

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

When

Sunday 6th May
10am Service

Where

Woonona Baptist Church
477 Princes Hwy,
Woonona NSW 2517

Contact

Karen Bate
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Please join us on this special Sunday to celebrate what God has done and continues to do at Bulli, Woonona & Corrimal High Schools through his workers; Clara, Dal & Leanne.

Message from the Chairman

2018 is off to a flyer. On behalf of the Board, we hope and pray that you and your loved ones, including your church families had a joyous and thought provoking Easter.

The Scripture year has begun very well in our High Schools and even in the midst of ever growing challenges, we are experiencing God's abundant blessing in so many ways. Clara, our new Bulli High School scripture teacher has already made a positive impact for the gospel and is starting to develop good and supportive relationships. Dal continues to find favour at and around Woonona High School and Corrimal High is so happy with what Leanne brings to the school community, she should soon commenced the first year of a three-year chaplaincy placement alongside her normal teaching responsibilities.

Our Board is also in transition at the end of the first decade of its important support and advocacy function. John Armour was there in the beginning and I would like now to take this opportunity to thank John on behalf of us all,

for believing, hustling and encouraging Northern Illawarra churches to get this started and to keep on keeping on. After 10 years on the Board Executive, John stepped back from the Chair at Monday night's AGM.

It's near impossible to measure the importance of the legacy of this work done IN Christ's name. We are deeply thankful to God for John and his family for their commitment. We are also indebted to a few others who have called it a day after working tirelessly to ensure key roles on the Board were filled. We give thanks to God for Helen Clunas, Nathan Zorn and David Green. David has graciously agreed to remain Treasurer until we can find a suitable replacement. So, we ask you, our church partners, to please pray about this need, and for our teachers, the school communities they serve and for the new and re-energized Board. To God be the Glory, in the Church and in Christ Jesus.

– Graeme Hush

From Clara at Bulli



Hello!

My name is Clara Saddi and I have recently joined the Scripture Board at the beginning of the year. I'm really excited to be teaching SRE, and feel very privileged to be

bringing the Word of God into our local High Schools. For all of us reading this Newsletter, we can remember how our teenage years were so formative in our lives.

It's when we began to ask the bigger questions, made our own decisions about what we believed to be truth or lies, navigated numerous (and often embarrassing) physical changes, established our identity and took steps towards the course of life we decided upon. To be able to provide students with a space within which they can ask these questions, find a framework to make sense of the world, and teach them how to read and understand the Bible is invaluable!

Classes in Bulli don't start until Term 2, but I have been working on organising volunteers and timetables for the start of Term. We held a couple of seminars for the year groups 10-12 that Tanja (last year's scripture teacher) had previously organised. She had recruited an

excellent team of volunteers and speakers who ran the show. Feedback from students was very positive, some expressing interest in having more opportunities for scripture! I have been assisting Dal at Woonona High during Term 1 and have learnt so much from working along side him. Particularly the relationships he's established with the students, every time we walk through the halls to get from one classroom to the next I can hear a chorus of 'Hi sir!'; 'Sir do we have you today?'; 'Sir when is Toast on?' and he somehow manages to respond back to each of them by name! He's established great relationships with the staff members of the school as well. I hope to be able to do the same when I join Bulli in Term 2.

I wanted to thank all of you for supporting the work of scripture, and honor you for investing into the lives of the next generation. Your ongoing prayer would be much appreciated, particularly for the timetable to be agreeable for our volunteers, so that they can continue to maintain relationships with the students that they've already built.

Blessings,

Clara Saddi

From Dal at Woonona



Scripture at Woonona High School has taken off this year. I am in my 6th year of teaching here and the school has grown again in numbers which means I am teaching more classes than ever before. I have been

encouraged by students engaging with scripture after the initial process of sorting who is in and who isn't.

