



Samaritans
Compassion Integrity Justice

The Samaritans Foundation is the social welfare arm of the Anglican Church in the Hunter, Manning & Central Coast.

CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2016

We're proud to share the stories that supporters like you have helped us achieve.



INSIDE: | Youth Camp | Disability Services | Volunteer Week | Winter Appeal

NEW EMERGENCY RELIEF CENTRE OPENS IN RUTHERFORD



The new centre will assist those who are struggling in the area.

Samaritans has opened a new Emergency Relief Centre in Rutherford to provide support to people who are struggling, after a need for more assistance in the area was identified.

The new centre will assist those in financial crisis to deal with their immediate situation through the provision of food, financial assistance and support paying bills. The Centre also connects those in need with other appropriate support services to prevent ongoing hardship.

Rutherford Emergency Relief centre will rely greatly on the generosity and time of volunteers to support staff to run this service. "Without the hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers, we would not be able to continue this vital community work," Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tracy Jackson said.

Samaritans now has 12 Emergency Relief Centres spread across Newcastle, the Hunter Valley, Central Coast and Mid North Coast regions of NSW, providing assistance for over 30 years. We are proud to help more than 1000 people each month to pay their bills and feed their families.

For more information visit www.samaritans.org.au

MINISTER AJAKA VISITS OUR DISABILITY SERVICES



Staff and people supported through Samaritans Disability Services enjoyed a visit from a special guest. The Hon. John Ajaka, MLC - Minister for Disability Services joined the team for afternoon tea and an insightful discussion, giving people we support the opportunity to voice their opinions to the Minister.

The afternoon tea was hosted at Samaritans Early Intervention Coordination Team (SEICT) centre in Bateau Bay. SEICT supports children and young people with a disability and their families, by delivering flexible and tailored support with their NDIS packages.

Find out more at www.samaritans.org.au/ndis

PURCHASE YOUR 2016/17 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK



The latest Entertainment Book is now available to purchase. You will receive over \$20,000 worth of amazing entertainment

and dining deals! By purchasing your book through Samaritans you are also supporting the work we do in the community, with 20% of the purchase price donated to us.

To order your digital or hard copy version please call Samaritans on 4960 7100 or visit www.samaritans.org.au to order online.

REDWOOD RETREAT LAUNCHES FUN NEW OUTDOOR AREA

Samaritans celebrated the launch of a brand new outdoor area at Redwood Retreat, a short-term respite accommodation service located on the Central Coast. The area features an adult swing, stationary bike and musical equipment to offer an exciting and tactile experience for people with additional needs.

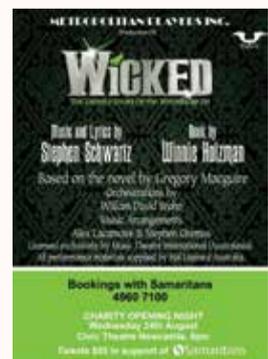
Redwood Retreat staff, the people supported through the service and their families, all joined together for a morning tea to celebrate and explore the new area. Redwood Retreat provides much needed support for both carers, and the people they care for, by offering enjoyable and supported getaways.



Find out more at www.redwoodretreat.com.au

SUPPORT SAMARITANS AT THE THEATRE

The charity opening night of Metropolitan Player's production of Wicked is on August 24 at Civic Theatre, Newcastle at 8pm. Tickets are just \$55 each and a percentage of every ticket sold will support the work of Samaritans, making a difference in the lives of those in need.



Tickets are available now by calling Samaritans on 4960 7100. Don't miss out!

A WORD FROM OUR CEO



As the chill of winter approaches now is a time to reflect on those who may be doing it tough in our community. This year we have seen increasing levels of homelessness with reports that 1 in 7 youth in Australia are at risk of becoming homeless.

Recently Samaritans released the results of our '2016 Rental Affordability Snapshot', undertaken as part of Anglicare Australia's national research. The results are deeply concerning and highlight the struggle faced by those who are most vulnerable in our community, including youth. The rental market in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Hunter, Central Coast and Mid North Coast of NSW is simply not affordable for those without work, those who are ageing or living with a disability and those raising children on their own. Our research looked at over 3000 available rental properties in the area and assessed whether they were affordable and appropriate to a number of groups - and young people have come off the worst.

