



## Services

Sunday morning 9:00am  
Sunday evening 7:00pm

## St Andrews Groups

**Pre-Schoolers**  
SALT

**Youth Groups**  
Kid's Club  
Andy's Club  
Chaos  
Senior Fellowship

**Adult Groups**  
SAS  
Interact  
Time Out  
Men's Dinner  
Ladies Dinner

**Bible Study Groups**  
Phill Pratt's Young Adults  
The Taylors'  
Ladies  
Kyngdons'  
John Wilson's  
Paul Hall's

**Sporting Groups**  
Soccer Team

## Editorial

*Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches"* Luke 13:19

Jesus parable of the mustard seed implies that God gives the growth. The seed simply grew by itself and became a tree. There is a process of growth in nature, and this is paralleled by God giving spiritual growth. Spiritual growth can be personal, such as learning and practising the faith better, or developing one's spiritual gifts for the benefit of the church. It could also be corporate, or, congregational, to use the biblical word. A congregation might grow in size as well as in maturity. Although God gives the growth, Christians must play their part. The man must take the seed and plant it. It must be put in a suitable place for growth, namely, a garden. God's plants need cultivating. This is the work of the ministry, to which all Christians are committed by their very nature as born again children of God.

## Guest speakers

Speakers at the church recently have been **Ron Watts**, a retired hospital chaplain who lives in Flinders. Ron introduced us to the ministry of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. They raise the monies needed for aeroplanes and pilots, so that they can step in and provide transport in otherwise inaccessible places. Sometimes the pilots will bring in a medical team, sometimes they will fly out a sick person. Another visitor was **John Draxen** from the Gideons. He gave us a world-wide overview of the ministry of placing Bibles in motels, hospitals and prisons. God's word always accomplished exactly

what God intends for it, and many stories of conversions to Christ underlined this truth. An evening with **Dr Mark Harwood** of Creation Ministries International was a fresh and vibrant presentation of arguments against evolution and a defence of the opening chapters of the Bible. Even the children listened intently to (almost) every word!

### Ladies Dinner



Our final Ladies Dinner was held on Tuesday night and was our usual Christmas celebration, with festive décor, dress and food. Lesley Errington was the speaker, looking at Luke 2 & 3 and considering Mary's faithfulness, difficulties and pain as she was told of God's plan for her, the birth of Jesus, his growing up and ultimate death on the cross. 41 ladies attended and enjoyed a great time of sharing and fellowship.



### SAS (St Andrew's Seniors)

held their Christmas service with luncheon in November. The sermon on Psalm 92 verses 12-15 sounded something like this:

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree ... they will still bear fruit in old age".

A goal for many people in life is a happy retirement but do we retire from serving the Lord? In Psalms 92:12-15, we find a description of God's older people. They are described as palm trees and cedar trees, flourishing in the house and courts of God. Note verse 14 – "they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing". This passage certainly teaches that there is a place of service for the elderly in the work of God. They are able to "bear fruit" and remain "fresh and flourishing", despite their old age. We should all encourage the ministry of the elderly and seek to profit from it. As usual a delicious meal was had by all, with thanks to those who helped.

### Missionary News

We have pledged to support the Lovells with interest, prayer and money. CMS have requested a target of \$4000 as a reasonable amount to keep the Lovells in the field. To reach this goal, we will need to receive at least \$1500 over the plate next year and therefore Parish Council (PC) requests giving via the plate rather than directly to CMS. PC will top up the amount to a maximum of \$2500 per annum. In 2010 we will have the Scarratts as guest speakers in the evening of Jan 31, and the Stewarts in the morning of Feb 21. The men will preach and we will have a missionary presentation as well.

## Youth Work News

### CHAOS Youth Camp



Only a few weekends ago CHAOS made its way down the coast to Broulee (past Mogo), where we stayed at Phil and Coralie Pratt's holiday house. This year we had a small group of 6 youth come along, including Rick and Mel from our church, and Paul B, Kel and Tim as leaders. We might have lacked in numbers this year but we didn't lack in God's Word or fun together. We canoed, went swimming at the beach, some got sunburnt at the beach (I did tell Mel to put sunscreen on), opened God's Word together, went bike riding, played spotlight (hopefully not waking too many neighbours), laughed together and prayed together.



We had a guest speaker in Mark Earngey, who we know through

Sussex Inlet beach mission, and is currently studying at Moore College. Mark looked at different people's approach to God in the Gospel of Luke, including the parable of the lost son and the parable of the praying tax collector and Pharisee. All the kids listened attentively throughout the talks, so please pray that God's Spirit would be at work in their hearts that they would consider their approach to God. Also pray for Jess who came along, as this was her first time at anything CHAOS, that she might come along to youth group. Thank you for those who prayed for the camp, and massive thanks to Phil and Coralie who not only let us stay under their roof, but also for their servant heartedness in feeding us all our meals as well. Yum!

### Kid's Club

Glenda Taylor and Phil Slocombe have run Kids Club on Wednesday afternoons after school, from 4:00-5:30pm throughout this school year, with a team of helpers, including Lydia Milliken, Auriel Hadley, Jenny Orange, Christina Paduch, Rick Siles, Narelle Funcik, Jeanette Burgess & Eileen Stokes. Christopher Milliken & Sophie Covetz have been great junior helpers. This term the children have learnt about storing up their treasure in heaven and made treasure boxes as a reminder, to take home. Kids Club is for school children up to Year 4.



## Mens' Tea

“Jesus – Our Great High Priest’ Rev Stuart Milne Heb 7:1-28 Gen 14:15-24



Abram was to meet the king of Sodom but met the king of Salem (Melchizedek) first. Melchizedek blessed Abram being far greater. Even though Abram was such a man of God, Melchizedek is far greater. Jesus didn't come from the tribe of Levi as all OT high priests did. Melchizedek and Jesus are priests forever. Jesus is the priest who gets sinful humans safely into heaven. Jesus is the sacrifice for all sins of everybody forever. He died for all things wrong so even future sins are dealt with. There is nothing that Jesus can't deal with, however corrupt. He speaks to God the Father for us on everything we do.

## Lessons from the Past

Many people assume that the early Christians met in churches like we do today. In fact they mostly met in a home belonging to one of the church members. In A.D. 112 two women were being cross-examined about their beliefs by a Roman Governor called Pliny. He discovered that on a certain day each week the Christians assembled before daylight and recited words of worship to Christ as a god. They then made a promise not to steal, not to commit adultery, and to keep their word. They then departed, but later met to share a meal.

Pliny didn't know what to do with the two women. He had already sent some



**Statue of Pliny the Younger on the façade of Cathedral of S. Maria Maggiore in Como.**

Christians to death, but he did not want to send the two young women to their deaths. These Christians may have been “stubborn and superstitious”, but they were not any real trouble. What should Pliny do?

He wrote to the Emperor Trajan. Pliny told the Emperor he had already tortured them, but all he was able to discover was “a perverse and extravagant superstition”. (This is how Pliny described the fact that they believed in Jesus as God's Son and that when they died they hoped to be raised from death themselves.) In reply, Trajan informed Pliny that he was not to go searching for Christians. However, if they were brought before him they must be punished as usual.

The earliest Christians worshipped Jesus as God, lived by God's law and joined in Communion. They were a brave generation, and by their unswerving devotion to Christ they made the Christian faith better established in the Greek-Roman world.