



RURAL DELIVERY

Helping the Rural Church boil its billy in Christ's mission!

Issue 03 - October 2007

FOCUS CHURCH DAY—SPRING CREEK—27th OCT



St Luke's, Spring Creek

Spring Creek is the venue for our next Focus Church Day in just over a week's time. This promises to be a valuable re-sourcing time for both the Spring Creek parish and for those from elsewhere who attend. We'll hear from Alan and his team about how they have responded to the SWOT that took place in the church 3 months ago. As well as that we have Peter Carrell offering a Bible study using

rural images, Michael Treston on 'Worship involving children and youth' and Richard Dyer on 'Evangelism in a rural setting.'

Steve Goodman, an expert in audio-visual technology will walk us through (in non-technical language!) the challenges of being heard and seen in church! This is all about sound systems and data projectors—most of us have them now but are we getting the most out

of them? Steve will show us how!

The Focus Church Day begins at St Luke's, Ferry Rd, Spring Creek with refreshments at 9:45am and will close off at 3pm. Lunch and refreshments will be served by the Spring Creek Team. So decide to come and support our brothers and sisters in Christ and take home some valuable encouragement as well!

JULY RURAL CHURCH DAY IN WAKEFIELD VALUABLE

'Relevant' seemed to be the 'word for the day' as we grappled with the challenges of ministry in rural communities. In March the SWOT team had spent time with the people of St. John's, Wakefield and already the outworking of ideas was bearing fruit. They have had their challenges this year – the serious vandalism of St John's – but in true rural fashion challenges have become opportunities! The historic building now looks fantastic and worship in the auditorium is devel-

oping well. A ribboned bookmark dropped in letterboxes has historical details & current worship times: this is a church for the community. Though it meets in an historical building, the church family is alive and people new to the area need to know what the church has to offer.

Later we contemplated how to approach the musical aspect of worship in rural churches where there may be few, if any, musicians. Alison Fields tackled this dilemma speaking from experience and giv-

ing some do-able options. John Inglis, Business and Marketing tutor at NMIT, led us into 'the dark side' – marketing – with a Church spin! In these days of global uncertainty, elements of our society that have stood the test of time have unprecedented value—that's the Church! He quoted Toffler saying, 'The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.' Our Church can be relevant as we grow and learn!



Dawn Daunauda
From Richmond

FOCUS CHURCH DAY FOLLOWS 'SWOT'



The SWOT team (Martin, Kate and Mark) mingle with members of the

SWOT stands for 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats' and is an ideas & visioning template. When a rural church signs up as the 'Focus Church' the 'SWOT' team visit the parish to help the leadership step back and see what's great and what needs to be developed. 'SWOT' is a tool for local leaders to learn more about the God given opportunities that exist for ministry.

At Spring Creek we began

with a Bible study on Luke 10 — 'Doing mission the Jesus way.' The group then began to dream about what God wanted the Church to be like in 5 years—we shared our dreams and got excited about the possibilities.

In the process of dreaming we came up with lots of ideas and then agreed to form a 'Task Group' - to take the ideas and put legs on them. The SWOT team—Martin, Mark and Kate — closed off the day by praying for

each person present. This was a powerful and moving time — the Holy Spirit united our hearts and deepened our calling to shared leadership.

Since the SWOT day Alan has met several times with the 'Task Group' who have implemented ideas like refining the worship, incorporating newcomers and lay training.

It's amazing the power unleashed when the Spirit works through a dedicated team!

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SETTING UP A YOUTH BAND FOR INVOLVMENT AND DISCIPLESHIP



Part of the aim of the Rural Church Development Plan is to provide resources for the rural church. Because of limited time this is usually in the form of inspiration, 'giving a taste' and pointing to where useful resources can be found.

Russell Paris from St Barnabas Stoke gave an excellent session on setting

up and running youth bands.

This was an idea Vicar Allan Wasley had dreamed up so as to encourage a group of youth in his church. Alan said '... absolutely brilliant insights ... were given, on the attitude of Music Teams, the role of leadership, motivation, musical ability etc. The concepts were all transferable...If you

want to glean some great stuff on music Groups – nab this man a.s.a.p for a seminar.'

Thanks Allan for suggesting this topic! Music can bring young people together and be a great tool for evangelism and involvement. All they need is a little mentoring and spiritual leadership!

BUILDING OUR RURAL NETWORK TOGETHER

Our faith is all about being together! Together with God and together with each other. The book of Acts in the New Testament has a special emphasis on describing the early believers 'doing life together.' For example Acts 2:44 says 'All the believers were together and had all things in common.'

Our network of rural

churches is trying to recapture this dynamic of community, support and sharing together in ministry. Our last Rural Focus Church Day at Wakefield church but also about being part of a wider network of rural churches.

Amid the busyness of life we must continue to meet together to love, support & bless each other.



The group gathered at the Wakefield Focus Church Day 28th July, 2007

TRANS-TASMAN RURAL FORUM—APRIL—2008

Planning is well under way for next year's Trans-Tasman Rural Forum. It will run from April 7th—11th so mark it in your diary for '08. This event spans the denominations and will span our beautiful region as well - from Marlborough and the Sounds, Lake Rotoiti and the Waimea Plains. Martin Harrison and Peter Carrell are key players so have a chat with either of them for more details.

This conference is held every four years and showcases the latest in 'best practice' and rural ministry developments. Because it's in our own backyard next year this is an event not to be missed!

LITANY FOR CREATION

Grant favourable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons,
That there may be food and drink for all creatures

Hear us, good Lord

Bestow your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them,
To bring forth food and all things needful for your people.

Hear us, good Lord

Prosper all who care for the earth, the water, and the air,
that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age

Hear us, good Lord.

Amen

