

> Pastoral Care News - Community

Church Camp

Seventy people gathered over the weekend of **20th-22nd April** to enjoy an absolutely wonderful time away explore the theme of "Love - no strings attached" both intentionally and experientially. Friday evening was a time of gathering and settling in with lots more people arriving on Saturday morning, some for the day and some for rest of the weekend. Comments from campers are included in italics.

Ian's opening workshop began with Natalie leading us in singing 'Love the Lord your God' and we were in very fine voice. We enjoyed some Ian David games including 'Dude', telling the story of the Good Samaritan in groups of five - one sentence at a time and the hilarious 'Angels & Nemesis'. We shared stories about ourselves with a partner.



Ian drew our attention to the focus on 'doing' in the story of the Good Samaritan: The lawyer asks 'What must I do'. Jesus says 'Do this and you will live' and 'Go and do likewise'. This is a story that requires a response from us.



Then it was time for a bushwalk with Nicole in the lead or just some time to relax before lunch. After a lunch of outrageously fabulous soup in four varieties, camp baked sourdough bread and Irish soda bread we had the option of a Bible study, relaxing or a range of amazing craft activities with a particular focus on the Sunday Morning Program chairs. Four beautifully themed chairs were completed.

Everyone pitching in - old and young - to decoupage the little chairs

Thank you Meg for beautiful screen printing images



During the study thirteen of us explored the complexity of the passages from Romans 13 and our theme reading 'The Good Samaritan' Luke 10:25-37. Ian read us extracts from Martin Luther King Jnr's 'Letter from the Birmingham jail' in which he writes about just and unjust laws. We agreed that the story encourages us to consider who our neighbour is and what we might learn from them. We also reflected on the act of civil disobedience which our congregation may be called to participate in as a church offering to be a Sanctuary to asylum seekers.



But WHAT are we going to do about Sanctuary?

Ultimate Frisbee followed afternoon tea and was greatly enjoyed by all participants.

Ultimate Frisbee was excellent ... until I twisted my ankle. It was then fun playing cards.

I loved played frisbee - Tameka

And Tameka scored the winning goal in Frisbee!





Our evening meal featured long standing camp traditions of pasta bake, apple crumble and the highly regarded, greatly desired sticky date pudding. Musical entertainment was a new addition to the dinner experience.



Daniel: 'If this sticky date pudding was a religion ...'
Ian: 'You'd be a fundamentalist?'
Daniel: 'Oh, yes!'

The camp concert was, once again, gloriously entertaining and included Ian playing the didgeridoo, 'I love watermelon' and a number of other songs, a string ensemble (with a difference) from the Moorhouse Clan, a ballet performance from Mathilda and Ingrid, poems from Richard, 'My Cat Maisie' with the Camerons, story telling with Steph and Julie.



Mathilda's ballet turn - unforgettable!

People saw out the evening either getting an early night's sleep, playing games, singing or simply enjoying being in community.





We prepared and offered worship together which included songs, prayers, a very dramatic performance of the Good Samaritan story, a celebration of Holy Communion and a very exuberant flying of paper aeroplanes to send messages of love around the room.

Q: Who are the characters in the BUC Camp Good Samaritan Play?

A: a snail, several snobs, 2 Good Samaritans, 1 beaten up traveller and many hospitable innkeepers offering a cosy bed and nourishing food.



During rehearsal of the Good Samaritan an alarm went up because folk in the hall thought our injured traveller was a human in real trouble. "First Aid" they cried. "It's okay" we said. (We looked around and couldn't see what the problem was.)

Hilarious that during rehearsal for Good Samaritan drama Steph saw Jenny lying on the ground and thought we had a medical emergency! - called for First Aid!

Thanks to all the children and children-at-heart who volunteered to do stuff in our Good Samaritan play



Loved those paper planes. Thanks Fiona MacDowall for that idea, especially with the lovely messages inside.

And then it was time to prepare for leaving with clean up, a very enjoyable sausage sizzle and the totally outrageous Camp Auction with the unparalleled Alistair Hunter.

Loved the auction - such fun, and great generosity.



Thanks were offered to our Camp Committee - Glenice Cook, Shawn Whelan and Rachel Beagley. Glenice has once again declared that this is her last year on the committee. She has years of wisdom and experience to share and would love to pass it on.

Save the date for next year's camp - **26th-28th May 2017**. Don't miss it.

And in case you need further encouragement here are some general comments about the whole experience.

Church camp is a beautiful chance to begin to know new people and to know familiar people better.

Fun games, good community sharing, beautiful worship including Jenny being beaten up by robbers - lucky that Samaritan came along.

the cup song!!!

When peace and love collide you get a happiness rainbow.

Cool Camp! country, crowd, cockatoos, conversation, community, cooking, carols, craft, conservation, concert - comfy, cosy CAMP!!

#I solemnly swear that I am up to no good!!!!

Always fun, always excellent

Saide Cameron