The classes have now settled down and we are developing a good rhythm. Some of the

year 7 classes have had a great enthusiasm for scripture, either from older siblings or word of mouth, and there has been a good start to most classes. I have been thankful for Clara who has been helping me cover the classes this term, I couldn't have covered all the classes without her help. Matt Estherby has also been helping me on Thursday's as part of his MTS apprenticeship. He has taken over running the lunch time group which has had a consistent core of around a dozen students and will be taking on more responsibilities in

the classroom in the coming terms. The brekky club has also launched well with a great bunch of volunteers who help out and lines of students at the canteen Tuesday and Thursday mornings seeking breakfast. If you can help by coming in or donating jam or vegemite please let me know. Thanks for your

ongoing prayers and support of scripture in Woonona High School. Please pray for the students who engage with Scripture, for positive and encouraging discussions. God bless,

- Dal Proudfoot

From Leanne at Corrimal



I have had a wonderful start to the year at Corrimal High for which I am enormously grateful. It is now my 3rd year at the school and it feels like I am cementing a lot of relationships with students, as

well as the amazing staff. For the most part, students are pretty happy to see me approach their classrooms for Scripture, which hasn't always been the case.

I continue to praise God that I have the opportunity to teach about 3/4 of the students from Years 7-10 at Corrimal High.

Our small lunch group has had some new Year 7 students join this year which has been encouraging. However there are still only a handful of us meeting most weeks. So imagine my delight when we had our first "toasties and tough questions" recently and 26 students came along! Each term Nathan Zorn and I make cheese toasties for the students and anyone is welcome to come along and ask any questions they like. We were fortunate to have 2 Bible college students join us as part of their mission week to help in answering questions and to ask the students how they would finish the sentence "Jesus is...." Some wonderful discussion and questions ensued so please pray that these seeds would bear fruit for God's kingdom and that some students will continue to come along to lunch group.

This term I have been able to help out our music teacher with the school's vocal ensemble by playing my guitar and singing

along with the students. I couldn't believe it when I went along the first week and the new song they were learning was Hillsong's version of "Amazing grace!" Most of the students in the group don't do Scripture so it's a great opportunity to spend time with them and enjoy together the gift of music.

On 17th March, after 3 months of planning, CityServe Wollongong had their inaugural project of beautifying Corrimal High. About 75 volunteers from 24 different churches and organisations joined together to improve one of the under-utilised outdoor areas at the school. It was an amazing day of hard work and a great spirit of unity as people banded together to serve our community. I am most appreciative of the effort of so many people and I know that our students and staff will enjoy this wonderful space for a long time to come. Check out a short video from the day here: <http://cityserve.com.au/wollongong/>

Lastly I would love your prayers as I've been invited by the school Principal to also take on the role of school Chaplain under the new Student Wellbeing Support Program. It is anticipated that this new role will commence during Term 2, and will be in addition to my ongoing SRE teaching. Much praise to God and please join with me in praying that our board can raise the extra funding needed and for wisdom for me as I seek to prepare for this role well.

In Christ,

- Leanne Begg

From the Treasurer

We are very grateful for the support we received last year from member churches and individual donors and attendance at our fundraisers. This enabled us to cover our expenses in 2017.

We ask that you pray for our three SRE teachers as they face a new year in our local high schools and that you support our fundraisers - the next one for your diary being our "Boardwalk" (stroll, walk, jog, run, ride)

from the cafe area at Bulli beach on Saturday, May 19th.

Our ongoing Christian outreach to high school students is entirely reliant on your financial support. Please speak to one of our board members at your local church should you want further information about financially supporting us.

- David Green

Upcoming Events

Sunday 6th May

Commissioning Service

10am Woonona Baptist Church

Saturday 23rd June

Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Saturday 19th May

Annual Fun Run Boardwalk Fundraiser

Start Time: 9am. Meet at Bulli Beach Playground

Wednesday 19th September

Coffee & Dessert Night

Northern Illawarra Uniting Church

Board Members

Austi/Thirroul Anglican

David Green

Bulli Anglican

Greg Shipp & Andy Callow

Bulli Uniting

Jennifer Tibben

Corrimal Anglican

To be appointed

Corrimal Community Church

Graeme Hush

Corrimal Uniting

To be appointed

C3 Thirroul

Lindsay Sharp & Brendan Elliott

Woonona Baptist

Karen Bate

Woonona Presbyterian

Anthony Cook & Matt Estherby

Wollongong Christian Reformed

Heather Grant

Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns please contact us via email or through our Facebook page.

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