

Kelso Chronicle

with James & Charly Boardman • July 2025



Hi everyone, and welcome to another Kelso Chronicle. The momentum hasn't slowed since we started, and we are so thankful to God for all He is doing.

We are deeply grateful for all your support, prayers, words of encouragement, visits, and financial contributions through BCA. We are so encouraged by all this and look forward to your emails and letters.

Playtime

Playtime continues to be a lot of fun. We finished off last term with an Easter party. The kids all made Easter hats and paraded around the hall. We heard the Easter story. This was our biggest Playtime attendance ever with 27 kids. It certainly was a very busy morning!

This term, we have been looking at great rescues in the Bible, from the Exodus story to the walls of Jericho, to Daniel and the Lion's Den. To help draw the rescue connection we have been dancing to *Super Saviour* by Colin Buchanan. This has proved so popular that several families have gone away and bought Colin's songs. Many parents have commented that he's a nice change from Blippi!

Another way we emphasised the rescue theme was to bring in some modern heroes. One of our parishioners is a fireman, so he and his team brought their truck along for the kids to sit in and spray the hose. This was very popular with some of the leaders also having a go!

***What Shall I return
to the Lord for all his
goodness to me? I
will lift up the cup of
salvation and call on
the name of the Lord.
Psalm 116:12-13***

We have been encouraged that a couple of Playtime families have visited church several times. We are gaining a lot of joy and encouragement from this ministry and the relationships that we are developing.

Thank God for the conversations that are occurring at Playtime.

Pray that God would bring more families to Playtime and church.

Pray that God would raise up passionate leaders for Kids' Church.

Bicentenary events

We celebrated our Bicentenary with a special service on Saturday 3 May.

Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, in his role as Metropolitan of NSW, preached at the service from 1 Peter 2:4-10, and the service was led by Bishop Mark Calder,

Banner Image: The township of Bathurst & surrounds

Circle Image: The Boardmans

Middle Image: James tells a Bible story at Playtime

Bottom Image: Hannah with her Easter hat



Archbishop Kanishka Raffel preaching during our Bicentennial service

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with James leading parts of the service.

Just before the service, a stone marked 2025, crafted by one of our parishioners, was installed at the church gate to commemorate the occasion. After the service, we enjoyed lunch and cake together.

The parish was greatly encouraged by the sermon and the service. We were thankful that The Revd Paul Sampson was able to represent BCA at the event and that The Revd Keith Baker was able to represent our BCA partner church, St Paul's, Castle Hill. If you would like to listen to the sermon, you can [find it here](#).

Since our last newsletter, we have

There is a lot of energy and excitement at O'Connell since the service became fortnightly

held a church open day, during which both the church and the old church hall were open to the public. We were amazed at how many people attended and we were able to have conversations about the many things that are happening at church.

Thank God for the success of the

Bicentennial celebrations.

That God would use the remaining Bicentenary events to bring people to Himself.

HOPE25 & O'Connell

We were excited to participate as a parish in HOPE25. Our participation included following the sermon series set by the Diocese and running a *Hope Explored* Course at Kelso. The course was small, but we were encouraged by the number of parishioners who invited people to come and pray, believing that this would foster a culture of evangelism in the parish.

James will be running *Hope Explored* in O'Connell in Term 3. Parishioners are familiarising themselves with the course in the O'Connell Bible Study. There is a lot of energy and excitement at O'Connell since the service became fortnightly.

A new warden was elected from O'Connell to serve on the parish council. This is the first time there has been an O'Connell warden in several years. This has added to the energy and excitement. God is opening doors in the O'Connell valley with lots of opportunities to engage with the community.

One instance of this is through the new shop in the Rectory. Two parishioners started this initiative to connect with the community.

Pray that God would build a



James, Bishop Mark Calder and Archbishop Kanishka Raffel with the new bicentennial stone



The Autumn Fete

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culture of evangelism in the parish.

Autumn Fete

Twice a year, Holy Trinity hosts a market day. These days are essential for the financial viability of the parish. In March, we held our Autumn Fete, which around 800 people attended. This is not only a fantastic opportunity to raise finances but a fantastic opportunity to share the Gospel!

To help us do that, we were joined by a team from St Paul's, Castle Hill.

The team were a great blessing, making balloon animals and doing face painting. From their efforts, a new family came to church, and another person has been regularly attending.

Thank God for new people joining the church

Bible Study

Due to demand, we started a Wednesday evening Bible Study to complement our Tuesday afternoon Bible Study. Both Bible Studies have been a constant highlight during the week.

Since our last letter, we have completed *Hope Explored* in both studies, so that those attending the Bible Study would be more familiar with the course.

Then we did an apologetics course that James wrote at Moore College. Following that, we moved to following the *Hope Explored* Sermon Series.

We have enjoyed some excellent discussions on the topics. One of the highlights has been prayer.

There have been prayers to grow in understanding of God's purposes, prayers for opportunities

to share faith, and prayers for growing in Godliness. We are so excited to see what God will do with those prayers.

Thank you

Thank you once again for all your support. We are so encouraged by you all.



The Boardmans with the team from St Paul's Castle Hill

Love from

James, Charly, Elijah, Joshua & Hannah

Find out more

about Bush Church Aid who support us in Kelso

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