

## Youth & Children's Ministry Area - Report July 2014

### Highlights of current activities

**The Disciple Ship:** For the first half of the year we have had rotations on “Fruits of the Spirit”, “Easter through Symbols”, “Joseph” and “The Bible”. We have used a wide range of workshops and it is easy to see that the children who attend enjoy themselves, especially with the variety of activities and formats used in the workshops. Weekly attendance still varies greatly between 2 to 10 which provides a challenge when planning an activity.

**Sunday School:** Sharyn and Jo continue to work with the young children each week and where possible the material is linked to what The Disciple Ship is doing but modified to be more age appropriate. I find the enthusiasm from the children in this group infectious whenever I get to drop in on them.

**Sunday Morning Youth** and **Sunday Arvo Youth** are not currently active and these will be reviewed in the second half of the year to re-establish appropriate discipleship for high school aged youth.

**Boys Brigade:** We have three officers and two non-commissioned officers in the company and attendance of seniors. The ongoing prayers from our congregation should be for leadership development and recruitment of Anchor Boys and Juniors.

**Kidzone:** Each Wednesday afternoon the downstairs hall erupts into a blend of noise and activity as primary school aged children “bust out” after a hard day in school. Games followed by a “sit at the table” afternoon tea leads into a devotion backed up with a craft. This is the format for Kidzone. All of the eight regulars attended DayCamp and FunFari this year. We have welcomed Jack Irwin as a High School leader this year.

**Priority One (P1):** With a leadership shuffle at Easter we now have Helen, Samantha, Liam, Brandon, and Ken looking after the group and are doing a great job of forming genuine relationships with the eight children who are currently attending. We hope to attract more to this group through the connections made at FunFari. After 7 years as leaders Kelly has moved into Friday Night Youth and Hayley is taking a break.

**Friday Night Youth (FNY):** Jo, Kelly, Kenny, Michelle, Imogene, Elise, Amber, and Rhys are sharing the responsibilities of running the program on the night, devotions and supper provision. The group has enjoyed a full and diverse program for the first half of the year. With average attendance of 12 they have also joined in the Presbytery “Ultra Youth” nights along with Priority One and we are hosting the next one in August.

**It's All About Music:** A steady stream of new families has been the trend for the year so far and it's not uncommon to have between 10-15 children joining in the singing, actions and dance. Some positive links have developed with the Playgroup Association Group that uses the hall on a Wednesday morning.

**RE Excite:** We have held two Excite Events at Oxley Primary School so far this year and have chosen “The Power of God” as our theme. With a committed group of leaders we are able to present to approximately 250 students in two sessions of lower and upper primary.

**DayCamp & FunFari:** We have just completed a fantastic DayCamp and FunFari and what a blessing it was for all those involved. The theme of “Dress Rehearsal” was so well received and the four stories from the Bible that were the focus each day are unlikely to be forgotten. On the last day we separated the Day Campers and the FunFarites and invited them in a time of commitment or recommitment, with 90 children including 5 leaders responding.

Regards

Ken Acworth | Acting Youth & Children’s Ministry Area Coordinator