



Spring 2006

A new Wirraway year has begun and we are back full swing into school camps. The staff have just finished the usual mid-year break which was concluded with the staff retreat. We all trundled down to the customary spot off Chiton Rocks near Victor Harbor for some intense whale watching... and of course productive discussions and training about current issues concerning working at Wirraway. It's such a refreshing time of year where we spend four weeks unwinding and then have a week gearing up for the next year with our extended "Wirraway" family. It's also a fantastic opportunity to ponder again why Wirraway exists. We were blessed with some input from Rev. Ian Lohmeyer (Coromandel Valley Uniting Church Minister). He talked about interpersonal communication and the art of conversation. Thankfully, we did get a visit from some whales – the interruption was very welcome... in a good way! As always, we are very grateful to the Teagues who graciously allow us to 'retreat' at their beautiful cottage every year.

What's New?

Wirraway received two "Community Benefit" grants recently. One lot of funds was used to replace ALL of the mattresses in the bunkhouses! They are now a high density foam with a breathable waterproof cover. The other grant will be used to help develop children's horse activities with the indigenous group six hours north of Adelaide. The carpet in the dining room and lino in the kitchen have also been replaced. It's really exciting to be in a position where we can upgrade and continue to make Wirraway look great!

As always with this time of year, the paddocks are looking beautifully green and with five weeks off, the horses are now looking rather "rotund". However, this year is a little different. Two of the paddocks were sown with pasture. It's great to be able to put effort into landcare management so that in the future erosion will be minimised as will the food costs for the horses (hopefully!).

Prayer points

- Mobile Mission Maintenance will be with us soon to help build and fix things. Pray that this will be a productive time.
- Training Camp will be held in mid December. Pray that we will be inundated with people who want to serve God at Wirraway and can commit to help for the years to come.

Musters 2006

October Muster

1st - 7th October (10-12 year olds)

Christmas Musters

19th-23rd December (10-12 years)
31st December - 6th January *New Years* (14+ years)

2007 Musters

7th - 13th January (11-13 years)
15th - 20th January (10-12 years)
21st - 27th January (12-15 years)

Please call us (08) 8536 6063 to make a booking
Keep an eye on our website for more information

Training Camp

15th -17th December 2006

Each year we run a training camp for bunkhouse leaders, horse helps and kitchen hands. Once trained, our volunteers can then return during school holiday musters to perform their key role in the ministry here at Wirraway. If you are interested, please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and post it back to us as soon as possible.

Horse news

Unfortunately, our "Golden Oldie" Bullion died recently. He has been a favourite for a long time and his badge has been the biggest seller by far. It's sad to see these good horses go but we are excited at the prospects of our latest addition. Bear came to us just before the staff holidays and we are certain he will be a part of the regular programme very soon. He is a 15.2hh Buckskin Quarterhorse.

Praise points

- God's ongoing provision. We never seem to have to worry about getting enough camp bookings or staff to work here.
- The amount of children that hear about God's love for them every week!



We were sad to farewell Rebekah Pillar from our ranks. She has been involved at Wirraway for a long time as a full time staff member in the past and more recently, part time. Her skills in the horse area will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best as she continues her studies in Animal Science.

Coralie Crispe has also had to take some time out from Wirraway. We are missing her dearly but are hoping (as much as she is) that she will be able to return to us soon.

Snapshot: Wirraway School Camps

Schools Report 2006

As well as our popular school holiday musters, Wirraway runs school camps every week, all week during term time. These continue to be very popular, with many schools returning year after year. In most cases those attending are years 6 and 7 classes. As is evident in the following list, it is quite common for us to have a broad selection of state schools and independent schools, many of which book multiple camps to fit all of the classes in.

Semester 1, 2006:

- Woodcroft College
- Clapham Primary School
- Cedar College
- Tabor Christian School
- Sacred Heart
- Torrens Valley Christian School
- Craigmore Christian School
- Highgate Primary School
- Colonel Light Gardens Primary School
- Vale Park Primary School
- Stradbroke Primary School
- Concordia College
- Mawson Lakes Primary School
- Hills Christian Community School
- Unity College
- Trinity College
- Morphett Vale High School
- Tyndale Christian School
- Calvary Lutheran School

Semester 2 so far:

- Sunrise Christian School
- Magill Primary School
- Investigator College
- Gawler East Primary School

Volunteer Training

15th-17th December 2006

Cost: \$70 incl. GST

Have you ever wanted to be a volunteer at Wirraway? Now is your chance to train to become either a bunkhouse leader, a horse help or a kitchen hand. Fill out the form below and send it back to us ASAP. All volunteers will complete some food handling and occupational health and safety training from the Outdoor Recreation Training Package (Please note: all volunteers over 16 years will require a police check).

Horsehelps / Kitchenhands: minimum age 13 years (get in quick as places are numbered for these areas);

Bunkhouse leaders: minimum age for training 15 years, plus a passion to share Jesus with campers (no numbered places... we'll pitch tents if we have to!). If finances are a problem (bunkhouse leaders only), please still come - just talk to us about it!

NAME _____

AGE _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____

PHONE _____

Please tick your choice : > Bunkhouse Leader > Horse Help > Kitchenhand

> I can help with transport of others (no "P" platers please)

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope with this form plus a \$10 deposit, and return to Training Camp 2006, Wirraway Homestead, Box 209, Strathalbyn SA 5255

