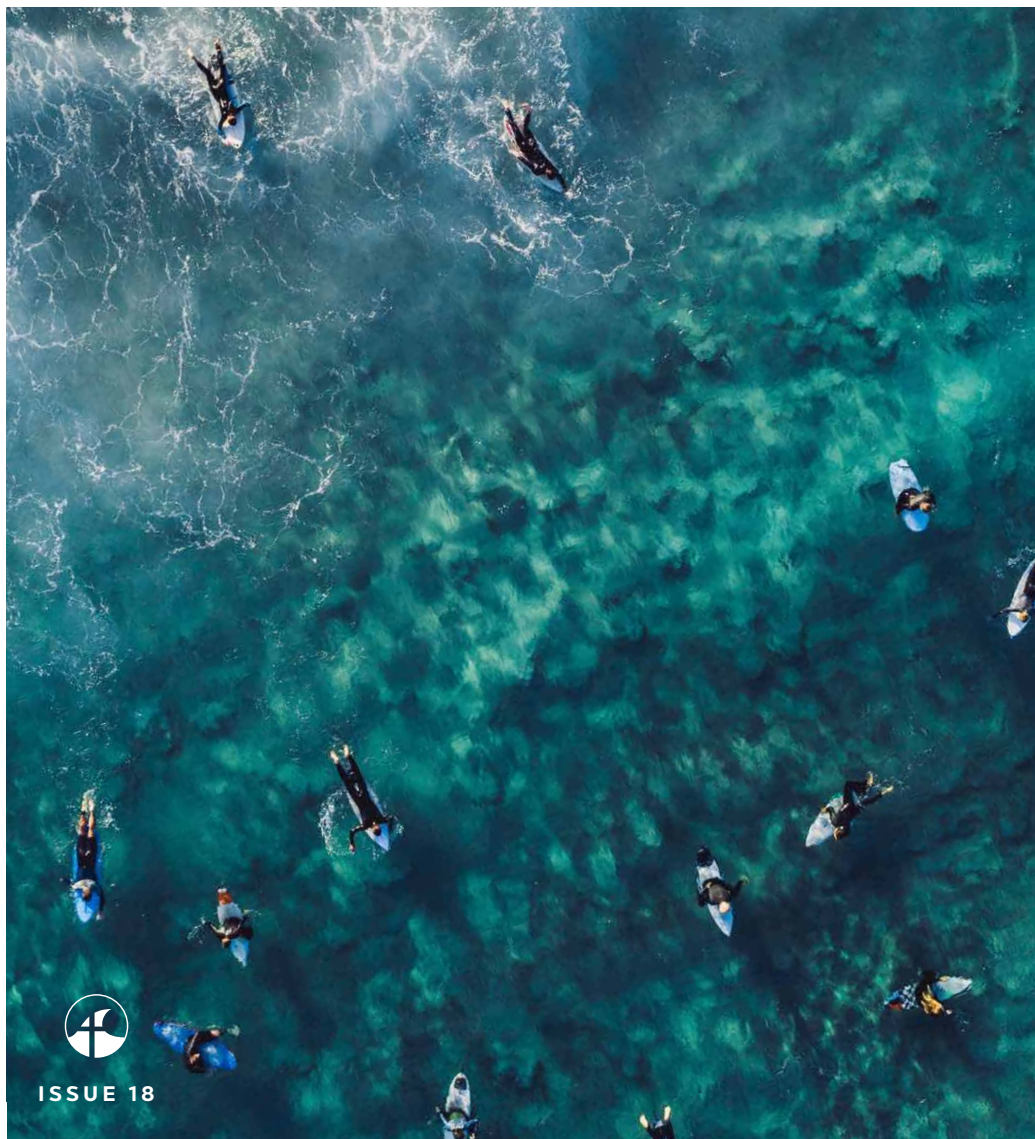


ST FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2022

COMMUNITY MAG



ISSUE 18

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1 CORINTHIANS

GOOD NEWS FOR A MESSY CHURCH



Welcome

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



Dear Church,

I don't know about you, but I love the month of September!

I love Spring (or maybe I just love the end of winter?), I love that it's footy finals season (Yvette particularly enjoys the end of the footy finals season), I love that the weather and water is warming up and the hope of summer is on the horizon – I love the anticipation that the end of the year is almost upon us – we're on the home stretch! Does anyone else feel a sense of excitement as Spring arrives?

