



# Camp Columba

doing learning growing

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2011

**Mission Statement:** To provide a high standard of accommodation and adventure programs to promote physical, emotional and spiritual development and in doing so to demonstrate God's love to all who come into camp.

### NEW CAMP MANAGERS REPORT

We arrived on February 20<sup>th</sup> to a warm welcome and a good old New Zealand lamb dinner. This made me feel both at home and very welcomed. Thank you to Jo Parish, Bruce and Robyn Allen, John Gow and Tom Falconer.

We have begun to settle in and are eagerly awaiting our container that is sailing from the USA at this time. Sarah, my wife, is still trying to get the hang of driving on the other side of the road and I, Bruce, am still trying to get the hang of not jumping into the passenger's seat every time I attempt to drive somewhere.

Still, we are glad to be here, in a camp with an amazing heritage that is a sanctuary to so many. Already, we have been privileged to witness the transformation of lives and the advancing of the kingdom of God.

#### And the Wind Blows:

As everyone is well aware, we all experienced the Southland winds recently. The camp experienced minimal damage though. We had a number of trees snap limbs. Thankfully no major issues, all was cleared quickly, and camp resumed normally. John and I enjoyed a morning swinging from the trees as we cleared the limbs.



(John VZ cutting up the fallen logs)

#### Annie Kate Ray's Arrival:

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new holiday camps coordinator; Annie-Kate Rea, soon to be Williams. She will be getting married in April. Annie-Kate has attended many camps here at Camp Columba and has a heart for young people and the ministries that go on here. We are excited to have her on our team.

*'Out with the old, and in with the new'*



(Bruce, Jo and Annie-Kate)

#### A Tribute to Jo Parish:

The first thing I would like to say is, "Jo, please don't leave us..." As many of you know, Jo is preparing for a year long trip to Sri Lanka to work in a girls home. She has contributed much to Camp Columba. She has willingly taken on the role of administrator and interim camp manager throughout the past year. Jo has helped organize and oversee everything from school and community group camps, ministry camps to waste water treatment plants. She has poured her heart into this ministry and has given over and above what has been required of her. Thank you Jo, for what you have brought to this ministry. Know that we will be praying for you as you begin your new adventure. May God bless you richly! P.S. - We will also be praying for, and be looking out for your man while you are gone. ;)

### Upcoming Projects:

\* Phase One of the Diesel water heating in the kitchen and heating in the boys dorm is almost complete.

\* Painting of the buildings is still needing to be done.

#### UP COMING CAMPS:

**Mother/Daughter Camp**  
**25-27 March 2011**

**Egypt 1: 5-9 years**  
**18-21 April, 2011**

**Egypt 2: 10-13 years**  
**26-30 April, 2011**

You can register online at:  
[www.campcolumba.org.nz](http://www.campcolumba.org.nz)

### PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the new staff.
- Please pray for more **Volunteers and Supporters to Camp Columba** and for more people to have a passion to be a part of the Camp Board.
- Please pray for the leaders and the kids coming to the Ministry Camps.



(Letting off Rockets at the Father Son Camp)

## MINISTRY CAMP NEWS

### Leader's Camp:



We've just finished the first leadership camp of the year. We were able to meet new and returning leaders. The weekend was a fantastic ministry time where faith was expanded, decisions were made, and lives transformed by the Holy Spirit. I have to say that I was blown away by the maturity and the faith of these young leaders. I was encouraged by the hunger in their hearts to encounter the presence of the living God! It will be exciting to see what God has in store for this coming generation.

### Father - Son Camp:



The father son weekend left kids pumped, and dads bruised. Surely it was a time "where the hearts of the fathers were turned towards their children." It was fun to see boys playing with their dads and dads being boys. It was a chance for business men to stop for a while and connect with their sons; to laugh, and do things they would not otherwise have the time or energy to do. Such things as: burning marshmallows on a HUGE MANLY bonfire, soaring down the flying fox, or allowing their sons to take pot shots at them with paint balls in the paint ball field. A HUGE thank you to Jonny Elder for organising and running the Father Son weekend. Jonny did such a great job and we appreciate all the time and organising he put into it.



### Camps to Come:

We have a number of upcoming camps that we would love for you to be a part of or to pray for:

- Mother/Daughter Weekend, March 25-27
- EGYPT 1, April 18-21
- EGYPT 2, April 26-30
- Easter Camp, April 22-25

**Please see our website for details of these events.**

### Community Day:

We will also be having our Community Day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. It is open to anyone who has been a part of Camp Columba over the years. This will be an opportunity to meet me and my family, Annie Kate and to say farewell to Jo Parish. The event kicks off at 3.00pm and includes a BBQ, and a number of camp activities. This is a free event and is a thank you to all those who have been a part of Camp Columba.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months to come. Please continue to pray for the ministry here at Camp Columba.

Blessings,

**Bruce O'Brien**

**Camp Columba Manager**

## REFLECTIONS FROM JO

The time has arrived. My final blurb for the Camp Columba newsletter. I'd like to say thank you for the opportunity to serve in God's ministry here. It certainly has been a great challenge and I have learnt and developed new skills (I hope they're skills). To the Board in particular I want to say your involvement and encouragement is crucial to the running of camp. Thank you so much for assisting me in the undertaking of my role as acting manager. To Jo Gardyne especially, thank you! The Board donate so much of their time and energy to camp, but I have seen this is out of a deep love and passion for Christ to be known to all people. The great commission!

Talking about passion, I have certainly grown to love what Christian camping offers and providing hospitality to people, but my real passion has been with the people of Sri Lanka ever since I went there on a short term missions trip in 2006. It is a dream actually coming to reality, that I will soon be there serving a local church called Kithu Sevana and working with them in their ministries to the orphaned and widowed and anywhere else I can be of service. I'm excited about the adventure and challenges ahead and I am very much looking forward to being stretched in my faith by God and my prayer is that I will ultimately be of service for His glory alone.

I leave camp with a tinge of wishing I could stay and work alongside the new staff here. Camp certainly is privileged to have Bruce and the O'Brien family here. And our new passionate Camp Coordinator, Annie-Kate, is learning and settling into her role, as well as trying to prepare her wedding! Camp Columba is in great hands and it is on a happy note that I leave such a great place. Keep praying for the staff here. They need prayer cover and protection. This is a spiritual battle field that we work in here at Camp Columba. There is so much potential for God to touch and change lives, that you can be sure, Satan is NOT happy about. I cannot emphasize enough, keep them in your prayers.

I would like to finish with also saying what a pleasure it has been to work alongside Tre Morton, who works at Camp Columba as the Adventure Southland Instructor. You have become a great friend as well as a work colleague. I wish you all the best for your continued work at camp and teachers college study. You are an integral part to Camp Columba Tre! To all the businesses and contacts made through the various groups and schools that use Camp Columba, thank you for making camp what it is today too. God be with you all.

Jesu pihitai (Sri Lankan Sinhalese Christian blessing meaning: May the blessings of Jesus be on you).

**Jo Parish**