



Wirraway News Autumn 2011

A GREAT START TO 2011

Welcome to Autumn 2011. I imagine you're like us and can't believe we're already at the end of March. As we look back over the year so far, so much has already happened and there's so much to be grateful to God about as we soar through the year.

WEDDINGS GALORE

In January we had the privilege of celebrating Caleb Jones (our current cook) and Abbie Kellett's wedding at the Blackwood Hills Baptist Church. It was a great day and true to the fun style of both Abbie and Caleb. February was the next Wirraway wedding when we enjoyed the wedding of Jed Marshall (who was on staff until July 2010) and Kelsey Hill. It was another great day. In April, we will enjoy a Wirraway wedding of the truest kind when Dave Lohmeyer and Liz Stevens (current staff) tie the knot on the Wirraway playing field. (A photo to come in the next newsletter.) Please pray for our Wirraway couples that they would have a wonderful start to their married lives and that those still at Wirraway would be able to enjoy the combination of ministry and marriage.



SOPHIA HANCOCK



this way.

The newest member of the Wirraway family joined us at 7.55am on 8th January. Sophia Angela Rose Hancock was born weighing 8 pounds and 4 ounces (about 3.74kg) and both Jess and Jeremy thank God for a quick delivery. She's already a favourite with campers and no doubt she'll have her work cut out for her having 3 older brothers. Please pray for our Wirraway families as they balance being parents while also being involved in the Wirraway ministry. We're so grateful for their many sacrifices as they serve God in

CHRISTMAS MUSTERS IMPACT

Christmas musters were a great time. There were 6 musters over the January school holidays, which accommodated campers aged 10 years old right through to our oldest camper who was aged 17. A program that has been cemented as a part of these musters is a follow-up program where campers who have made a commitment at camp can receive regular letters and Bible studies to help them grow in their relationship with God. Kath Williams oversees this program and has already seen some great encouragement from what's been done so far.

"Over the Christmas holidays, a young boy grasped the concept of who God was and wanted to take a further step in following Christ. He asked questions at camp like, "What will my parents think about me becoming a Christian?" and, "How do I tell my friends?" His bunkhouse leader and I spoke with him about these issues and on the Friday night he made a commitment to have Christ in his life. He bought a bible and told his friends in his bunkhouse that he had made a decision to follow Christ. Since the camp, I have kept in contact with him through the follow-up program and through that he has become connected into a local church. This young boy has talked excitedly about reading the Gospel of Matthew and wants to learn more about the character of God. The youth pastor told me that on the first night he attended youth group, the young boy stated openly that he became a Christian on camp and was keen to learn more about God. This young boy has let us know that his parents are quite happy for him to attend youth group and continue coming on camps."

We thank God for the lives that have been changed over the holidays. Please pray these young people will find places where they can be encouraged and grow in their faith.

ABORIGINAL CAMP

The final January muster was made possible via a Morialta Grant. (The Morialta Grants also provide for us the opportunity to offer camp sponsorship to low income based families and schools.) Through liaising with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Commission, we had 15 aboriginal boys aged 10-16 years old attend a 5 day muster. Over the week they enjoyed a number of activities, our regular Christian program and also a number of sessions with the ex-criminal, and now Christian and public speaker, Steve Cain on self-esteem, team building and the importance of staying on the right side of the law. It was wonderful to see the boys relating with the horses and seeing a practical expression of how building empathy with animals helps people build empathy for each other. Though it was a challenging week, we praise God for the impact we were able to make. We hope to run more camps of this style in the future. Let us know if you'd like to be involved.

HORSE NEWS

There have been some movements on the horse front including some great new horses coming onto the scene. Cisco is a stock x quarter horse, who is dapple grey, 5 years old and 15 hands tall. Amber is a Cleveland bay who is 16.2 hands tall and is already a favourite with her riders. Shylo is our newest addition and is a palomino, who is 6 years old and is 15 hands high.

As well as having a number of new horses join us, we've also had to farewell a number of our faithful stock. Timmy and Banjo have gone to a lovely home where 2 young girls are enjoying having horses to ride. One of the harder stories to report is that Kia died a few weeks ago of colic despite the staff working with her for close to 14 hours. Our 7 month old foal, Anzac died a couple of weeks ago of a suspected snake bite and last week our old faithful horse Archer passed away from old age. Each of these horses will be sadly missed but we're grateful to God for all they offered us over their time here. As you know by now, we are always on the lookout for good, quiet horses. Please contact us if you know of any.

STAFF CHANGES

God is always doing new things with the staff here and this term is no different. Ben Toon has left us to work full-time as a fitness trainer and Steph Hassett has moved on to study Nutrition and Health. We have a number of new students who have joined us who are fitting in quickly and professionally. Tom Chandler has come to us from Mill Valley Ranch (pictured seated on right), Gina Cunningham has come to us from secondary school, Sam Lethbridge comes to us fresh from a year at Tabor College (pictured seated on left) and Matt Lohmeyer has come to us combining his work here with his shifts at Mylor Baptist Campsite. Mel Bulke is still studying with us and it's great to have her also join us in a part-time paid capacity. Amy Kalme has offered her services to us as a volunteer and is spending 2 days per week focussing on school camp admin. We are so grateful for the energy and effort each of the students put into their work here. Their passion for God, the campers and their work is inspiring. Join us in thanking God for them and please pray for good health for them and that they would be encouraged and blessed during their time here. (Our prayer for all the staff.)



HAVE ACCESS TO EMAIL?

If you have access to email, we'd love to email you the newsletter instead of posting it. (Wirraway currently spends over \$250 per quarter producing and posting the newsletter.) If you would like to take up this offer, send an email to office@wirraway.org and we'll switch you over to receive the next newsletter via email.

REFRESH DISCIPLESHIP CAMP

Bookings now open.

MAY 20th (Evening) – 22nd for 14+ years (\$77)

JULY HOLIDAY MUSTERS

Bookings open for our July Musters on Tuesday 19th 2011 at 9:30am.

JULY 10th – 16th for 12-14 years (\$275)

JULY 17th – 23rd for 14+ years (\$275)

Please see our website for details on all our future camps and to request a booking: www.wirraway.org or ring (08) 8536 6063