There's plenty of exciting things happening in the life of our church community too! We're continuing to preach through the Apostle's Paul's first letter to the **Corinthians** being reminded that the gospel is the answer

to messiness of sin, life and being in community together; we've got **Inspire 2022** (10 Sept) for the women of St Faith's as they think together about 'hope in hardship' and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus; we've got a **Newish Arvo Tea** (11 Sept) for those who have recently arrived at St Faith's; we've got our regional bishop, **Chris Edwards** preaching at all of our services and leading **Confirmation** (17/18 Sept) and we've got **Take 2 Soulies Camp** coming up in early October for the youth at church! Now is a good time to come out of hibernation and get amongst the action as we seek to grow into the mature disciples that Jesus wants us to be.

I would also like to highlight that the first five weeks of term 4 (starting 15/16 Oct) is our **Commitment Series**. I'm really looking forward to spending these weeks unpacking five key biblical truths that have shaped our thinking around our renewed vision and

mission here at St Faith's – ***to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus, by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God's glory.***

My hope and prayer is that as we look at these biblical truths together, our convictions would be deepened, our resolve to serve Jesus and one another strengthened, our heart for mission refreshed, and our commitment to God renewed. Please set aside each of these weeks in your diary as a priority for meeting together with God's people.

Heavenly Father, fill our lives with the fruit of your Spirit, so that we may walk in joyful obedience, share your love by word and deed, and see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus. Amen.

In Christ,
Ben



CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

ADAM SCOTT

I'm really thankful that our throw-away culture hasn't ditched the concept of celebrating Father's Day. It's entirely appropriate that we pause to honour our dads, celebrate fatherhood, and acknowledge the important role fathers are meant to play.

As a father of kids that are still quite small, I adore the early morning bedroom invasion, the illegible hand-written cards, the barely edible attempt at "cooking" breakfast, and the ad-hoc lounge room performances that demand an audience. I never imagined that I'd love this stuff, but I do - every bit! I love being a dad, and I'm thankful that my small people want me to know that they love me back. It's an immense privilege - and it's one I wasn't expecting to have.

I distinctly remember how it felt, sitting opposite a fertility specialist, hearing them break the news that it was highly unlikely we'd ever have biological children of our own. There's a weight that comes with that kind of news that drives even the least disciplined of us to their knees in prayer. Thankfully, God had mercy and answered the heart-felt prayers of a couple of desperate young adults (four times over – what a showoff!).

I'm conscious that our good God doesn't always answer these prayers in this way. It's left me acutely aware of how much of a privilege it is to be a father, and how blessed I am to have a heavenly father who exemplifies what it means to be a good, gracious dad. I'm conscious that some of us haven't had a good experience with our earthly dads. Some of them haven't been present – emotionally or physically. Some of them have left us wondering whether they love their work or their hobbies more than their kids. Some have been rough and unkind, instead of gentle and loving like they're supposed to be. And some of them have died much sooner than we expected. Those kinds of experiences can make Father's Day tough – a day that wouldn't be missed if our throw-away culture got its hands on it.

Whatever your own experience may be, there's something redeemable about Father's Day, especially for the Christian, because we have a heavenly father who is worth celebrating, and emulating.

Here's a few things to remember about our heavenly father this Father's Day:



1) He showed up.

We should celebrate our dads and acknowledge our debt to them. However, we should also remember that our earthly dads aren't perfect. Even with the best of intentions, they make mistakes, forget, or just can't manage to do everything. Our heavenly father isn't like that. He's never too busy, pre-occupied, or disinterested. Just like Colin Buchanan has taught so many of our kids: "God never says oops, never slips up, never makes any mistakes". And when we needed him the most, he didn't leave us hanging - he showed up:



ROMANS 5:6-8

Now You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

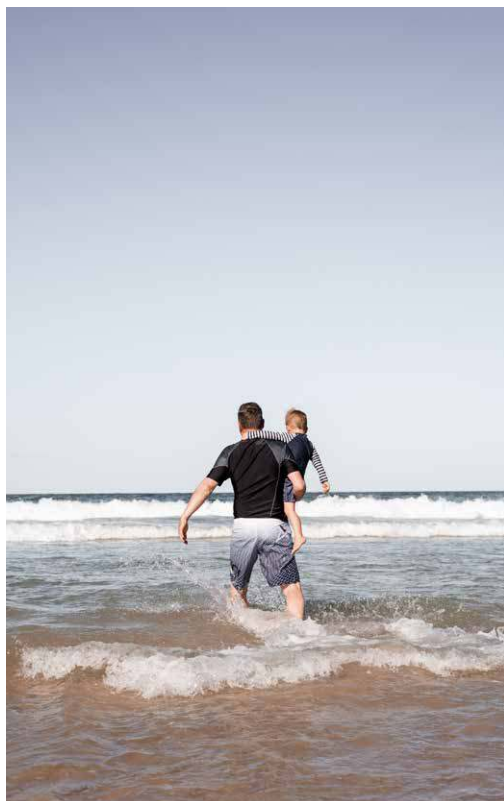
2) He adopted us - willingly, and at great cost.