Our Emergency Relief service sees first-hand the struggles these people face when paying a large electricity bill or car registration, which immediately impacts on their ability to pay their regular weekly expenses such as food and rent.

To break the cycle of homelessness, Samaritans and the wider Anglicare network believes, housing stock that is both affordable and appropriate is desperately needed.

With thanks to the generosity of our kind supporters, Samaritans will continue to do all that we can to assist these people. Please consider a gift to our 2016 Winter Appeal by using the donation form at the bottom of this newsletter.

Peter Gardiner

SAMARITANS HOSTS CAMP TO GLENROCK.....

Samaritans hosted an action-packed camp to Glenrock for the children and young people from our Out of Home Care service and Creative Times, a program that works with children and their families going through challenging times.

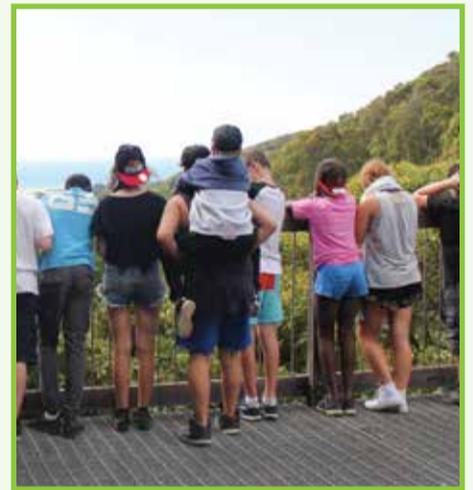
It provided a great opportunity for our staff and young people to bond through team-building activities, including a giant waterslide, treasure hunt and movie night!

The Camp also provided valuable life experience and education with a visit from a Police Constable to educate the young

people about how to keep themselves safe using social media.

Samaritans Case Manager, Rainee Goodwin said, "It was wonderful to see the leadership skills of some of our young people shine at this camp. In the group I was supervising, one young man became very passionate about sharing his experiences and knowledge with the younger boys in the group, who listened intently to him. It was a really great interaction."

Fostering a sense of belonging is the most important outcome of the camp, as many young people lack this experience in their day-to-day life.



15 young people attended the camp at Glenrock.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



May 9-15 saw Samaritans recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution of more than 450 volunteers engaged with our organisation.

For more information on volunteering or to register your interest, go to www.samaritans.org.au/volunteer or phone 4960 7152.

With over 120 services spread across NSW, the opportunities for our volunteers are diverse, including roles in Emergency Relief, Disaster Recovery, Retail Shops and more! Many of our services simply could not operate without the support of our dedicated teams of volunteers. In recognition of National Volunteer Week, CEO Peter Gardiner hosted a series of morning teas, giving volunteers the opportunity to be personally thanked for their contribution. Many members of the volunteer team celebrated an amazing milestone of 10, 20 or even 25 years of service!

"I would recommend volunteering to others, that feeling when you give back is indescribable" James Ryan, who volunteers with Samaritans Emergency Relief Centre.

Want to keep up to date with Samaritans news and events?

Join our email list!
www.samaritans.org.au

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Winter Appeal 2016


A Sense of Community



Support Samaritans Winter Appeal.
Just \$25 can make a difference.

Please give what you can at www.samaritans.org.au/donate
phone 1300 656 336 or post to
PO Box 366, HRMC NSW 2310

Mr Mrs Ms Other | Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to donate: \$25 \$50 \$70 Other: \$ _____

Enclosed is my: Cheque Money Order MasterCard Visa

Card No.

Credit Card deduction: Once Only Monthly Quarterly

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. A receipt for your generous donation will be mailed to you.
Cheques should be made payable to: **Samaritans Foundation**. Thank you.
 I have previously donated to Samaritans.
 Please contact me with information on how to make a Bequest.