

# Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn

October/November 2019



## The Holiday Programs

In 2019, the Spring Program for youth with a disability and the Little Treasures all-inclusive program for Primary age children were both wonderful experiences.

At the Spring Program, the young mentors from colleges around Canberra, have already spent 2 days training with staff from ASPECT and learning key sign language and developing a basic understanding of disability before the program begins. There were some great activities each day such as a visit from the Reptiles, Music outreach program and access to a great range of bikes which were a very popular choice.



The young people with disabilities were placed in small groups according to their needs and were able to join for whole group

activities or choose to spend some quiet time with their support person. Every effort was made to ensure familiar faces were there to greet the young people with disabilities each day and friendships were formed. There was a wonderful feeling of sharing, acceptance and togetherness during the program.



The Little Treasures program is an all-inclusive program with 25 children without disabilities and 15 children with disabilities. The team put in so much thought and preparation before the program, ensuring a fun daily program. Flexibility is built into the program

with a high ratio of volunteers to children, particularly for those with disabilities, so that the children may repeat an experience they enjoyed, check out what others are doing, join in for whole group activities or spend some quiet time while still building relationships in a safe, relaxed environment.

*Written by Michael Bundy  
special education teacher*

### Important dates

**2nd November** Minnows Primary group will start and goes for 6 weeks.

**2nd November** Bend and Stretch starts and goes for 5 weeks.

**3rd November** Embracing Siblings Workshop 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

**17th November** Embracing Siblings Workshop 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

**1st December** Embracing Siblings Cinema outing.

**7th December** Craft and Carols Christmas Service 3:00pm - 4:40pm at Gordon Primary School.

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

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### A Mentor's Story

I first heard about the Embracing Ministries Spring Program when Andrea came to speak at my church, St Mary in the Valley in Calwell. She showed us photos and explained all about their ministry. I was so moved by the stories of the kids, I knew I had to be a mentor on the upcoming Spring program.



I love kids, and have considered teaching as a possible career in the future. I also have a passion for God and sharing his love that I knew I could bring to the program however I was a bit afraid. In my 17 years of life I hadn't really had much experience with disability or people with special needs. I was nervous to be surrounded by kids with whom I didn't really know how to interact, whether it be because they aren't very verbal, aren't as physically active or mobile, or think and perceive the world in ways I could not relate to and comprehend. I was nervous but I knew I wanted to do it and it would be a great experience. I am so grateful for the training we as mentors received before the program, as I learnt so much about how to communicate

differently, from understanding the science of the brain, to kids with autism and using key sign language. From the first day, I was still learning from the more experienced friends around me but I had such fun with the kids and thoroughly enjoyed every day. I particularly loved helping lead dancing and singing for the kids songs - it was amazing to watch them participating, singing the songs they knew and engaged in the fun storytelling of classic Bible stories. Before the program I thought I was going to be a blessing, showing God's love to these kids I hadn't met yet, but it turned out the other way round. Those kids and the time I spent with them have blessed and changed me forever. I can't wait to see them again and continue in this beautiful ministry led by Embracing Ministries.



### Worthy Partners' Scripture Union Camp

On Friday night Mum and I drove out to Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre. When we arrived we found our room and unpacked. Then we met some new people and played 'get to know you' games before bedtime. On Saturday we enjoyed some organised activities. First was archery and

everyone helped each other. I found it hard to hit the target but one person got a bullseye! Next was Frisbee Golf which I had not played before. It was quite windy so we had to keep trying to get the frisbees into the target. There were frisbees going everywhere, it was fun! Over the weekend we also did some singing, listened to some people and puppets talking and had some discussions about who Jesus is and how he wants us to have a good life. Sunday came too soon and it was time to go home. I really enjoyed the weekend and meeting new friends. I am looking forward to going again next year.

Ashlee

### Christmas Craft and Carols

On 7 December 2019 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm, we will be holding a Craft and Carols Service at Gordon Primary School. We will have lots of fun craft activities to do and will have an opportunity for the children to participate in the nativity story. We will also be singing lots of Christmas Carols. There will be a sausage sizzle provided.

### Embracing Ministries

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### Bank Details:

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