

Summer 2017

The

Waitara Watch

Newsletter

Welcome to Waitara

Waitara Seventh-day Adventist Church would like to extend a warm welcome to you. In fact, this welcome has been extended for over 100 years in our community since our church was first established circa 1903. Affectionately known as 'Waitara,' our church today has over 400 members who delight in growing closer to God, each other and you.

Our Vision and Focus for 2017

Evangelism Service Worship Family Fellowship

With the new year comes a brand new opportunity for the members of Waitara Church to make a positive difference in the community while also enriching their own spiritual lives. Evangelism, service, worship, family and fellowship have been identified as the five strategic focus areas through which our church will uplift Christ and reflect Him to those around us. Speaking of plans for the coming year, Pr Govender says 'What we want to achieve is to develop disciples to evangelise the community. I want total membership involvement and I would like to see that we become a caring church and that we connect with family and friends.'

Put it in your diary!

Reaching Up

Ten Days of Prayer

8-18 February 2017

www.tendaysofprayer.org

Reaching Out

GSC Ignite

Southee Pavillion

(Fri 17 March 2017)

Sydney Showground

(Sat 18 March 2017)

Reaching In

Waitara Church

Camp

7-9 April 2017

Crossland Youth and

Convention Centre

Why Jesus

In November Waitara Church hosted a series entitled 'Why Jesus' presented by Pr Anil Kanda from the U.S.A. Pr Kanda interweaved the story of his own unique journey from Sikhism to Adventism with various other topics throughout the week-long program. Speaking of Pr Kanda, Pr Govender says 'Anil has a very gifted personality in presenting Adventist truths. He is able to attract the secular individual.'

The series was well attended by both local church members and visitors with the message resonating strongly with hearers as was evidenced by the three baptism candidates who stepped forward afterwards. Additionally, a number of requests for prayer and Bible studies were also received. Pr Govender also noted that series was 'good for our members' and provided a 'time of revival and affirming our beliefs'.



Yes, we really do care



It started three years ago with a

simple aim of reaching out to the community and now, *Yes, We Care!* has proven itself a strong witnessing tool that truly allows church members to portray the caring nature of Christ.

2016 was another inspiring year that saw the outreach program continue to grow and expand. In addition to receiving continued participation and support from church membership (the lifeblood of the project), *Yes,*

We Care! has been adopted by churches in other areas such as Newcastle, Wahroonga and Canberra and was even featured on 3ABN. Furthermore, interest in the program has also been expressed from as far away as Queensland, Victoria and New Zealand!

The project's co-ordinators, James and Lydia Willison, outlined their vision for *Yes, We Care!* in 2017, including their hopes of broadening and diversifying the range of services that can be offered to the community. They want the program to be about 'more than just cleaning up people's backyards' but to be able to find out people's specific needs and address them whether it be through providing dietary advice, English classes or mental health checks. An example of this already happening is one woman who has expressed a strong interest in her son becoming connected with Pathfinders.

With the vast range of different talents and skills we have among our congregation, the potential for our church to make a difference in the community is extraordinary. All members are encouraged to get involved with *Yes, We Care!* and impact someone's life for the better.

Special thanks are given to all who sacrificed their time to make the program a success in 2016.

Yes, We Care! usually runs on the last Sabbath of every month (doorknocking) with jobs being completed on the Sunday one week

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. St. Augustine

ADRA Fundraiser

The fundraising night held at Waitara Church on 29th October was a huge success that managed to raise significant funds for ADRA. The evening started with a concert that featured performing artists from Waitara as well as guest performers such as Redeemed (from Stanmore Church) and Lynne Lorens. The concert was very well attended and a special offering collection managed to raise \$1464 for ADRA.



With the concert lasting about an hour-and-a-half, people came out feeling very hungry. Fortunately, they were well-catered for by the international food sale that was put on afterwards. A variety of exotic dishes including pasta, biryani, sushi and curry were available to be purchased and enjoyed.

Next, an auction was held with a number of Waitara members displaying their baking skills through the various cakes they donated for the sale. The range of cakes was so tantalising that some sold for as much as \$80.

Of course, the prize of the auction was the cricket bat personally signed by Don Bradman. The competition for this rarity was fierce with it eventually selling for \$800 and making up a significant portion of the \$1855 that the auction yielded. A perfect way to top off a wonderful evening that was enjoyed by all and, most importantly, managed to raise over \$4700 for ADRA.