

# The Connellys in Cowra

with Ben & Alissa Connelly • March 2026



**COWRA  
SUMMER  
BREAKOUT**

KIDS PROGRAM K-6 TEENS PROGRAM 7-12  
JANUARY 12TH-16TH 2026 9:30AM- 12PM  
2 BOURKE ST- COWRA BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

GAMES CRAFTS LIVE MUSIC

THE NARROW ROAD- MATTHEW 7:13-14



Dear supporters, in our last newsletter we asked for your prayers for the Cowra Summer Breakout and we are delighted to tell you they were answered in some amazing ways!

The Cowra Summer Breakout (CSB) run in the January school holidays, is for school aged kids and teens, with some evening events for adults, as well as a coffee cart run every morning during the kids/teens program.

CSB is made possible because of a large number of people from different churches in Sydney who give of their time to come and run this program. It has happened in Cowra for almost 30 years, but this year was the first time that the Anglican Church was officially involved. In the past the Baptist and Presbyterian churches have run this program.

CSB includes a daily program of games, songs, drama and craft where the young people learn about Jesus in their age groups. The program this year ran Monday to Friday mornings, with a special family-friendly trivia event held on the Saturday night, and a Sunday morning combined service to conclude. The theme of CSB this year was The Narrow Road (Matthew 7:13-14).

This year's program was a great success. Many connections were made with the non-churched. Total registrations across the week for kids and teens equalled 90, and most days similar numbers attended.

There were over 80 women in attendance on the Tuesday evening for the ladies' craft night, where landscape paintings were completed whilst a member of the Breakout team shared their testimony.

Sixty men attended the men's meat night. The family trivia night was attended by over 120 adults (not including kids)!

The kids and youth performed songs at the combined church service, and there were parents of children who do not regularly come to church attending to



Vivi performs with her group on stage

Banner Image: Cowra

Circle Image: The Connellys

Middle Image: Flyer advertising CSB

Bottom Image: Alissa's painting from the Ladies' craft night



Combined Sunday Church Service during CSB

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see their children perform. For the first time an introduction to Jesus course was successfully run following the program, with four weeks of study in the Gospel of John concluding in early March.

On a more personal note, CSB was a great success for St John's. All the irregularly attending families at St John's sent their kids along to the program if they were old enough, and they all had a fantastic week. Vivienne was also able to attend for the first time. Having young adults invest in the lives of these kids is such a blessing, and something that the kids treasure as well as their parents. We were also pleased to see many of our congregants at the combined Sunday service at the Baptist church following the week-long program. Ben preached at this service, and one of our parishioners commented the following week that she thought that it was Ben's "best sermon yet." This parishioner was not only greatly encouraged by the message, but also the number of voices singing together in worship on that day. She was also greatly pleased that her grandchildren who attended the program had gotten so much out of it. Members of all the churches were also greatly encouraged by conversations with the visiting team members, opportunities to hear testimonies, and opportunities to join in praying for Cowra.

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**Please praise God with us for a really successful CSB this year!**

**Family news**

After Christmas and before Breakout commenced, we managed to fit in a brief trip to Sydney to celebrate Christmas belatedly with some extended family. Unfortunately, we didn't get to enjoy the beach much while we there, as it was too cool, but we got to explore some great parks with the kids' cousins and take some nice walks. Josiah and Vivienne were also able to enjoy a show at the Sydney Opera House with their grandparents, which was very special.

As you have probably guessed from our prayer notes, Vivienne has started school this year. Praise God that she has settled well into 'big school' and is already loving learning. Praise God that

we are starting to get into a good routine in the mornings in getting everyone ready and out the door. Praise God also that Ezekiel has not minded too much that he no longer has the company of his sister during the week. He is enjoying having free reign of the toys, and more alone time with mummy! Josiah swam in his first ever swimming carnival a few weeks ago and enjoyed it very much. He will turn eight later in the year. Ezekiel has just turned two, and Vivienne is five, the years are certainly going by very fast.

**As we head into a busy couple of months, we ask you to please**



Alissa & Ezekiel enjoy a ride!

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pray for energy and that we would all stay healthy. Please pray also that we would all get some good rest over the school holidays, as we spend a few days in Canberra after Easter.

### Coming up

In the next two months we have visits from two of our partner churches, and of course it will be Easter. So it will be quite busy!

In late March, St Michael's Cathedral in Wollongong is sending a team to help us out with a stall at Cowra's 'Festival of International Understanding', and in mid-April, a team from St Nick's Goulburn will come to run a one-day Holiday Kids Club. At the stall during the festival, we will advertise our Easter services, the Holiday Kids' Club, and our 'Someday Sunday,' which will happen in early May.

The aim of the 'Someday Sunday' initiative is to encourage people who have thought of coming to church 'someday' to try out St John's on the first Sunday in May. The team from St Mick's will help us to have as many conversations as possible with people during the festival to encourage them to consider coming to church and trying St John's.

Please pray for fruit from these conversations, and that we have visitors to church over Easter and during 'Someday Sunday.'

Please also pray for the preparation for our Holiday Kids' Club and pray that many kids come and hear about Jesus during this one-day program, and that connections are made with more families in town.

Praise God for the team coming from St Nick's Goulburn to run this program for us and pray that both these visits from our partner churches would encourage St John's members, and spur us on in our evangelism efforts.



Josiah enjoyed his Swimming Carnival



Family Christmas photo

### Blessings,

*Ben, Alissa, Josiah, Vivienne & Ezekiel*

Pray for

our work in  
Cowra

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