

Spring
2016

QUARTERLY
UPDATE
FROM

Greenhills Centre



Beyond Festival (Emily French Photography)

A quarterly update from Greenhills Centre covering some of the events and achievements in the past few months. For the information of Friends of Greenhills, Staff and Board Members.

Our Guests

It's always interesting to note the diversity of groups that book their camps, retreats and day conferences here at Greenhills. Below is a small sample of some of the groups we are privileged to host.

September

- Missionheart
- Candlebark School
- L'Arche Genesaret
- Cambodia Camp
- Green Gully Soccer Club

October

- Beyond Festival
- Adoptive Families Association
- Metal Clay Contemporary Art Fusion City Church

November

- Canberra Spinners and Weavers
- GROW NSW
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- Citizen's Climate Lobby
- Moama Public School

Beyond Festival 2016

Greenhills was truly privileged to host the Beyond festival for its second year running and its impressive line-up of artists. Our staff team worked around the clock to take care of the largest number of people that have stayed at Greenhills in its 50 years—100 people more than last year's festival!

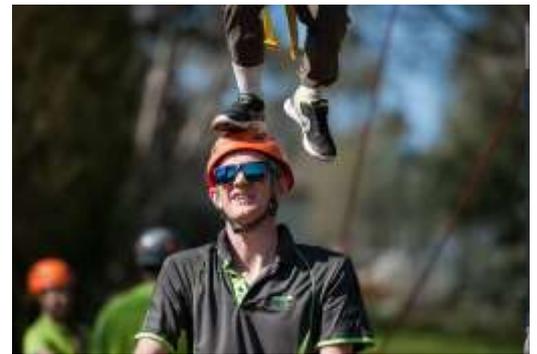
Despite the weather, and the festival earning the nickname of "mudfest", the weekend was a big success. We heard rumours that Canberra sold out of gum boots that weekend, no doubt helped along by the many interstate festival attendees. We received half of October's rainfall in the first 5 days of October, preceded by the second



Mud, glorious mud! (Emily French Photography)

wettest September on record. Needless to say there was no chance for our site to dry out prior to the festival!

For this year's festival we launched the



James (Greenhills activities facilitator) with a helping hand (Emily French Photography)

Greenhills Café in the Dining Hall, which was very successful. Also, our activities team helped run activities for festival-goers which kept them pretty busy (pictured is James helping with the Vertical Cluster). Hopes are high for an even bigger and better Festival in 2017. Why not 'save the date' now 1st weekend in October and plan to join us next year? <https://beyondfestival.com.au>

Snakes Alive!

We enjoy a variety of wildlife here at Greenhills, of the cute and cuddly-looking variety, such as wombats, kangaroos and rabbits. However, at this time of year, being surrounded by bushland, we may also be visited by the more not-so-cuddly species.

If you come across a snake there no cause for alarm, but there are a few precautions you can take to make sure you (and they) are safe (and no, we don't recommend you carry around a shovel!).

- Snakes are not naturally aggressive and always prefer to retreat.
- They will only attack humans if hurt or provoked - most bites occur when people try to kill or capture snakes.
- If you come across a snake, just calmly walk the other way.
- Stop anyone else from trying to approach the snake.
- Report any snake sightings to a Greenhills staff member.

There are 14 species of snakes around Canberra. The one most likely to be encountered is the Common or Eastern Brown Snake (pictured). To learn more about snakes in our area visit <http://canberranaturemap.org/Community/CategoryGuide/9>



Eastern or Common Brown Snakes can be nearly any shade of brown, with copper highlights and even stripes!

Free Activity in 2017!

For Schools on our standard Package rate in 2017 we are offering you a FREE activity session during your stay at Greenhills.

You can choose one of these very popular activities:

Aussie Campfire Experience—story telling while cooking damper & toasting marshmallows.

Clash of Clans—‘amazing race’ style team initiative challenge.

Crazy Games—indoor or outdoor.

Guided Bush Hike—spotting local fauna and flora.



Guided Bush Hikes.

These activities are available for day or night. Let our experienced staff facilitate a fun session for your Students and Teachers get a break!

Other activities, including high-intensity, are also available to book at great rates for student groups. Book your activities through your tour company or contact our office.

All activities are available for any group bookings (church, special interest and community groups). Contact us for a quote.

In Memory

Of...

