

# Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn



Dear All,

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy New Year and Season's Greetings are all salutations that we use this time of year. Our Embracing Ministries Team send those greetings to you.

Walt Disney once said 'You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful ideas in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality'. This is certainly the case for Embracing Ministries. The reality is that the groups and programs that have taken place this year could not have happened without a great deal of commitment and support from our beautiful volunteers and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

I would like to especially thank our weekly volunteers who make our programs possible. We give thanks for Amelia, Lulu, Claudia, Lorna, Deb, Amber and Alison. Without these amazing people these programs would not happen, THANK YOU! We give thanks for all those who have supported, donated and help care for our refugee families. We thank all the churches and individual donors who have sponsored therapies and equipment for children who could not otherwise have afforded these necessities. We thank Anglicare and the Stening Charitable Trust, because without their donations we would not be able to offer the support we do to all our families. We give a big shout out to Malkara School and Gordon Community Centre who offer the physical space for our programs. We truly have so much for which to be thankful!

We give thanks this year for Minnows Music and Minnow Bend and stretch. Each of the children have grown in so many ways this year. The highlights

in all our groups have been the joy we have experienced during the songs "Baby Shark" and "Elephants Have Wrinkles". All of the songs have brought us fun, laughter and sense of pride as the children joined in and learned the actions.

We have had so much fun getting to know our Siblings Group. These brothers and sisters of children with disabilities have proven themselves to be resourceful, creative and a lot of fun. Siblings of children with disabilities can often take on a lot of responsibility from a young age and feel isolated amongst their peers. One of the things we have been working on with the group is encouraging "help-seeking behaviour" from these very independent siblings through games, discussions and arts and crafts. We have also been focussing on having fun being kids, with outings to Questacon, the National Zoo and Aquarium and bouldering at the BlocHaus. Our outings and activities could not have been possible without the sponsorship of the Chinese church. We give thanks for their support not just in providing for the activities but also for providing us with a nutritious home cooked meal for the group to share each fortnight at Malkara.

2019 has been a year to remember. When I reflect on my time as Director and Minister of Embracing Ministries of what I consider to be an awesome community, I have so many fond memories. The road has had bumps and many challenges along the way. The rewards have far outweighed the challenges. All of the experiences of this year have contributed in some way to ensuring we offer a unique place for our kids to learn through loving and living together. I thank God that when I look back over the year I see so many blessings. We see so many achievements that make my heart melt. As I look at each of the children I love them more and more. I

have seen so many miracles, I watched a child walk for the first time; a child try new foods; a child learn new words; children learned to tap sticks and catch balls and join in the actions to the songs. These amazing new talents give me the biggest sense of pride and I feel so blessed and privileged to share these experiences with you all in our Embracing Ministries community.

Embracing Ministries' vision is an accessible community where every child and family can experience success and feel loved and cared for.

We hope that you are safe and healthy and enjoying time with friends and family or taking moments of peaceful reflection in this busy period. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones and we mourn their absence with you. On behalf of all of us at Embracing Ministries, I give thanks for you all and look forward to catching up next year. May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope, and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always. With much love, prayers and many blessings,

Andrea

**Isaiah 40:25-26**  
New International Version (NIV)

"To whom will you compare me?  
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:  
Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host one by one  
and calls forth each of them by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty  
strength, not one of them is missing.

*Embracing Ministry supports and nurtures the spiritual life of all people, regardless of their abilities*

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## Embracing Siblings

Making Connections

We hope to connect families with other families with siblings going through similar situation. We plan to start a Junior and senior Siblings Group once a month to help connect siblings together starting from July. If you would be interested please contact us on [info@embracingministries.org](mailto:info@embracingministries.org)



### Term 1

9th Feb excursion  
23rd Feb 8th March at Malkara  
22nd March Excursion  
and the 29th family BBQ at Malkara,  
in partnership with Chinese Church

### Term 2

10th May Excursion  
17th & 31st May at Malkara  
14th June Excursion  
21st June family picnic Malkara



## Little Treasures

14<sup>th</sup> April  
Family meet and greet  
15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> April Little Treasures



## Minnows Music and Bend and stretch

6 weeks sessions

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb -28<sup>th</sup> March  
16<sup>th</sup> May – 20<sup>th</sup> June  
8<sup>th</sup> Aug- 12<sup>th</sup> September  
31<sup>st</sup> Oct- 5<sup>th</sup> December



## Retreat at long Beach

1st -3rd May  
24th-26th July  
16th-18th Oct

## Christian Retreat At the Benedictine Abbey 18-20th Sep



## Minnow music Friday

14th Feb - 3rd April  
8th May- 26th June  
31st July- 18th September  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct -11th Dec

May the blessing of joy  
abide WITHIN you...  
May the blessing of peace  
rest UPON you...  
May the blessing of love  
flow out THROUGH you...  
May all the blessings  
of the Lord be yours  
at Christmas and in the new year.

## Mentoring training

26<sup>th</sup> Sep Mentor training Safe  
ministries and Key Sign language  
3<sup>rd</sup> October Mentor training  
ASPECT and PD Punk –  
understanding Autism and how brain  
development

## Spring Holiday Program



Spring program 6th- 9th Oct

5th Oct family day

## MUSIC ENGAGEMENT

Dates to be advised early next year



Praise and Worship Circle  
Meets fortnightly from Jan 29<sup>th</sup>



## 27th June 2020 Fundraiser

Refugee Kids without NDIS

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