There are quite a few among us who know what it's like to be loved by an earthly dad who stepped-in and stepped-up to love us: step-fathers, foster-fathers, adoptive-fathers. It's a commendable thing when dads choose to be invested and involved in the lives of their kids - biological or otherwise - and we should celebrate it!

In fact, it can be reflective of the selfless love that our heavenly father has shown us in Christ – he isn't just intimately involved in our lives, he has adopted us as his very own children (Ephesians 1:4-6), and did so at enormous personal cost (Isaiah 53:4-6).

3) He won't abandon us. Ever.

Sadly, some of us know what it feels like to have an earthly father who, for one reason or another, bailed on us. Some may have extricated themselves from our lives entirely, others may still be around, but put up barriers and remain emotionally distant. Our heavenly father makes many promises to his people in the Bible – one such promise is to never do that. He's promised to never forsake us:



“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

DEUTERONOMY 31:6

It's an Old Testament promise to ancient Israel (Deuteronomy 31:6) that is re-affirmed to us as Christians this side of the cross (Hebrews 13:5). And, in Christ, we have every reason to trust that our heavenly father will keep his word. Our saviour and brother, Jesus, has promised that he won't bail on us either (Matthew 28:20).

So, whether our earthly dads are still with us, or have departed, whether they were doting, or difficult, as Christians, there's much to celebrate this Father's Day – let's give thanks for our earthly dads, and praise God that he's our perfect heavenly father. ■

FAST FOUR

FAV MOVIE

We have quite divergent movie tastes! So a combination of Bond (we had the full box set when we had a DVD player), French classics like Jean de Florette and sequel Manon des Sources, or Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy – you'll have to pick whose is whose!

FAV FOOD

French anything or Chinese (mapo tofu aka. 'grandma's bean curd').

FAVORITE BEACH

Close call, we're divided between North Curl (Lauren) and Warriewood (Paul) and might just agree that Bilgola edges them both out.

IF YOU COULD VISIT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

We love Tasmania as a family, but as we approach our 20th wedding anniversary in a few years' time, we'd love to celebrate in Vienna.

MEET A MEMBER

PAUL & LAUREN WHITE

Tell us how long you have been at St Faith's, ways you serve around church and what service you are a part of?

We joined in March this year, attend Saturday Church and love helping out any way we can, but particularly with food which comes quite naturally for our family.

How and when did you both start following Jesus?

Lauren: I remember first experiencing faith in Primary School scripture, and then in early High School I was invited to youth group (pool party!) and a while later hearing teaching in church it became clear that being a Christian was to simply follow Christ, and it became real for me. Paul: My mother was a nominal Christian when she got married, my father became a Christian because of the sermon on his wedding day. I came along soon after, and my faith grew up with theirs. My love of Jesus was nurtured by wonderful youth ministry at St David's Forestville, my faith becoming most vibrant and alive during our annual youth camps, and later through preaching at various KCC events (so proud that Lauren now serves on the KCC board – Lauren, don't delete this bit in your final edit!).





Why is it important for you to be a part of a church family?

Spiritually we are one in Christ, and we are family, so we want to live it out together, loving, serving and encouraging each other. We also love seeing our kids form friendships, grow in their faith and have such a great time at St Faiths – we feel incredibly blessed to be a part of the St Faith's family.

What have been the main things you have learnt from 1 Corinthians so far?

