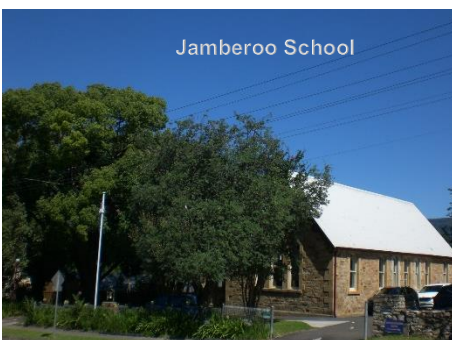


We are coming to the end of our public school trips so we decided to cover as many schools as we could. Again for this trip our friends A and WK gave us a donation and the promise of prayer. S and D and also J said they would pray too. This confidence in our work is such a blessing! This trip was 72 schools in 4 days – rather an intense schedule. We had been encouraged last month when we were well received, because the official Education Dept policy is no God, no Jesus, except in Scripture classes. Yet only three schools on this trip refused the booklets on these grounds because these professional educators know that there is more to good education than mental and physical. They want to develop, in the children they teach, social, emotional and spiritual values too. Our booklets try to teach these particular qualities, as some Principals with whom we have talked agree. Anyone can check them on our website under Christian Books – Children's and Teens.

So we set out on our first day to visit Helensburg, Otford, Stanwell Park, Scarborough, Coledale, Austinmer, Thirroul, Bulli, Wianiora, Woonona East, Woonona, Russell Vale, Bellambi, Corrimall East, Corrimall and Tarrawanna schools and a special school, Aspect South Coast. Our prayers and our booklets were well received at each of these schools and we even had opportunity to pray with some others outside of the schools, including a Muslim lady at the petrol station, who loved our Jeremiah 29 leaflet. We stayed that night at a motel in Fairy Meadow. It was a hot night and there was only an ineffective fan but the bed was OK and we were tired. This is one of those challenges about trusting our Lord for all things when we want to serve Him.

Next day we set out for more schools as they are so close together, sometimes less than 10 minutes apart. Towradgi was our first, followed by Fairy Meadow, Balgownie, Pleasant Heights, Mount Ousley, North Wollongong, Wollongong, Gwynneville, Wollongong West and Lindsay Park. Our prayers and booklets were as well received as the day before, so we were very happy to be a blessing. Then we drove to Mount Keira to receive a very ugly reception where the anti-Christ spirit is palpable. We can expect that there are some people who hate God but to deprive children of the blessings is horrible, and even being around it makes one feel unclean. We are always careful to repent of this response of revulsion so that we will be clean for the next place. We had a most successful run from there to Keiraville, Figtree Heights, Nareena Hills, Figtree, Mount Kembla, Unanderra, Farmborough Road, Mount St Thomas, Coniston and Cringila schools, where our prayer and booklets were graciously received. Then we returned to our Fairy Meadow motel.

On our third day we drove to Port Kembla, Kemblawarra and Primbee schools. We had a polite refusal at our next school, Warrawong School, as C was willing to allow us to pray for the school community, though she would not "defy" the Education Department's strictures. We went on to Lake Heights, Berkeley, Berkeley West, Hayes Park (the school at Kanahooka), Koonawarra, Dapto, Mount Brown, Oak Flats, Balarang, Mount Warrigal, Lake Illawarra South, Windang, Warilla North, Warilla, Barrack Heights and Shellharbour schools. At each of these our prayer and booklets were graciously received. Because of this we are encouraged to persist, believing that God really will answer our prayers for these grateful people and that His presence will pervade their whole community and the faithful churches in these areas will see increase for the Kingdom, for His glory. This night we stayed at a beautiful (but much more expensive) motel in Shellharbour.



On our fourth day we drove straight to Nowra Hill School, about one hour's drive from Shellharbour. We had not been there before and K, K1 and K2 are in the school office and not only were interested in the booklets but each received our 1 Corinthians 13 leaflet after we had a lively conversation. Nowra East was the exact opposite but S promised that her Principal would phone us to hear our purpose for bringing the booklets. But at Nowra North, Cambewarra, Berry, Gerringong and Kiama schools, our prayer and booklets were received with gratitude and interest. At our next school, Jamberoo, S, the acting Principal, invited us into her office to talk about the purpose of the booklets, which is very encouraging for us and, we believe, for them. Then we drove to Minnamurra, Mount Terry, and Tullimbar schools. Each of these were a pleasure to visit. Then came the shock at Albion Park School. Not only

was the Deputy Principal rude and mocking, telling us we should have consulted the Education Department's website to find out the rules about the booklets but refusing prayer, even for her staff and children. There was no one who was willing to agree with us for the blessing in Albion Park, even on the footpath outside so we "dusted off our feet" and left. But at Albion Park Rail, the next school, we were back to grace and thankfulness that we had come, and at Flinders School we were also graciously received. Shell Cove School was our last for the trip and S, the Principal there, was very friendly and helpful as were his office assistants A and K. We prayed and left our booklets and went back to that beautiful motel for the night, driving home the relatively short distance next morning. Thank you Lord for the privilege of being Your Ambassadors.

