



EXODUS COMMUNITY NEWS

Olympic Village Exodus Community is part of the parish of St. Pius X, West Heidelberg

WELCOME 2017



Signpost at Camp Oasis: Family Camp 2017

With little fanfare, 2016 was gone! Exodus ministry Teams have begun their various activities for the new year and schools are under way. Exodus has already hosted one school visit and is in the process of engaging with others for the year.

Entering his 17th Year with Exodus Community and 50 years as a Marist Brother, Harry is preparing for an extended break.

He intends to rest for a while and then contribute at a *BlazeAid* Camp, assisting in rebuilding damaged fences affected by recent fires. He will then visit his ancestral roots in Cornwall, UK, complete some walks and spend some time, especially over Easter, in a Benedictine Monastery. On return, Harry will spend time with family in Perth before returning to Heidelberg West.

During his absence, Br Doug (pictured below with a new friend!) will be the Exodus go-to person and members of the Exodus Management Team will assist in oversight of regular Exodus activities.



Several years ago, Connor Bradley joined the Exodus Young Adult

community and worked with *Remar*, the Marist school student leadership programme. Exodus is delighted to welcome Connor back to Heidelberg West. He will be residing at Exodus House while he completes his studies at LaTrobe University and continues his work at Bunnings.

Exodus also welcomes Paul Muling to the 2017 Management Team. You might recall Paul as being the previous Principal of our parish school, St Pius X Primary School. He has continued to be involved and, with Kerry Joyce, has made regular visits to local families.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S TEAM 19th Exodus FAMILY CAMP

The Exodus Family and Children's Team organized another successful family Camp. It was held early in January and was attended by 51 keen and eager people. Age range was baby to 70+! Alofa and her Team worked well together with the fabulous Staff of *Camp Oasis* at Monbulk (Dandenong Ranges) and a friendly, safe and active experience was enjoyed by all. A highlight again was visiting the (redeveloped) reptile room where participants could have a hands on (or around the neck!) experience with a variety of reptiles.



Other activities included outings for the adults, the annual concert, movie night, swimming, archery, flying fox and a morning and lunch at nearby Lake Lyildale.

The Family and Children's Team have already planned activities for the Easter school holidays and

have booked a weekend away for local women.

Reflecting on their *Women of Worth* weekend away at Ocean Grove in November 2016, some ladies wrote: *How special to be able to spend time with these lovely ladies and to have a rest from the everyday hustle and bustle of the city. Everybody 'let their hair down' so to speak with much hilarity and good cheer.*

The weather was mild, the food abundant and tasty and the company agreeable.

The theme for the weekend was HONOUR. Kerry led the devotion and we made small, colourful rosaries to take with us.

Thank you for the opportunity to get to know each other better and to be near the seaside.

Thank you Marist Brothers!



Meals were always a highlight of Family Camp

Laurie Bradley RIP

Those attending our Christmas barbecue and carols were delighted to see Sr Sally who visited. Sally had been in Melbourne for several weeks, visiting family and caring for her frail father who sadly died on Christmas eve. Exodus extends deepest sympathies to Sally and her family and reassure her of our continued appreciation for all her ministry here in Heidelberg West. Some Exodus members were able to attend Laurie Bradley's funeral.



Laurie Bradley was an interested supporter of Exodus Community

BIKE HUT

Several years ago Exodus entered into project with Banyule City Council and other local organizations to create a place where young people could gather to build and repair bikes and scooters. Exodus volunteers continue to open Malahang Park Bike Hut each Thursday afternoon. It is a great opportunity to engage with local youth and families. Donated bikes are repaired and given away. Exodus values the ongoing dedication of Les, Maureen, Alan, Billy, Br Harry and Banyule mayor, Tom Melican (pictured below) who maintain this contact with local youth.



LOCAL VOICES

Exodus was really blessed to once again enjoy the generous support of staff from OLMC Heidelberg who provided and served the delicious meal at the Exodus annual Christmas function. We were led in singing by a most competent group of young adults organized by Kathleen (who had attended 2016 Family Camp). Below are some comments from people who attend Exodus weekly Drop in and ~~Exodus weekly Drop in and~~ am here.

Being able to have a conversation with different people who are here and to share and incidents that have occurred

recently and to be told of their reaction.

Just the friendship and great Atmosphere.

A lovely place to communicate and catch up with everyone.

The Team is doing a wonderful job preparing food and it is a lovely atmosphere.

On a Wednesday, someone comes and picks me up and I met all the lovely people. I have all sorts of things from Exodus and still have support and especially the prayers.

The people – they are helpful and encourage me. There is good quality of food. The people are friendly, outstanding and terrific.

BELBARDIA FOOD SERVICE

Each Wednesday evening for a number of years Exodus volunteers have worked in partnership with staff and girls from OLMC Heidelberg, The SALT Foundation members, a variety of volunteers and staff of Olympic Adult Education prepare and deliver a meal to residents of Heidelberg West, especially in the flats on Bell and Bardia Streets. Each month students and staff from Marcellin College have also been involved. Locals have also become quite involved in setting up the dining area and assist in distribution of donated food items.

This year OLMC Heidelberg will be operating the service under a slightly changed model as we attempt to work with local people in meeting needs and aspirations as well as providing a meaningful opportunity for students to be involved in community service.

MARIST YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

With assistance from Liz Wake, Marist Youth Ministry Regional Coordinator, Amanda Hance (previous Remar Team member) is working with other Marist Young Adults in an attempt to support local youth of Heidelberg West. It is hoped to rebuild youth connections, work closely with Banyule Youth Team and collaborate with local families in an

attempt to engage meaningfully with youth of the area.

THANK YOU



Thank you to the many generous individuals, Clubs, agencies, organizations and schools that assist with Exodus ministries throughout the year. Support was greatly appreciated at the end of 2016 with Christmas items especially. Ongoing donations allow Exodus to make modest payment that assist children returning to school as well as cover costs of ongoing ministries.

We wish all Exodus supporters and friends good health and safety for 2017!



February 2017