

Dear Friends,

As the year rolls on I grow more and more excited by what is going on at Coolamatong. Nothing I've ever done provides so much motivation to get going each day as the opportunity to have a life changing impact on students who come to camp at Coolamatong!

The Power of your Support

At this time I have been incredibly aware of the power of support from passionate people like you in making Coolamatong a life changing place; and there are a couple of stories that you should know about...



Dining Hall Toilet and Laundry

If you have been to Lake Camp you know that a simple trip to the toilet requires a trip down and up the hill from the Dining Hall... but not for much longer.

We were blown away earlier this year when a generous supporter donated money that will fully cover costs for building a new double toilet and

laundry on the back of the kitchen (on the car park side). Andy has been inspired by this generosity and is making rapid progression on this project that will see the Lake Camp take a massive step forward in comfort and convenience for all the school and holiday campers that visit us each year.

Bikes

One extremely exciting venture is the purchase of a set of new mountain bikes that will enable Lake Campers to take regular cycling trips off site, trips that have proven repeatedly to be an amazing source of ministry times. I have been watching for a bargain for around 2 years and found a suitable bike reduced to half price in a store (\$800 regular price reduced to \$400). Not anticipating anything I asked the store manager if we purchased a camp set whether he could get me the whole lot at the same sale price, his answer... Yes!

We are looking for people passionate about this ministry to support us by sponsoring a bike, having seen so much benefit from this activity first hand Gav is sponsoring the first one! The local Anglican Church Community Centre (pictured right) responded to our call for donations and are sponsoring two whole bikes. If you would like to share in this ministry please get in touch with us or use the response card attached.



Tractor

If you have been to the Farm Camp you will be familiar with the Massey Ferguson tractor. This faithful old girl began to show serious signs of age as last year drew to a close. Repairs were inevitable. Craig took on the job of rebuilding the engine block, cylinders, clutch, injectors and has done a wonderful job of giving her a new lease on life. Imagine our joy when a cheque arrived in the mail made out to the value covering the cost of the major part of the repairs!

So you see there is incredible power demonstrated above in God's provision of resources for us, but do you want to read an incredible story of ministry and transformation...

We had an amazing week two weeks ago...

The students were full of energy but there was an obvious division within the group. As Day 1 went on, Hayley and I out on expedition with half of the group could

see the frustration between them as we cooked dinner. Going to speak with the boys I did not expect what happened next... they started pouring out their pain about feeling excluded from the rest of the group, not wanting to be at school, and dealing with hard family situations in some cases. It became clear that their behaviour was an expression of their challenges. I shared

“it is like God’s potential for them has been released in them this week...”

with these boys the Gospel of Jesus and how each one of them is so special in his sight.

Later that night, after beach games by moonlight, we ventured into a fireside discussion about why the boys and girls did not get along. They wanted to change it but didn’t know how. Again we talked about how each of us is so special in Gods sight and that we deserve much better from each other.

The following day, on returning to the campsite one teacher remarked “there has been such a change in this group - they are talking to each other”. Little did we know but the other half of the group had been having the same conversation with Mark and Colleen. The rest of the week continued to provide opportunities to reflect on the process of change occurring

within them and to stretch them to learn new behaviours in building relationships with each other, so much so that some of the students approached us with joy in their eyes saying “guess what, I have made some new friends this week”.

Barricades broken down; the Love of God shared; new behaviours learned; stronger community developed... in the words of one of the staff “it is like God’s potential for them has been released in them this week... thank you.”



PRAAYER POINTS:

Praise God for:

- Wonderful camps that we have already had
- Relationships built and transformation in young lives
- The interns and their growth and development through this year
- New schools that have come this year and loved Coolamatong (Southwood; Mooroopna, Pakenham Lakeside)

Ask God to:

- Water the seeds planted each week
- Bring results from our recent promotional campaign - we want 10 new camps in the next 12 months.
- Bless and grow each of the interns in faith and in leadership through this year
- Guide Gav and Sallyanne in working through the finances towards the end of the year.
- Continually show us new ways to share the story of his love with Kids
- Provide Andy with all the support he needs for major building projects. (Deck & Laundry at Lake Camp)
- Help us manage staff load and holidays to ensure good balance and restoration for the team as the year progresses
- Guide Gary Boote (Governance Group member) and Gav as we look at the Proposal for Icthus to do Christian Leadership development
- Guide us in initial preparations for Holiday Camps
- Provide passionate leaders for each Holiday Camp

The transformation at this camp, and so many others... enabled through the power of generous support from people like you - Thanks so much. As you can see - your support has great power in encouraging us and enabling the spreading of God’s love for these children.

As we near the end of the financial year may I encourage you to consider whether you are in a position to support the work of Coolamatong. If you are passionate about building this ministry I would encourage you to think about joining team support for one of our ministry team and indicating this in the response section attached.

Gav & all of the Coolamatong Team

CALENDAR - Term 2 & 3		
	Farm	Lake
May 30 - June 3	Maramba	Mt Carmel Christian School (New)
June 6 - 10	Berwick lodge	
June 13-17	Bairnsdale West	
June 20-24	Kurnai Morwell	Gipps Tafe - Adult Learning group
June 27- Jul 1	Eagle Point Primary	Maranatha
School Holidays + SU Staff Conference		
July 25-29	Mentone Park	-
August 1-5	Orbost Secondary	-
August 8-12	Lloyd Street	-
August 15-19	Lloyd Street	-

