



Wynnum Manly School Chaplaincy Newsletter

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It's November and the year is coming to a close. November is also our last Money Box Collection Month for the year. Money boxes are collected throughout the year in February, May, August and November. Please support Chaplaincy where you can.

WHY A NEWSLETTER?

This newsletter is going to be a composite overview of Chaplaincy within the wider Wynnum Manly area. The Wynnum Manly School Chaplaincy currently covers ten schools in the area and we now have a webpage which you can visit at <http://wynmansc.org.au>

WYNNUM WIPEOUT

Wynnum Wipeout is a holiday program for young people in the Wynnum Manly area who will be in grade 6 to grade 12 in the year the programme runs. It is run to give young people a safe and fun environment to spend their last bit of holidays. There are a number of activities run on each day for participants to choose. For more information go to <http://wynnumwipeout.com/> to look at what's on offer and to book activities for the program. Run from the School Hall at Wynnum State High School, Peel Street Manly.

CHAPLAINS IN WYNNUM MANLY SCHOOLS – A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Primary, Secondary and Special Schools in our area have chaplains. For the first time in our area, there is a chaplain who services both a secondary school and one of its feeder primary schools. This means that in the New Year, students going to high school will see a familiar face in their chaplain from primary school.

CHURCH VISITS

Chaplains have visited the following churches so far this year, with other visits on the program before the end of the year: Wynnum Manly Christian Alliance, Bayside Uniting,

Wynnum Baptist, Morningside Uniting, Tingalpa Uniting. Wynnum Christian Community Church (The Chapel).

CHAPLAINS – WHAT DO THEY DO?

So what do Chaplains do in schools?



Gabriella Ruth daughter
No.4 settling in and loved
by all, but breakfast went
on.

To give an idea, here are some things that our local Chaplains have been doing. A weekly breakfast is run in at least one school to ensure that the students have had breakfast. One Chaplain who has operated a successful breakfast program had trained students to assist with the program over the last two years. The training was so effective that when he had paternity leave, the students stepped in and ran it themselves. To all reports, they were glad to see the chaplain when he returned but the Chaplain and students taking part in the program was very pleased with the ways things had gone. It just goes to show - train and teach them well and they will excel in what they do.

Our Chaplains have provided significant support and assistance to students, staff and their families, including recently assisting following the passing of various students' family members. One of our Chaplains is currently writing a grief and loss counselling booklet for the Schools. Chaplains have been involved in assisting and supporting when family members have been ill and when hospitalised, and in a range of other support capacities.

Modern society presents many issues that we all have to grapple with. The impacts include students having social and emotional difficulties, problems with relationships, and finding difficulties making friends within the school and wider community. The Chaplain is a familiar present to lend a listening ear and to gently guide. The stressors arising from the demands of schooling, especially those related to being in Year 12 can also be addressed. Students are assisted with guidance and ideas for coping and learner-life balance.

EVENTS

The *Big Arvo* which incorporated *Make it Home* is one of the bigger events that chaplains have been recently involved with. *Make it Home* is a program to support school students in years 11 and 12 to get their drivers' licences and to have safe ways to get home after being out at night.

Spin Off a fundraiser built around bike riding on exercise bikes happens in term 4 every year. Teams of ten people strive to be the ones who pedal the longest distance in thirty minutes. The Senior (staff) and Student winners, this year, were our chaplaincy teams. The winning staff team (some of our local Chaplains) reached 25 kilometres. More of us are thinking about putting teams together for next year. Each team member tries to raise \$100 through sponsorship. So each team could in theory raise \$1000. This year, some teams didn't quite make the mark but perhaps you might like to make a donation even now. This activity is another way people can support Chaplaincy.

Chaplains were involved at the Ekka, where media students filmed and put together a promotional video. Others have assisted classes including trekking through the rain forest with students while they studied the environment and took water samples from creeks. Most Chaplains assist on School camps and helping organize purposeful play at schools during breaks.

SOCIAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

A Can Drive was recently run by a Chaplain, with all the goods donated to the Foodbank.

CHAPLAINS' PROFILES

Chaplains have been generally building their chaplaincy profile by being involved with school sporting programs such as touch football, soccer, and helping at swimming carnivals and sports days.

In the primary schools, Chaplains help with literacy and maths programs. They have helped with computer skills, and one school has a touch typing club where the Chaplain is a key supporter. Personalized mentoring with strategies designed and supervised by teachers, is a key way that Chaplains help students. Another Chaplain has assisted and guided a student group through their own self-publishing of their own short stories book.

One Chaplain has been working with the school towards addressing a specific bullying issue that has arisen.

Two schools, with Chaplains involved as program leader, are offering *Drumbeat* which is a specialised program that teaches resilience through musical rhythm. Other activities where Chaplains are involved including school discos, individual student support at the Special School's STEP UP to EMPLOYMENT program, that aims to assist students to maximise their skills for post-school options in work and living. Other programs with Chaplaincy involvement include *Triple P Parenting*, which is always well attended and *Love Bites* which is a relationship programme. Chaplains are currently working towards *Wynnum Wipeout* which is to be held early next year during the holidays.

FUNDING – URGENT ONGOING ISSUES

To maintain the number and hours of work of our chaplains in their current school placements, the Wynnum Manly Chaplaincy Committee is required by Scripture Union to maintain a minimum bank balance of about \$30,000.00. This policy is designed so that there is an adequate buffer to cover chaplains' wages into the future, should there be changes in funding or a drop in fund raising. Scripture Union has confirmed that if the bank balance drops below this sum then chaplaincy hours in the Wynnum Manly schools will be reduced accordingly. This unfortunate thing happened earlier this year and three of our chaplains' hours were on track to be reduced in schools. At the last moment, the Committee was able to prevent this from happening, through generous fund raising at the local level.

HOW TO SUPPORT OUR CHAPLAINS

Chaplaincy is a full on program as you can see. Maybe we should call them Super Chappies. Let's unite to support them in their chosen calling. Your direct debit would greatly assist our chaplains. Please visit our website and fill in the form.

<http://wynmansc.org.au>

Make sure any donations that you may make are directed to the Wynnum Manly Chaplaincy Committee.

