

Summer
2017

QUARTERLY
UPDATE
FROM

Greenhills Centre



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.

Greenhills Staff enjoying The Tops Conference Centre)

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.

December

- Christian Uni Conference
- Stella Bella Little Stars
- St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church Youth
- Moama Public School

January

- Finnish Lutheran Church
- St Vincent de Paul
- RYLA
- Wodonga Baptist Youth
- Woden Valley Youth Choir

February

- Questacon Science Circus
- Western Sydney Uni School of Science & Health
- Canberra Girls Grammar
- Stromlo Christian Church
- Marist College

Greenhills Team Building Time

It's not often that the Greenhills staff are able to find time to hang out together. But we managed this towards the end of the 2016 as we wound down towards the Christmas break. The school year had nearly finished and we had a few rare gaps in the calendar, so we decided to fill with some team time.

With a growing team, it was a great opportunity to learn more about each other and how we can work better together to serve our guests.

Our first two days together as staff,

along with some members of the Greenhills Board, were spent participating in team building initiatives and forums led by Murray Bingham from Robertson & Chang Learning Architects (<http://robertsonandchang.com>).

Our final day together we spent at The Tops Conference Centre. Piling into a mini-bus, we drove to Stanwell Tops, north of Wollongong, to enjoy a day at The Tops. Like Greenhills, The Tops is a member of Christian Venues Association.

(Continued...)



Greenhills Staff arrive at The Tops Conference Centre

Congratulations Amy & Gerard

Amy, one of our wonderful staff members at Greenhills married Gerard in December. Many of the Greenhills staff enjoyed celebrating the day with the happy couple.



Greenhills Team Building Time

(Continued)

The Tops' Dave, Andy and Shannon were incredibly generous with their time. After taking us on a site tour they split us into our respective departments and we were allowed time with our Tops counterparts,



One of the many great views at The Tops

followed by a delicious lunch in the dining hall. After lunch we enjoyed time together being led through team building activities with The Tops activities facilitators.

Overall, the Greenhills team enjoyed getting an inside look into a site similar to ours, but much larger in size. We were



Team Building—going Bush!

encouraged to see some of the things we are doing well, and challenged about things we can do better. Our Facilities Manager, Will Ellis, reflected that it “was an excellent bonding time with all the team”.

To find out more about The Tops, visit their website at <http://www.thetops.com.au/>

Stay Cool this Hot Summer!



We can probably all agree it's turning into a long hot summer. With many our guests this summer taking part in our new outdoor activities we are conscious of the hot weather. Here are some great tips to keeping cool.

During extreme heat, whether it's one hot day or a heatwave, remember:

- Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty
- Keep yourself cool with wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool (not cold) showers.
- Spend as much time as possible in cool or air-conditioned buildings
- Block out the sun at home during the day by closing curtains and blinds.
- Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day. If you do have to go outside, wear a hat and sunscreen, and seek shade.
- Cancel or postpone outings. If you absolutely must go out, stay in the shade and take plenty of water with you.
- Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made from natural fibres like cotton and linen.
- Eat smaller meals more often and cold meals such as salads.

Watch or listen to news reports to find out more information during extreme heat.

(Find this information and more at <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/>)



Stairway to Heaven

Written by John Bell, ED

(With assistance from the ACT Government under the 2016-2017 ACT Environment Grants Program)

The ACT Government has given Greenhills a grant of \$16,000 to enhance the path from Greenhills down to the river. Over the years the track past the Connie Christie Chapel has deteriorated and is very steep in places.

Our Facilities Manager, Will Ellis, consulted with the ACT Parks and Conservation Services and came up with a joint proposal to improve access to the river. The ACT Parks and Conservation were happy to provide some materials and project supervision and Greenhills was happy to provide some materials and labour.



Will Ellis working hard on the new steps

We then applied for a grant through the ACT Environment Grants Program. The application had three aims:

- to prevent further erosion;
- to restore the path to allow safe and easy access to the river; and
- to reduce the possibility of accidents.

On 1 February 2017, we commenced construction but it is a big job and there is always other maintenance to be done.

Will has enlisted the help of other Greenhills staff, Nathan and David, to assist and we will follow their progress with great interest.

Luke and Darren from ACT Parks and Conservation have suggested we need a name for the track. Some ideas: Jacob's Ladder, Pilgrim's Progress, Heaven Sent, Salvation, Waters of Life, River, and Chapel Track.

My favourite at the moment is the Hallelujah Track to reflect not only the effort in completing it but also to mark the track for every guest returning from the river. Any ideas or support for names can be sent to bookings@greenhillscentre.com.

God Be Praised.

John Bell
Executive Director



Guests enjoying the Murrumbidgee River



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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!



Christmas in the Hills Gallery

We had a great time at our Christmas in the Hills events, with entertainment by the sublime Amber Nichols and wonderful food. Put Greenhills in your December Calendar now for your Christmas function



Free Activity Offer

For Schools on Package Rates

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:



Guided Bushland Hikes

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.

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

Climb to the top!

Crate Climbing added to our list of great Activities.

Challenge yourself to beat the site record—15 Crates!



Crate climbing—the new challenge



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Diary Dates:

- **March**
13th—Canberra Day Public Holiday
- **April**
2nd—Daylight Saving Time ends
14th—Good Friday
17th—Easter Monday
25th—ANZAC Day

