

Summer
2018

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 the Friends of Greenhills.

Solomon Islands U-12 Boys Futsal Champions

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

December

- The Redeemed Christian Church of God
- Menslink
- ACT Square Dance Society
- Ahmadiyya Muslim

January

- Latvian Language Seminar
- Solomon Islands National Futsal Team
- RYLA Youth Leadership Training
- St Vinnies

February

- Trinity Christian School
- Canberra Girls Grammar
- Syndal South Primary School

Meet the McClures!

Ian and his family have recently moved from Toodyay, Western Australia to Canberra. Ian and his wife Helen are excited about the move and the new directions in which the Lord is leading them. They are new to the camping/hospitality industry and are excited about this new journey. Ian previously worked with YWAM and pastored a church in Canberra. He is passionate about Christian ministry and missions.

Ian and Helen have three children of their own and a niece living with them at Greenhills. Esther, 21, is currently studying education and is engaged to Ed from mainland China.



Ian & Helen
McClure

They plan to marry at Greenhills in June 2018. Anna, 18, is studying Legal

Studies and hosting at Greenhills. Elinor (niece), 18, has just finished year 12 and is taking a break year from her studies and Joel, 14, is being home-schooled by Helen and doing the occasional shift on the vacuum cleaner! So they are all involved.

Ian, Helen and their family have been a part of the Greenhills team since September last year. They are quickly learning the ropes around the site and settling into the day to day life of Greenhills.

Solomon Islands National Futsal Team Victory

In early January, the Solomon Islands National Futsal Team were in Canberra to compete in Australia's National Futsal Championships, and made Greenhills their 'home away from home'. Dural Baptist, NSW, pastor, Brian Codrington (pictured) helped introduce futsal to the Solomon Islands in 2002. The U-12 boys claimed the championship title after defeating the NSW team 6-5 in the grand final. Upon departing Greenhills, the team came to reception to share the news of their victory and to show off their new trophy!



15th Anniversary of the Canberra Bushfires

Mid January marked 15 years since the devastating 2003 Canberra bushfires that destroyed the old Cotter Centre at Greenhills. Below is an excerpt from the book 'Life + Faith' by Robyn Hipkiss that outlines an account of these events from the perspective of Paula, one of the managers at the time.

"January 18 was a sweltering hot Saturday with scorching winds battering the bush and stirring the dust, which lodged like grit in our eyes as we went about our work... When I looked up I saw the fire had converged with one from the other direction and a wall of fire was roaring over the hill toward Greenhills at a great speed. It was a terrifying sight and the noise was horrendous. I only had minutes to make my escape. There was no time to gather up photos or precious possessions. As I ran from the house I simply cried out in all sincerity, "Jesus, this is your house and all that is in it is yours. You can have it if you want, but I'm asking you to look after it for us..." The next hour-and-a-half would forever change the face of Greenhills as we knew it. The fire came up the valley and over the hill and raged over us..."



We sat pressed up against the back wall, swaddled in wet towels and breathing through wet tea-towels. The noise was deafening, as if hundreds of trains were roaring overhead. Our hearts were pounding as we prayed and asked God for His protection over us and the entire complex... When the worst of the fire storm had passed over us, the air in the auditorium had become so contaminated with smoke and debris we couldn't stay there any longer... Incredibly, the building was intact. The body of the fire had roared up the valley then, miraculously, jumped right over the top of the whole Murrumbidgee Centre, including the accommodation blocks on the hill beside us... Suddenly the vacuum created by the intensity of the fire as it passed over us seemed to suck the flames back and ignite a second wave of burning. It was as if the fire came back to finish the job it had started. We stood in shock and watched as the old original Cotter Centre down the hill below us caught fire and lit up the sky. Dorms and halls were consumed by flames ignited by the intense heat from the sparks and embers. The buildings were flattened by exploding gas bottles... Over the following days, weeks and months we were encouraged, inspired and humbled by the generosity, love and support of so many people... Every day I thank God for His protection and abundant provision. I will never forget the assurance of His presence with us during our time at Greenhills, and especially on the day of the fire." (pp. 34-47)

Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to two of our staff members, Jordy and Ellyn, on their wedding day! The happy couple tied the knot in January. The day was celebrated by many family, friends and Greenhills staff.



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Prepare, Act, Survive—Bushfire Safety

Prepare:

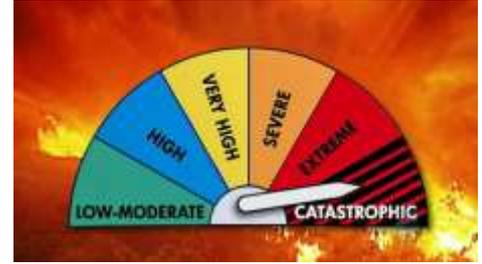
- ⇒ Know your risk! Check if your house is located in a bushfire prone area.
- ⇒ Prepare your exit strategy.
- ⇒ Download and complete a Bushfire Survival Plan.

Act:

- ⇒ Get your home bushfire ready.
- ⇒ Prepare your emergency kit.

Survive:

- ⇒ Maintain your garden throughout the season.
- ⇒ Keep up to date with the ACT Emergency Services Agency.
- ⇒ Have a safe, enjoyable summer!



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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!



Greenhills Wi-Fi & Mobile Reception Update

Wi-Fi at Greenhills is up and running across the whole site. Both guests and staff are very excited about this new addition to the Greenhills experience. Mobile phone repeaters for Telstra, Vodafone and Optus are being trialled and feedback requested.

Holiday Happenings

Not sure what to do with the kids these holidays? Why not explore what’s in our neighbourhood! There are many great places to see and explore around Greenhills. Some of these places and activities could include:

- ⇒ Having a picnic at the **Cotter Reserve**
- ⇒ Exploring the **Mount Stromlo Observatory**
- ⇒ Going for a swim at **Casuarina Sands**
- ⇒ Taking a tour of **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**
- ⇒ Walking along the **Woden Heritage Track**



Diary Dates:

- **February**
 - 5th—School Term 1 Starts
- **March**
 - 12th—Canberra Day Public Holiday
 - 30th—Good Friday
 - 31st—Easter Saturday



ACCREDITED