Lauren: To think more about how God sees us than others. Paul: I've been shaken a little by the damage pride in performance can cause in a church community. And the sharp corrective Paul so urgently delivers to a gathering of new believers. I've been wondering what type of letter Paul might write to me, who's walked with the Lord for most of my life, or to an established church like St Faiths. ■

SEPTEMBER PRAYER DIARY

THU 1	PREPARATIONS FOR INSPIRE 2022 – Give thanks for Rosemary, Meredith, Lou, Dave, Paul and others for the organisation and preparations for the women’s event Inspire being held on the 10th of this month. Pray the preparations will run smoothly and for Rosemary as she prepares bible talks on “Hope in Hardship” the theme for Inspire 2022.
FRI 2	WAR VETS – Pray the residents who have been moved to other facilities can settle in and also the staff can settle into their new roles. Pray for families grieving with the loss of loved ones. The program for young homeless veterans called ‘The Homes for Heroes’ has some new residents. Pray the program and staff can be able to help them through their recovery and that Tony can continue in an effective supportive role. Pray that covid outbreaks will continue to become less frequent in our care homes.
SAT 3	Pray for energy for Ben Molyneux preaching across all services at St Faith’s this weekend and for Jake Madder preaching at WAC on Sunday. Pray the gospel message is clear and encouraging.
SUN 4	FATHER’S DAY – Pray for men in their roles as fathers. Ask God to give them the wisdom, compassion and endurance they need to love their families well. Pray for comfort for those for whom Father’s Day is a time of sadness and regret.
MON 5	JESUS CLUB – Pray for our current members Ben, Brendan, Dylan, Kathryn and Adam. Pray for God to raise up more members to come and enjoy fellowship and learn about God in a fun and engaging way. Pray for the leaders Dan, Bec, Verity, Anne, Michael, Steve and Natalie; and give thanks for our new leaders (Anne, Michael and Steve). Pray for our small team for energy and enthusiasm to continue to serve the members well as we share God’s message of hope. Give thanks for our generous supper helpers and the encouragement they bring.
TUE 6	Pray for our staff team as they spend a few days in planning together (5-7 Sept), looking at the year ahead. Pray for Ben Molyneux as he leads our staff team. Ask God to give Ben and the staff wisdom and discernment, making plans in line with God’s purposes for the world, so that we might be effective in making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for the glory of God.
WED 7	GUMTREES PLAYTIME – Praise God for new people coming along to the play group; praise God for providing another St Faith’s member to talk to those who come along. Ask God to grow friendships that extend beyond play group and for Jesus conversations in those relationships.

THU 8	MISSION – Meagan Llewelyn- AFES Sydney Uni – Praise God for our mission week we had in August where many people got to hear the gospel through their friends. Pray they may come to know Jesus for themselves. Pray that if it is God's will, I will be healed from some medical issues that have recently popped up. Pray it won't affect my work on campus but if it does, that I will find contentment and the medical help I need.
FRI 9	UKRAINE – Pray for the 12 million people who have fled their homes since Russia's invasion. Give thanks for the neighbouring countries who have given refuge to more than five million people and pray for protection for the seven million people who are still thought to be displaced inside Ukraine itself. Give thanks that the EU has granted Ukrainians the automatic right to stay and work throughout its 27 member nations for up to three years.
SAT 10	INSPIRE 2022 – Pray for the women's event being held at church today. Give thanks that the women can attend in person this year. Pray for great conversations and a wonderful time of fellowship amongst the women. Pray Rosemary's talk will be encouraging as she speaks on the hope we have in hardship.
SUN 11	Pray for New-ish happening today. Pray that the many new people to St Faith's over the last few months will come along and get to know others from St Faith's and hear about the next steps in joining our church through Belong.
MON 12	ESL – This past month has been a time of much sickness and absences for many of our ESL team members, but we give thanks to God for those people who have stepped up to fill in the gaps. God has provided all our needs, and we praise Him for His ongoing provision and empowering. We give thanks too for a growing number of students, and for their enthusiasm to learn. Please pray that those who stay for the Bible Studies may have their hearts opened to the gospel, and that more students will be led to stay after class to read from the Bible. Please pray for protection from illness for the team, that we may be able to run the classes well, and have time to share our lives and Jesus with our students.
TUE 13	Give thanks for our Synod reps, Bob Pryor and Tim Tunbridge who will be attending Synod (10th, 12-14th & 19-20th Sept) on our behalf along with Ben Molyneux. Pray that God would use the time at Synod to strengthen his church and that decision and plans would promote the cause of the gospel.
WED 14	THE COMMUNITY PANTRY – Praise God for the wonderful community we have built at TCP. We are thankful for all our volunteers who serve in so many ways. Please pray that more people would serve with us, and that we reflect Jesus' love for our guests. Praise God for our guests and for those who are attending our Bible Study before our meal. Pray that more people in need come to be part of the TCP Community and that hearts will continue to soften as the Good News of Jesus is shared.

