around the theme "It's not the End of the World!"

CHURCH HISTORY

EAST MAITLAND, NSW

There has been a group of Christians meeting consistently in the Hunter Valley for almost fifty years.

In June 1963 thirty-two people, including twenty-eight Christians, who had been members of the church at Warner's Bay on the northern shore of Lake Macquarie, began meeting in the home of American evangelist, Robert Page.

This group bought and repaired a building in the Newcastle suburb of Lambton and began worshipping there in June 1966. During this time the church relied mainly on the Gill and Hector families to serve in teaching. In 1974 David Carr was converted as the result of a public debate on the kingdom of God, and soon the Carr and Wilson families became Christians. Ralph Hunter and Geoff Pollard were full-time preachers for the church in the 1970's.

In the late 1970s the church moved to North Lambton where they purchased another building. At the end of 1980 David Carr and John Gray graduated from Macquarie School of Biblical Studies in Sydney and both began assisting the church in teaching. In September 1983 David and his family left to work in Canberra and then Wollongong, returning to the Hunter Valley at the end of 1988.

In 1990 the church sold its building and commenced meetings in the primary school at Metford in the growing Maitland area and nine years later they moved to meet in the RSL hall on the New England Highway in East Maitland where they have met for the past 12 years. There have been several conversions, including 5 since the beginning

of 2011 with about 25-50 members during this time.

Many evangelistic methods have been in use during this time, and over the last few years this has particularly included café evangelism and English language tutoring for non-English speakers, using the New Testament as a text. The church has had excellent relationships with other congregations of the church, particularly sharing camps with the brethren of the Coffs Harbour and Bankstown churches. For the past 30 years the brethren have had close fellowship with the Warner's Bay congregation and David has preached there once each month for the last 10 years.

The church in the Hunter Valley has had a stable and unified history for the past 50 years and this has been enhanced by the long-term participation of the Wilson, Gray and Carr families. We wish the congregation well in their new location at the Bruce Street Community Hall in East Maitland where they began meetings last month.

(Thanks to Terry Gill, David Roper, Merv Squires and David Carr for their significant contributions to this information!)

CALENDAR

May 4th-7th

Fifty-n-Over Retreat @ Meroo, near Kurrajong, NSW

May 10th

Autumn Songfest @ Box Hill Town Hall, Melbourne

May 25th-27th

Youth & Young Adult Retreat @ Cataract River Ranch, NSW

May 27th

Youth & Young @ Heart @ Warringah, Sydney

June 30th-July 5th

Aboriginal Mission @ Brewarrina, NSW

July 6th-8th

Camp Connect @ Burleigh Heads, Qld

July 9th-16th

Aboriginal Mission @ Moree, NSW

July 11th-15th

MSOBS Lectureship @ Macquarie church, Sydney

2013

January 16th-21st

North Coast Enrichment Seminar @ Coffs Harbour, NSW