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Catering Manager, Sean Coote, and family whose mother passed away late October. Also, we remember in our prayers the family of Chris Stokman who passed away mid-October. Chris was the Manager of the Early Morning Centre.





Welcome to our new Executive Director

We welcome John Bell to the role of Interim Executive Director, following in the footsteps of Peter Badowski who left the position in July 2016.

Although new to the role, John is no stranger to Greenhills. In 1985, St Margaret's Uniting Church in Hackett was the host parish for the annual Youth Leadership Training Program. He and his wife Kerry supported the participants and speakers during a four day long weekend in October at Greenhills.

of the Australian Public Service although he still does some work for them by assisting in some international collaborative work.

John began his new role at Greenhills sharing a car for a week with managers Will and Sue Ellis visiting 6 or 7 campsites prior to the Christian Venues Association conference at Alexandra Headlands on the Sunshine Coast. They have returned full of ideas and dreams of new adventures for Greenhills.

We look forward to working with John as we plan the next steps for Greenhills.



Mr John Bell

John then joined the Greenhills Management Committee in 1986 and became Treasurer in 1988. In those early days, he had mail at home every day as every invoice was paid by him and written up in 13 column analysis books. Greenhills has grown somewhat over the years.

John recently retired from the Therapeutic Goods Administration part

Changes to the Greenhills Board

There have been a few changes to the governing board of Greenhills in 2016. Jan Baker, Secretary for three years, has had to step down due to work commitments. This creates an opportunity for someone else to contribute their skills and passion to Greenhills. If you would like to discuss the role, please email hjsmall@grapevine.net.au or executivedirector@greenhillscentre.com.

Darren Orchard from the Beyond Festival has agreed to be Treasurer in place of John Bell, our new Executive Director. Other members exiting in 2016 include Barry Howe following 13 years of service to Greenhills including Chair for some years. Don Gruber, a key member of the Finance Committee and the Board for several years, will be missed. Hannah Dungan joined us for a short period in addition to her role as pastor at Kippax before moving back to Melbourne. Brian Carle made the trek in from Braidwood for many years to be an active member of the Board. John Grant has also contributed many years of service. We wish all our outgoing members God's richest blessings. *(Continued ...)*

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For quick updates and news snippets visit our Facebook page "[GreenhillsCentreACT](#)"

If you "Like" us you will get update feeds automatically, and why not invite your friends to "Like" Greenhills as well and spread the word about this fabulous venue!



Changes to the Greenhills Board

(Continued from front page....)

Continuing members include Genevieve Power who comes from a strong Catholic background and brings a wealth of experience from running successful businesses in Canberra. Geoff Wellington is the Canberra Region Presbytery Minister and provides one of the direct connections to Presbytery.

Harold Small continues as Chair and has had

a 30 year association with Greenhills. We welcome Annette Jackson who is the Kippax Kids Coordinator and Andrew Taylor who is an Associate Minister at Gungahlin Anglican Church. Both Annette and Andrew are already contributing to the life of Greenhills.

Please pray for all members of the Greenhills Board, past, present and future.

Happy Holidays!

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Christmas in the Hills

Celebrate the Christmas season with a delicious **Buffet Lunch** or scrumptious **Buffet Dinner**, enjoy fabulous views and **live entertainment!**

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December 2016

Greenhills Centre, 1437 Cotter Road, Stromlo

Available for Individuals, Family Groups, Ministry Groups, Corporate Groups, Friendship Groups ALL WELCOME!

3 Course Buffet LUNCH 12:30pm –2:30pm

\$40 adults, \$20 kids 12 years and under
(2 years and under free)

Enjoy and sing along with special live *Christmas Music*

3 Course Buffet DINNER 6:30pm

\$55 adults, \$25 kids 12 years and under
(2 years and under free)

Special Dinner guest *Amber Nichols* ("The Voice" finalist, Canberra 2013 Pop Artist of the Year)



Bookings essential!

Please book by **Monday 12th December**

(PayPal, Visa, Mastercard or Direct Deposit)

www.greenhillscentre.com/events or call the office



1437 Cotter Road,

Stromlo ACT 2611

P. (02) 6288 1074

F. (02) 6288 0415

E. bookings@greenhillscentre.com

W. www.greenhillscentre.com

Diary Dates:

• **November**

28th—Staff Retreat to Stanwell Tops
(Greenhills office closed)

• **December**

22nd—Greenhills closes until New Year

• **January 2017**

4th—Greenhills re-opens

