

# Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican Church of Canberra and Goulburn

August 2019

## The Fundraiser Concert

Our Fundraising Concert was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of July and was a wonderful success. We sat and listened to enchanting music whilst eating delicious desserts.



Our beautiful performers were Amber Nichols and Katie de Veau. **Katie de Veau** is a widely celebrated gospel singer and songwriter, touring festivals, community events, schools, cafes and churches across Australia and around the world. Katie has also been a professional teacher for more than 20 years and an avid champion for the inclusion of children with disability in the mainstream education system.



**Amber Nichols** is an independent singer and songwriter from Canberra. Amber was a finalist on The Voice Australia in 2015 and was the 2013 ACT Pop artist of the year. Amber was also a finalist in the Australian Music Oz Independent awards and Winner of the World Wide Independent music awards for Best EP for debut EP, Bloom. Amber now releases music under her new project and alter ego, **LIV LI**. Disability inclusion is also close to

Amber's heart: Amber's brother Ethan has Down Syndrome.

We heard from events patron Dr Suezanne Packer AM who is the 2019 Senior Australian of the Year for her tireless work over more than four decades as a paediatrician. She's a passionate advocate for children in our healthcare system, as well as in the wider community. Sue has also worked with refugee kids, including through Companion House, an organisation that assists survivors of trauma and torture. Sue has been involved in child abuse prevention through the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect since its very early days and has treated babies and children suffering trauma from child abuse and neglect. She was the Canberra Citizen of the Year in 2013 and in 1999, Sue received an Order of Australia for her advocacy for children.

We also heard from **Kathy Ragless AM** who is the Director at Companion House in Canberra. Together with Embracing Ministries, Companion House provides vital support to some of the refugee children our concert will help. In 2011, Kathy was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through roles assisting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the Canberra and Goulburn region, and to Companion House.



It was an incredibly beautiful night and we would like to thank all those who were involved in making it such a special night.

## From Amber

“Thanks to Embracing Ministries for allowing me to feel a part of something much bigger than myself last weekend. The evening was magical.

The work that you do is incredible and in that moment I felt part of something truly special. Something that is changing our community and lives around us for the better.

It was my pleasure to sing for you and shine a light on the cause and to raise funds for truly the most vulnerable in our community.

My heart was touched and I look forward to our ongoing partnership in growing the Kingdom of God one friendship, one hug, one kind gesture at a time.”

## Marist College Canberra Service Expo

Once again Embracing Ministries had the opportunity to run a stall at the Marist College Service Expo. Andrea was able to give presentations to the students about us. It was a wonderful time for the students to look around at the different volunteer opportunities in Canberra. At the stall we were able to advertise our upcoming events, and gave students the chance to complete an activity which would give them the smallest glimpse into living life with sight impairment.



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## The Webinar Review

On 17th July COTFA and St Mark's National Theological Centre held a fascinating public webinar called 'What I wish my health professional knew about being a Christian and living with a disability'. Four powerful lectures were shared over two hours. Encouragingly, about thirty people from around the world joined the webinar. I personally found the webinar inspiring. Some of the highlights for me were:

Hearing Reverend Dr Andrew Cameron's comments about each person being made in the image of God

When Dr Shane Clifton challenged us about the importance of professionals being understanding of the whole person during the rehabilitation process Giselle Burningham, Emma Rush, Joan Cartledge (and myself) talked about the importance of professionals supporting people so their rights to full participation and inclusion in society are met.

Karen Barnes' story and Heather So's encouragement to include questions about spiritual well-being and family strengths when conducting professional assessments.

Dr Michael Burke's reminder of the importance of utilising a whole person care approach within a primary care setting.

Many thanks to all who attended the webinar and to all who presented. It was an immensely rich learning experience for me which encouraged me in my faith and in my work. I am praying that

there will be more webinars in the future about this topic.

Bless you. Monica Short.



## The Sibling Program

The Sibling Program had its first excursion on 4<sup>th</sup> of August to the Canberra Zoo and Aquarium. It was a great day and a wonderful time to get to know everyone involved in the program.



Our Spring Christian Holiday Program (SPCH) is just around the corner and we need volunteers to help run this program. The program will be from 7<sup>th</sup> until 11<sup>th</sup> of October and we are looking for adults and students from school years 10-12 who are interested in volunteering. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know more

people in your community, help create a beautiful program and promote an inclusive environment for us all. Please email us at [info@embracingministries.org](mailto:info@embracingministries.org) if you are interested in coming along.

## Embracing Ministries

Email [info@embracingministries.org](mailto:info@embracingministries.org)  
mobile: 0404 256 714

**Bank Details:** Anglican Investment  
Development Fund (AIDF)

BSB 702 389

Acc: 0520 9841

## Important dates

**10<sup>th</sup> August**, Minnows Movement  
Bend and Stretch Commences  
12.30pm Malkara School

**10<sup>th</sup> August** Minnows Music  
commences 10am Malkara School

**17<sup>th</sup> August** Exploring Mentoring  
workshop Malkara Specialist School  
2:15pm until 3:15pm

**18<sup>th</sup> August** Embracing Siblings  
Workshop 3pm-5pm Malkara Wisdom  
Street Garran

**1<sup>st</sup> September** Embracing Siblings  
Workshop 3pm-5pm Malkara Wisdom  
Street Garran

**15<sup>th</sup> September** Excursion to  
Questacon (children to be dropped at  
Questacon at 2pm and collected at  
5pm).

**20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September** Benedictine  
Abbey Retreat

**29<sup>th</sup> September**- Family Picnic at  
Malkara School (if weather permits) all  
Families Welcome 2pm-4pm

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