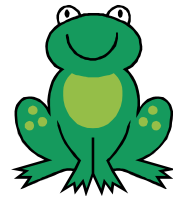


# WHAT'S UP?



A newsletter for people in ministry with children and their families

Prepared by your Resource Centre for Children's and Family Ministry

<http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au> In menu on left, click "Children's Ministry"

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## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

*A banner seen at the Tea Tree Gully Christmas Tree Festival:*

What makes Christmas?

The CREATOR makes Christmas happen  
FRIENDS make Christmas beautiful  
MUSIC makes Christmas festive  
GIVING makes Christmas joyous  
LOVE makes Christmas complete

As mentioned previously in *What's Up?*, the Resource Centre for Children's and Family Ministry closes this month. The resources and staff are now based in the Uniting Church of SA office in the city as part of the Children, Youth and Young Adults Team within the Mission Resourcing Network. Our email will not change until February so please contact us on [rccfm@bigpond.com](mailto:rccfm@bigpond.com) or phone 8227 0822.

We are on leave until January 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

## RESOURCES

### START OF SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES

Milestone events are great opportunities for churches to connect in a significant way with people in their congregation and community. The start of a school year is a milestone in the life of school-aged children - especially those starting school for the first time - and their families. There are four resources available for free from our website that congregations - large and small - can use to connect with children who are starting school. <http://mrn.sa.uca.org.au/childrens-ministry/all-age-worship.html>

Scroll down the page about halfway to where the tab headings are and click on "Special Occasion" for four All Age Worship services.

## TEA TREE GULLY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Imagine walking into a church filled with decorated Christmas trees — and people.

Every second year the churches of Tea Tree Gully combine to put on a three-day Christmas Tree Festival. The event raises thousands of dollars for the support of Christian Pastoral Support Workers and schools ministry in the area.

This year's guiding theme for the congregations, schools and community groups who decorated trees for the festival was 'Christmas Carols', and there was a wide array of interpretations of the theme. Also included in the display was a collection of nativity scenes — many different sizes and styles — floral art and banners. A real feast for the senses! On sale were crafts, gifts, home baked goodies, plants, and snacks in a tea room.

Most memorable, for me, was the tree pictured here.

Among decorated green pines, was a pyramid of sparkling, clear plastic water bottles, lit from inside with changing coloured lights.

Striking in itself!

Beside the crystal tree on a pedestal stood a single bottle of dirty water. Attached was a stark reminder of the children in our world who die every day because they do not have access to clear sparkling water.

At Christmas we remember that God's love is so great that he sent his Son into a world where children die for lack of clean water.