THU 15	MISSION - Irwan and Catherine AFES Uni of Wollongong - Thank God that Mid Year Conference ran COVID free. Thank God for bringing many students both local and international back on campus for the 2nd semester, for giving passion to many Christian students to pray and boldly engaging with many students on during the 2 weeks of Jesus weeks mission. Pray for the follow up on those conversations as about 24 non-believers have indicated willingness to read His Word one on one. Pray for Irwan in training about 8 students in engaging Muslims on the topic of Bible Reliability, Trinity, Incarnation, Crucifixion. Pray for Irwan's meeting U from Pakistan, T and A from Iran - may the Lord have mercy on them, opening their heart and mind to willingly accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour Pray for students who are being encouraged to consider full-time ministry to come to MTS Recruit on Sep 30 to Oct 2. Pray for healing and growing in Godliness for Irwan and Catherine and family as they are going through sickness season at the moment.
FRI 16	Trent McGrath and The Village Church (TVC) in Jindabyne - Give thanks to God for the snow season. Pray that God will have made a strong impact in people's lives through both the beauty of His creation and the glory of Christ in the gospel this winter.
SAT 17	Give thanks for the Welcome Teams at St Faith's as they welcome others as God welcomes us in Christ. Pray that the welcome team will welcome and seek to care for all our members and guests.
SUN 18	Give thanks for our Bishop Chris Edwards . Pray for Chris as he preaches at all services at Narrabeen this weekend. Particularly as he leads our Confirmation Service tonight and preaches from God's word on Romans 12:1-21. Give thanks for those who are getting Confirmed tonight. Pray it would be an encouraging and joyful celebration of those standing up and publicly declaring their faith in Jesus and that they would bear witness to their friends and family. Pray for Colin Sheehan as he preaches this morning at WAC . Pray that God will speak through Colin to challenge and encourage those who are listening.
MON 19	Pray that refurbishments of the auditorium and café area at Warriewood Brook will go smoothly. Pray that there will be minimal disruption to church services and that the interim location will work well. Pray that those experiencing suffering and grief will be comforted by God's love and that they will fix their eyes upon Him.
TUE 20	COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE - Give thanks for our new Parramatta location and that word is spreading that we are offering counselling there. Pray for more people to know we are out there so those in the community who are in need of our services can access us.

WED 21	Give thanks for those who serve on the Gumnut Management Committee - Ben Molyneux, Marcus Druitt, Pam Smith, Rachel Mabley, Nicci Williams, Zoe Chapman and Belinda Morgan. Pray that their committee meeting today would be useful in continuing the good work of Gumnut and ask God to give wisdom and discernment in decision making. Please continue to pray for Steph Reeves (Gumnut Director) and her staff.
THU 22	Pray for the Molyneux family as they take a break for three weeks. Pray that the time away would refresh and renew them, in good time together as a family and time to rest together.
FRI 23	LIGHTHOUSE AND SOULIES - Pray the youth will continue to invite their friends to come along to Lighthouse and Soulies each Friday to interact and hear God's word. Pray they will feel welcomed. Pray for the leaders to be energised and sustained each week and for the message of the gospel to be taught faithfully.
SAT 24	Pray for Jake Madder preaching at Saturday, Traditional, Morning and Night church this weekend on John 1:11-13 - Being a child of God. Pray for clarity and for those hearing to have hearts that listen and act on God's word in their lives.
SUN 25	The Community Pantry Family - A young family from the community that regularly volunteer at TCP, have told Kathy and Neil that their oldest son Jackson had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. Neil and Kathy prayed for them and were subsequently told that the next biopsy showed a miraculous result. He has to continue chemo and radiation, but the family now have hope. Praise God for his mercy and pray for continued miraculous healing for Jackson. Pray for comfort for the family.
MON 26	MISSION - Chris and Karen Webb - Broome Peoples Church - Praise God that despite the Kimberley Christian Fellowship Convention being cancelled due to Covid, that our local gatherings, though small due to a large funeral and a travelling carnival, was still an opportunity for church members to exercise their gifts in playing music, preparing food and inviting people to come. Give thanks for the group of 8 who persevered through 5 hours of in-depth Bible study with us on the topic of God's holiness, for the joyful vibe during morning tea breaks and the chance for people to get to know each other better. Give thanks for the handful of non-believers who heard the gospel through Phil Brewster and Matt Morrison's preaching in the evenings and for the Broome YWAM team who taught the kids about Jesus in fun ways. Overall, give thanks for the opportunity to do some more planting and watering in God's field. Pray that God would use what happened on that weekend to grow people in faith and maturity.
TUE 27	NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS - Give thanks for the work that Rachel Purcell is involved in, teaching SRE at Cromer Campus. Pray for her as she opens the Bible and shares the gospel with students and staff. Pray that her words and witness will point people to the goodness of Jesus and encourage them to seek him as well.

