

This first trip of 2023 was prepared in 2022, to visit public schools to distribute our children's' booklets and our teen tracts to Principals and teachers to encourage them in the elements of their teaching of social, emotional and spiritual values. We were encouraged that our friends A and WK believed in what we wanted to do and even donated funds towards this enterprise. Although God's blessing was powerfully on this last year we were hoping to find out whether this was still God's plan for us, as He had not shown us anything new. So we set out full of faith and confidence that He would answer our prayers for open doors and favour.

On our first day we visited Somersby, Peats Ridge, Central Mangrove, Kulnura, Yarramalong (which is no longer a public school but an Anglican school which has all the resources they need), Laguna, Millfield, Paxton, Congewai, Ellalong, Bellbird, Cessnock West and Kitchener schools. All of these schools except the Anglican school accepted the booklets. We like to pray with the contact person for that community, and at each place except Central Mangrove people were gracious and shared our prayer. The Mangrove man was a teacher and an "evolutionist", receiving the books because he was not the Principal but otherwise quite mocking. We stayed the night in Cessnock and prayed for G at the motel.



Broke School



Kirkton School



Largs School



Martins Creek School

Next day we visited Cessnock East, Cessnock, Nulkaba, Broke, Milbrodale, Kirkton, Branxton, Greta, Lochinvar, Rutherford, Telarah, Maitland and Gillieston schools. Our booklets and prayers were received so graciously at each of the schools except at Milbrodale. We had to interrupt a class teacher as there was no one in the office at this very small school so the teacher just took the booklets and promised to hand them to the Principal when he was back from a meeting. We just stood outside and prayed for this community in agreement with each other. But it was a really encouraging day otherwise because of the graciousness and appreciation of those at the other schools with whom we had contact. That evening we stayed at a caravan park in Maitland where M was pleased to allow us to pray for her and we gave her a copy of our 1 Corinthians leaflet.

We do not write much about these communities, most of which are very old, 100 years or more, and the buildings are original. Even the school buildings are old although some have acquired new bits and many are having repairs and reconstruction. Most people have old-fashioned courtesy – so nice! And if we have trouble with a gate children have run to get us help on several occasions.

On our third day we visited Lorn, Bolwarra, Largs, Iona, Paterson, Vacy, Gresford, Martins Creek, Hinton, Osterley/ Mount Kanwarra, Morpeth, Tenambit, East Maitland, Ashtonfield and Metford schools. This was a very happy day as we had the privilege of speaking with the Principals of Vacy, Gresford and Martins Creek. These people are so helpful to us to keep us informed of the present social, emotional and spiritual needs in the schools, as it is our desire to help them meet these. All of these schools received our prayer and our booklets and we even felt refreshed because of their reception of us. We stayed again at the Caravan Park cabin which was very comfortable and bargain-priced.

On our fourth day the sky was quite overcast but we continued to receive favour at the schools we visited. We went to Thornton, Millers Forest, and Woodberry schools where our prayers and booklets were well received. Then it began to rain but as usual God was so gracious to us and it did not rain as we walked into each school grounds. Our next visit was Beresfield where we met O, who was quite unhelpful at first and tried to get us to speak to the Chaplain, but she was not available so gradually he warmed to our cause and received the booklets but no prayer. At Pelaw Main School we met M who

took the booklets quite reluctantly to pass on to the Principal, but God's favour was on us for the rest of the schools on today's schedule. Our booklets and prayers were so graciously received at Tarro, Black Hill, Stanford Merthyr, Kurri Kurri, Weston, Abermain, Kearsley and Mulbring schools. We had finished our schedule of 55 schools and prayed for as many people. We had given out 53 sets of the booklets, just over 1000 individual booklets in four days. We can only thank God for His faithfulness in answer to our prayers.



Greta School



Iona School



St John's Vacy



Millers Forest School



St John's Hinton