

Church Camp - Bearing Fruit

Our home away from home at the Adekate camp site, as always, provided us with the venue to spend a weekend together. This year our theme was 'Bearing Fruit' based on John 15:1-12. Over the course of the weekend approximately 70 people came & went or stayed to enjoy the bush setting and the company, laughter, food, conversation, board games, netball, werewolves, archery, music and worship.

Friday

A time to leave the city behind at the end of the working week, to relax and simply be in company with others.



Following on from afternoon tea the options were Taize worship in the Bush, Werewolves with Caitlin & Daniel or Concert Preparation with Rachel. Amelia offered this reflection on Taize worship:

Late on Saturday afternoon, a group of around twenty campers proceeded out into the bush to experience worship in the Taize style, which originated in the ecumenical Taizé community in France. We gathered amongst the trees, around a lantern and a cross built from bark and leaves foraged from the surrounding area. The cross had a curved form that suggested a dove in flight.

The service incorporated meditative singing interwoven with readings and prayers.



Musical accompaniment was provided by Shawn on the guitar, James with his septavox and Courtney on the flute. In prayer and reflection, we appreciated being in a space filled with the sound of many voices, the rustling of the wind through the leaves and the light and shadows changing all around us at the closing of the day.



Saturday

The early birds met for morning meditation with Anthony.

Breakfast, more arrivals and the opening workshop to help us delve into the theme 'Bearing Fruit'. Ian invited us to find a partner who had the same favourite fruit - mango anyone? They taste like sunshine to me! Starting in small groups and building up to the whole group we moved in the circle 'grapevine' style. Moving on we shared the reading of verses from John 15:1-12 and found gestures and shapes to respond to them.

Morning Tea was followed by a few options: a Bush Walk, Craft Activity or Netball Skills training. It's so lovely to walk through the bush together, chatting and noticing the changes from one year to the next.

Lunch - wow, thank you to Courtney, James, Amelia and Kimberly for a delicious lunch of baked potatoes and spicy bean sauce with coleslaw on the side.

Free time was up next and it was such a beautiful day many of us found something to do outdoors. The afternoon continued with a netball tournament and archery. Competition was fierce and fun on the netball court. Thank you to Rachel and Caitlin for all the coaching, umpiring and encouragement. And thank you to Anthony for heroically coaching all would-be archers on both technique and safety.



Dinner was the very familiar and delicious, possibly traditional Pasta Bake (with gluten free & vegetarian options) followed by Sticky Date Pudding and Apple Crumble (also with gluten free options, next year dairy free as well!). Thank you Saide & Ray.



The entertainment for the evening began with a couple of songs in the Dining Room - I'm sure many of us still find ourselves humming Banana Phone, thank you Shawn, Natalie and Daniel! The concert was short & sweet this year offering jokes, songs and a hilarious rendition of 'King Bidgood's in the bath tub'.





We farewelled a number of campers and day visitors and then settled into a Board and Card games tournament in the Dining Hall, followed by a very enthusiastic sing along into the late hours of the evening.



Sunday

Breakfast saw an appropriately slow start to the day followed by preparation for worship which was done in three groups by people of all ages. With beautiful almost clear skies we worshipped outdoors, starting around



the camp fire with a prayer of thanksgiving, and then walking down to the amazing clearing in the bush. We gathered flora as we went, and laid the items in confession on the cross laid on the ground. We responded to the verses that shaped our Saturday worship with movement and gesture. Ian led our celebration of communion using the liturgy he had written for the Nourish series in which we say 'Thank you God', 'Remember Me' and 'Come Holy Spirit'. We prayed for the world and the community. Natalie led us in the hauntingly beautiful call & response [Lord's Prayer](#). We received, ate and drank in a circle. We concluded worship weaving our grapevine singing 'God is love' before being sent out again with this blessing:



*Abide in Jesus as Jesus abides in you
Go out to be signs of God's love
Shared God's love with those we meet
Help others. Talk. Listen to each other.
Be open. Warm.
Share God's love with those we meet.*



Anika together with Brianna, Liz and Cecily from the Student House sizzled sausages for our lunch. After lunch Caitlin and our very enthusiastic young people encouraged us to part with our money for the privilege of taking home leftover food.



They've obviously been watching Alistair Hunter very closely over the years as they were clearly channelling his style, language and enthusiasm! Nearly \$600 was raised!



Anthony Hinds, our camp coordinator, offered this reflection:
I really appreciated the space to walk and talk and reflect on where my faith journey is up to, with trusted peers, and through the shared liturgies.

planning, shopping and cooking the meals. The next generation (oof - how old am I?) are taking and making the camp their own.

And it was such a treat to see young people not only bite off and chew, but also master and really own, the different aspects of church camp life - whether it was preparing the brochure, writing parts of the camp worship service, auctioning off the food, or

So - many, many thanks to the committee - Anthony Hinds, Shawn Whelan, Courtney Rohde, Amelia Ware, Caitlin & Rachel Mullen-Beagley - for your dedication and enthusiasm in bringing us Church Camp 2018 - Bearing Fruit.

Save the dates for next year - **24th-26th May, 2019**

Saide Cameron