WED 28	<p>Pray for Neil as he leads a bible study with the Community Pantry guests tonight. Give thanks for the 12 people who come along. Give thanks that Fiona Kirsop has been appointed as a part time staffworker at ACU Melbourne. Pray for humility, love and insight as she begins working alongside the students and fellow staffworker Chris Berry there to proclaim Jesus at University.</p>
THU 29	<p>GUMNUT KINDY – Our Gumnut children are praying for our lovely Fiona and her family as they are unwell at the moment, please pray they make a fast recovery. Pray for more beautiful sunshine and warm weather so that we can plant more seeds and watch them grow. Give thanks for the new baby siblings that have been born recently, and for Paula's new granddaughter. Pray for safe travels for the Gumnut families who are going overseas on holidays. Pray for Lisa to have a fantastic start in her new role. Although she will be very missed, we are excited for her and wish her all the best.</p>
FRI 30	<p>MISSION – DAN AND LIV WEBSTER – NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Thank God for the good work that is happening around and through us. Through your prayers, God empowers us to press on through busyness and frustration in a work that we continue to see the value of. We give thanks for the sure knowledge we have that we are not alone in this work, you and God are with us. Liv has seen some nice fruit of her planning and training of people, as well as fruit in the hands on work. We've known some students for several years now and it is a beautiful thing to look back from where they have come from to where they are now and see God's gracious work in them. Ask God for persevering in withholding judgement, rather than being judgemental and for Dan to work effectively in preparing a new subject.</p>

COMMUNITY NEWS



Expecting mums – Jade Doyle (night church – twins!), Bethany Meador (night church)
Congratulations to Matt & Steph Smith (morning church) along with big sisters Mia & Zoe on the arrival of Ava Jayne Smith, born 16 August

Those unwell:

Rosemary Irwin
 Larry and Jacky Tolnay
 Robyn Ohlsson
 Sean Foley
 Anne Robinson

Andrew Channon
 Alison Pryde
 Trish Clifton
 Dennis Hensman
 Shane Lau

MEET STEPH- OUR NEW GUMNUT KINDY DIRECTOR



My name is Steph, and I am the Director of Beautiful Gumnut Kindy, as well as Educational Leader.

A couple of fun facts about me that some may not know....

I recently got married in March this year, to my husband Cam.

**I have 4 girls of my own (from 15 years all the way down to 2 years)...
and now a puppy, Marlu.**

**I really enjoy my personal time, going out for brunch, getting out in the
sunshine and LOVE live music.**

**I have over 20 years' experience in the Early Childhood sector, and am
hoping to further my studies into Additional Needs.**

I am passionate about Early Childhood education and strive to support children in reaching their full potential.

I value strong partnerships with families to support their child, as they develop skills that will help them thrive and create strong foundations for their life ahead.

I believe in developing strong attachments to help your children feel safe, secure and supported. I strive to provide children with enriching experiences based on their interests.

When children play, I am able to learn from them through each individual personality and uniqueness. This enables children to explore and learn with confidence. Trusting and responsive relationships support healthy brain development.

Collaboration between families, children, educators, staff and management is a vital part of my philosophy, as we work together to achieve our goals and reach the best outcomes for our children. I strive to provide children with enriching experiences based on their interests.

One of my strengths is supporting others and encouraging holistic wellbeing. This encompasses children and adults alike. This is maintained through open communication with families, building trusting relationships and being available for a chat....

Which I always am.

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' - Helen Keller

COMING UP...

Inspire
Sat 10th Sep
\$30 for the day
Register here >>



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HOPE IN HARDSHIP

INSPIRE 2022

National GRANDPARENT CONFERENCE

Leaving a Living Legacy



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17th September 2022

WHERE
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ARVO

SUNDAY 11TH

SEPTEMBER

4:30PM

@ ST FAITH'S

Rego Here:



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes need to be returned
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