

Keeping up with the Carletons

with Laurie & Bec Carleton • October 2025

#WhatsNewOnNorfolk



We are so thankful to God for the many ways He continues to work here on Norfolk Island. The last few months have been filled with opportunities to share the hope we have in Jesus and to celebrate His goodness alongside our church and the wider community.

Going all the way back to Easter, it was a truly joyful time as we celebrated our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It was especially encouraging to see so many people from the Island come along to our Easter events and services. We began on Maundy Thursday with our production of *Women @ the Cross*, a powerful reflection on the death of Jesus through the eyes of those who loved Him. This was followed by a Combined Churches Good Friday service, and on Easter Sunday, we had our family morning service at the St Barnabas Chapel. But we began the day with a Dawn Service atop Mt Pitt.

These events were a blessing to be a part of, and we continue to pray that God will use His Word to transform lives and draw people to Himself.

Praise God for sustaining us in life and ministry.

Over the past few months, we've had the joy of delving deeply into God's Word together. We worked through the Letter of James, which presented us with a practical challenge to live out our faith in everyday life. Also, once a

term for the last four years, we have been coming back to the book of Genesis, and we have finally finished with the story of Joseph, being comforted by God's sovereign work as he delivers His plan and purpose. Now we have turned our minds to the letter of 1 Peter, as we are reminded that as Christians we are to be in the world, but not of the world.

Thank God for our regular ministries – Sunday services, Bible studies, Praise & Worship evenings, Kids Church, and our shared youth & kids ministries.

Once again, we were fortunate to participate in Bounty Day. It was a beautiful celebration of Norfolk Island's history. This year, we donned our period costumes to represent Mr and Mrs Stewart in the re-enactment of the Pitcairners'



Banner Image: Sunset over the Island

Circle Image: The Carletons

Middle Image: Easter Day Dawn Service

Bottom Image: Women @ the Cross



Claudia waiting with some friends for the boat to arrive on Bounty Day

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landing. This is also a special part of the year, especially as we are entrusted to judge both the Best Dressed Family and Best Beard competitions.

This was a fantastic opportunity to be present and active in our community, celebrating together Norfolk Island's strong Christian heritage.

This year, at the NATS Theatre Festival 2025, we were invited to perform *Women @ the Cross* as part of this international competition. It was a joy (and a new adventure) for a bunch of amateurs to share the Easter story in a theatrical setting. The Gospel was clearly proclaimed, and we were encouraged by the warm reception and thoughtful feedback. In God's kindness, the production was even awarded two prizes! **We're especially praying for those in the audience who heard the Good News of Jesus for the first time, asking that God would grow in them a living and lasting hope.**

On the second-to-last day of winter, we gathered for our Winter Warmers progressive dinner. It was an encouraging evening. Twenty-six people joined us, including nine guests who had been personally invited along. It was a time filled with warmth, good food, and rich fellowship as we

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travelled to different homes across the Island.

The highlight of the evening came as we listened to two powerful testimonies from Grace and Rachel about God's work in their lives. Each story reminded us of the depth of God's grace, His faithfulness in times of trial, and our complete dependence on Him. We pray that those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Saviour will take these words to heart and begin to consider His claims for themselves.

In September, the Chapel grounds came alive with the sounds and laughter of our annual Spring Fair. This much-loved event remains a mainstay on the Island calendar, and this year saw one of the largest crowds in recent memory. Families and friends enjoyed delicious food, browsed the

stalls, perused the crafts and got involved in all the activities. And of course, the annual giant waterslide was a huge hit.

We see the Spring Fair as more than just a community event. The day gave us a chance to share the vision of our church, which is to: Love Jesus, Love Each Other, and Love Norfolk Island. We are deeply thankful for those who made this day such a success and for the opportunity to welcome so many people to the Chapel.



Winter Warmers



Olivia & Claudia's stall at the Spring Fair

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We continue to pray that this day will open doors for gospel conversations and lasting connections. Give thanks for the many gospel opportunities this year.

We are so thankful that God continues to bring new people to church, including some families who have started attending regularly. These new connections are an encouragement to us and a reminder that God is always at work, even when we do not immediately see it.

As we look ahead, we are excited for the opportunities still to come this year:

- Christianity Explored outreach course & Digging Deeper seminar series in October.
- 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St Barnabas Chapel in November.
- Our Christmas program for December.

Please pray that these events will be used by God to share the love and truth of Jesus with our community. Ask for

strength and energy for our family as we prepare for a full and fruitful final term of the year. Pray for wisdom as we seek to witness faithfully and well.

Pray that God would raise up a new Youth and Children's Minister for Norfolk Island, as this vital role is currently vacant.

Thank you for your ongoing, prayerful support of God's work here on Norfolk Island. We are continually reminded of God's faithfulness as He answers the prayers of His saints. We are always encouraged by such a loving network of believers across the country and around the world.



Spring Fair waterslide



Spring Fair crowds

In love and in Christ,
Laurie, Bec, Olivia, Claudia & Harry

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Norfolk Island**

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