



## Winter 2008

We are always amazed at God's provision for us here at Wirraway - hopefully this issue of Wirraway News will give you some idea about the goings on here and some future plans. Our newsletter is sent to almost a thousand recipients who are usually ex-campers, ex-staff, bunkhouse leaders, parents and grandparents of campers, or people who have been involved in some way over the past 33 years. Our prayer is that you might continue to discover the love of God in Jesus through hearing about what He has done and continues to do with Wirraway.

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## Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation Grant

We were very excited to hear from the Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation that they had given us a substantial grant to help us rebuild Drovers. The Adelaide Bank (previously the Co-Op Building Society) have supported many of our projects over the years: providing funds to help us buy boots and helmets for campers doing horseriding, assisting with the provision of the facilities for campers with disabilities, supporting special camps for indigenous children from Leigh Creek and a Cerebral Palsy group, and others. After serving us well for nearly 30 years (not bad for a second hand building!) Drovers has become very run down, and we have become more and more unhappy to use it for accommodating campers.

This time the Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation have exceeded all our expectations by granting us the full \$48,500 that we asked for. What a thrill it was when they rang and told us they were giving us this amount. It will cover a good part of the costs of the two rooms for campers that will form the major part of the new Drovers. We are looking forward to incorporating a permanent reminder of their support in a plaque that we will unveil in a formal ceremony.



The current Drovers building June 2008

The new Drovers will have these two bunkhouses, as well as a independent teachers' section. The logic behind this separate section is that school staff/ adult volunteers no longer expect to sleep in with campers, or to share bathrooms with them, so they need somewhere to be completely apart from their students. Also, we feel it will also be good to spoil them a little by providing a small lounge area for those times when they need to stay up late at night coaxing their students to sleep! Thanks to the generosity of the Adelaide Bank Charitable Foundation, this will now all be possible, and we hope to have the whole project complete by the end of the year. Look for photos in the next newsletter!

## School Camps Summary

The majority of our camps here at Wirraway are school groups, that average about 50 campers (plus teachers) who usually stay for two nights and three days. The activities we do with them include horse riding twice, rock climbing, archery, flying fox, ropes course, the Wirraway Puzzle and trampolining - they also get to hear some great stories about God during our Christian programme each day. Schools to visit us (sometimes for two or three camps) in the last six months include years six through to year nine students from: Woodcroft College, Glenelg Primary, Tabor College, Karrendi Primary, Encounter College, Sacred Heart, Concordia College, Torrens Valley Christian, St. Joseph's Payneham, Craigmore Christian, Highgate Primary, Moana Primary, Colonel Light Gardens Primary, Investigator College, Clapham Primary, Hills Christian Community and Unity College. We would appreciate your prayers for us over the next few weeks winding up to our Musters in July before the staff take annual leave, as well as for our camps for the next half of the year.

We have recently welcomed Jed Marshall to our team to join us in the horse area. He has been hanging around at Wirraway for the last few years as a camper and eventually a bunkhouse leader. We are excited about the times to come as he brings a solid knowledge of and experience in horse skills. We are also saying a fond farewell to both Eve McMillan (who has left recently) and Bec Palmer (leaving after the July musters), who have both been valuable members of the team here in their various roles. They have both written about their experience and future plans:

## Snapshot: The Exiting Staff

**From Eve...** I've never liked horses, I'm not crazy about living in the country and I hate spending time away from my dog... Yet week after week I was ready to put those things aside to serve on a great team in an amazing ministry here at Wirraway. I'm sad that my time has come to an end.

I have always had a passion for my local community and I am excited to be taking up new positions as Christian Pastoral Support Worker at Parkside Primary School and Childrens Ministry worker at Parkside Baptist Church. Both roles involve getting alongside and encouraging children, helping link families with local support and hoping to involve the church in the life of the school. My time at Wirraway has been both challenging and enriching. I've seen many changes, learnt many things, hung out with many wonderful kids, cooked many delicious meals (and also some pretty bad ones,) made new friends, laughed (very loudly) a lot, fed many hungry horses and had many late night kitchen chats with Pete. Good times. One thing I would always get excited about when sharing with children is Psalm 139: *"Lord you've searched me and you know me... You are familiar with all my ways... You created me... I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."*

Know that God loves you, knows you inside out and has a great plan and purpose for your life. Even though for me that has led me to new and scary places, I know that I am resting in the loving arms of a truly amazing God.



**From Bec...** Just over 18 months ago I stepped onto the site of Wirraway for the first time. I took the job after thinking it was a nice place, friendly atmosphere and a good opportunity to work while figuring out my future. Well a year and a half later I am finally saying goodbye after what has been a rewarding, awesome, challenging and growing time.

For me, Wirraway has been a place of warmth, laughter, hard work, long hours and great fulfilment. The people at Wirraway make it what it is; a haven of God's love, his peace and great joy! They have become like a family to me and I will miss them very much. I will treasure the countless crazy memories of my time at Wirraway, and am thankful for the stepping stone that is has been in directing my future.

I am leaving this humble home to further my studies at Mission Australia doing Certificate IV in Youth Work and Juvenile Justice, while waiting on a prospective job opportunity at a women's shelter in Adelaide. Looking back God has stepped in on my plans while I waited anxiously to see whether things will work out, and they always have! So the future is bright, exciting and going to be a wonderful journey!

## Horse News

Sadly, we lost Starsky since our last newsletter. He was our oldest, longest serving horse since he was actually born here! He never learnt to go on a float, never saw the outside world and never did anything else but followed the horse in front. While his death was eventually inevitable, it was still a sad event and he will definitely be missed. On the brighter side, we have acquired a few new horses. Archer is a 13hh grey pony, Chance is a 15.2hh chestnut Thoroughbred who was donated to us and Captain is a 15.2hh chestnut Quarterhorse. All are lovely natured horses who have fit in very quickly and we're sure all will become firm favourites before long.

## Wirraway Musters in 2008

### JULY MUSTERS (BOOK NOW)

6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July (12 - 14 years)

13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July (14+ years) - VEG OUT CAMP

### SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER MUSTER

Bookings open July 7th at 9:30am

Sept 28th - Oct 4th (10-12 years)

### TRAINING CAMP

Bookings open Oct 6th at 9:30am (more details to come)

12th - 14th December

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MUSTERS

Bookings open July 7th at 9:30am

16th - 20th December (10-12 years) & many others...

**ONLINE BOOKING** is now available for July. Check it out at [www.wirraway.org/musters/](http://www.wirraway.org/musters/)

**PHONE BOOKING** is still available as always. Give us a call Monday - Friday **(08) 8536 6063**

Keep an eye on our website for more information about camps throughout the year.