

ANZAC DAY PICNIC

When?

10.30 am Wednesday, 25 April 2018

Where?

Auburn Community Picnic Area Auburn. (Entry: Killeen Street, Auburn)

What is happening?

Games, lunch, singing and time to catch up

What to bring?

Salads, desserts, and an appetite for fellowship

What is provided?

Sausage sizzle, coffee, tea and games

Organised by Eastside church of Christ

Contact: Peter Mandalidis 0439 877 643 or Grant McFarland 0435 840 886

Worship Roster April 2018

Date	Worship Leader	Prayer	Lord's Supper	Scriptures	Adult Class	Morning Tea
1st	Bruce Bartley	Nick Pearce	John Stone	Jacque Krause	Stuart Penhall	Helen Lilley
8th	David Mowday	Scott Brown	John Drennan	Jacque Krause	Stuart Penhall	Jan Pearce
15th	Dan Mowday	Phil Drennan	Greg Hastings	Jacque Krause	Special Service	Joy Mowday
22nd	Kevin Brown	Greg Hastings	Scot Brown	Jacque Krause	Andrew Hastings	Mel Mowday
29th	Dan Mowday	John Stone	Andrew Hastings	Sebastian Krause	Stuart Penhall	High Tea

Meeting at Lisarow Seven Day Adventist Building

Sunday worship 9:30-10:30 am

Sunday classes 10:30-11:00

Morning Tea 11:00—12:00

Elders: John Drennan - 0431 235 212
David Mowday - 0411 284 685
Stuart Penhall - 0417 465 867

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The Beacon

A weekly newsletter of the



8th April 2018

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THE RACE

Athletic Races take different forms. Some races are designed only to determine who is fastest, some races are "technical" and designed to gauge the skills of those involved, while other races test the endurance of the competitors. All such races have one thing in common – they all involve competition with other participants.

Several New Testament writers apply the "race" metaphor to our Christian life, telling us of our need to run with endurance (1 Cor. 9:24), to run with purpose (1 Cor. 9:26) and to ensure that we are not "running in vain" (Gal.2:21) among other things. What is different about the "Christian race" is that it is not a competition as we are only really competing against ourselves.

This difference to most races is significant for several reasons, not the least of which is the fact that this lack of "competitiveness" tends to remove much of our motivation to gain the victory. In Hebrews 12 the writer seeks to restore incentive and motivation in a most unusual way.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Various New Testament writers address the need to encourage us in a wide variety of ways, but only the Hebrew writer employs the "great cloud of witnesses" whom we find described in chapter 11. While it is clear that their presence is designed to cause us to "run" our Christian race "with endurance" the question can reasonably be asked just how we are supposed to achieve this.

Several possibilities suggest themselves; here are some of the more obvious:

Their "presence" motivates us because they show us it can be done. The individuals chosen by the writer include several that we would never

Last Week

Attendance: 59

Giving: \$2,047.90

YTD Av: \$1,452.38

Budget: \$1,500.00

regard as having the potential to run such a race. People like Sampson and Rahab would seem to have little chance of reaching the goal, yet they are spoken of as being among those for whom God has “prepared a city” (11:16). The message is clear, if they can make it so can we.

Their “presence” motivates us because they show us how the race is run. Most races have rules which, if broken, disqualify the competitor. To many the Christian race is no exception meaning that disqualification is an ever present possibility. However the “crowd of witnesses” suggest otherwise for despite their faith they between them broke almost every rule in God’s book. This tells us that God is not expecting perfection or even consistency from his people rather that he is looking for those who trust in the salvation provided by Jesus and live in expectation that he will keep his promise of eternal life.

Their “presence” motivates us because they show us what we must focus on. Reading Hebrews 11 it is impossible to miss the significance of faith to God. Expressions such as “without faith it is impossible to please him” leave no room for doubt. However the faith he is looking for is very specific and is to provide the incentive and motivation for us to keep going. Faith in Hebrews 11 is in God’s promise of eternal life realised in Jesus, and it is this faith which enabled all those mentioned to overcome their fears and failures to complete their journey. Despite the passing of many thousands of years, this focus has lost none of its power and remains the greatest incentive to keep running for God.

Hebrews 11 then, is designed to provide us what we need to run our Christian race with endurance and confidence. The “cloud of witnesses” are there to help us to overcome whatever challenges we might encounter along the way so that we can join them in receiving the “heavenly city” which God has prepared for all those who run his race with endurance.

Stuart

This Week in Prayer

Please pray for the following in your private prayer time. Some are petitions and some are an offer of thanks.

- **Lyn Kendall** continues to improve after her recent stay in St Vincent’s. The uncontrollable nose bleed was caused by a sinus infection combined with the blood thinning drugs she must take. Please continue to pray that her transplant will be sooner rather than later.
- **Stephen Dines** is on intravenous antibiotics to deal with an abscess in his neck before he can recommence radiation and chemotherapy. Keep him and Annette in your prayers.
- **Linus Kummer** will undergo surgery on April 18th.
- **Colleen Bartley** continues to make good progress with her recovery despite having some back pain issues.
- **Andrew Kilpatrick** has been experiencing a great deal of pain which landed him in Wyong Emergency early last week. The problem is a Kidney stone which is now being treated.
- **Jan Pearce** has had a worrying time with the appearance of a spot on her liver. Fortunately it is nothing to be concerned about and she has been given the “all clear”.

The “Great Race”

Andrew Hastings has had a number of people volunteer to assist with this youth activity however he is still in need of additional assistance especially with the various challenges which make up the activity. If you can help please let Andrew know.

Thursday Morning Class

There will be no Thursday morning class for the next two weeks as both Stuart and John are away. The class will resume on Thursday April 26th at the Community Centre.

Rock For Brain

Rock for Brain is a Music Trivia event being hosted by Andrew Kilpatrick on Saturday April 14th at Woodbury Community centre from 2pm—4pm. All proceeds will go to Brain Injury Australia. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased from Ticketebo. See Andrew for further details.

ANZAC Day Picnic

ANZAC day is only a few weeks away and this year the annual picnic will be hosted by Eastside congregation. Please see the back page for further details.

Travelling

The Grittens are now on their way home after their travels in northern Queensland. Stuart will be away on holidays for the next couple of weeks.

Keep well Naturally—April 16th

Claire Murch (nee Hastings!) will be presenting a class all about learning natural solutions to many health problems with essential oils. The class will be held on Monday April 16th. Please see Claire for more information.



Keep Well Naturally!

AN INTRODUCTION TO ESSENTIAL OILS

MONDAY 16TH APRIL @ 10AM- 3/33 HILLS ST NORTH GOSFORD



Coming Events at Gosford & Beyond

Please let David, John or Stuart know of any activities conducted by or in which the congregation can participate.

April 14th— “Rock for Brain” Trivia afternoon

April 14th—“The Great Race” youth event.

April 25th—ANZAC Day picnic

May 4th—May 7th—Over Fifties Retreat

May 25th—May 27th—Camp Soul at Southwest.