

# CCSM News



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## Darren Gray Rated by High School Staff

We often praise God for the potential for lives to be changed by the gospel through CCSM, but it's not just a case of hoping, praying and believing. Last term I invited some teachers to give their thoughts about the job I do and the role of scripture in schools.

Some said that in light of our current events around the world, scripture teaching is incredibly important, probably more relevant than ever, and that the values that underpin our nation need to be preserved and promoted.

One commented that what we teach must be harder than the government curriculum in some respects because it is counter-cultural, particularly in terms of morals and ethics.

One wrote: "I'm always pleased to hand over my year 7 and 8 classes for Religious Ed because I know they're going to enjoy all the things Darren does with them. Whenever I tip-toe into a lesson he's always discussing an interesting issue or playing a cool game and the kids are really engaged."

Another: "Darren tells great stories that have relevance and meaning to our everyday lives."

Of a particular class, "Their best behaviour is seen in Christian Studies classes", a Christian teacher observed. "It's definitely God at work."

Another Christian teacher wrote: "You are sharing things with students that they probably never hear anywhere else. The majority would have no Christian heritage, and even more will most likely never attend a church. What you do is so important."

I close with an edited version of a lengthier reply: "By and large, many teenagers are yet to become aware of His comfort and His support. Keen to do things their way, often not valuing parental wisdom, teenagers live out their insecurities, confronted by instability. *(Ctd back page)*



Darren Gray at 11th Annual Dinner

# CCSM Annual Dinner Sees Churches Unite

The 11<sup>th</sup> CCSM Annual Dinner was celebrated on Saturday August 16. Your Church provided a new venue, while Matt Guidon and family provided the same great catering and Peter Monkton assisted with a vegetarian meal. There are many ways to contribute to CCSM.



Not all went to plan. High School teacher Dave Bosshard was hit by the ubiquitous flu, and had to resort to a video presentation in lieu of speaking in person. After a long dry spell, the heaviest rainfall in months arrived that evening and gave us a good soaking as we left the building. But these glitches didn't prevent the dinner from being another great success.

We saw video testimonies of people who met the Lord in school because SRE introduced them to a God they would have heard about nowhere else. We were challenged by the speakers to make the most of the opportunities that school Scripture gives us, and to consider the implications of the fact that most people who come to faith do so in their early years. Diners reaffirmed the value of the ministry by sponsoring the teaching of kids. And we had the visual reminder in people gathering from different churches, that Coffs Coast Schools Ministry is well supported.

*- Grant Geytenbeek, Scripture teacher and Pastor*



## Are You Connected?

Over the past 32 years my husband and I have taught SRE in each of our parishes. This has been an amazing opportunity to connect with people on many levels. One connection leads to another and some of them get even stronger. This is no different on the Northern Beaches.

It is a joy to go to school each week and reconnect with Principals, teachers, aides and students. What a privilege to be invited to functions at the schools or in the communities.

*(Leone Hanger continues on page 3)*

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How many times are we walking down town, at a funeral, wedding, baptism, in the garden or just on the beach having fun and we hear someone call out: "Hello Mr or Mrs Hanger"! One half-hour of SRE each week is not the end of sharing Jesus with them. We even get opportunities to meet their parents or siblings.

Praise God for connections we make at schools. Have you ever thought of the impact of being Jesus' representative wherever you meet people? Try SRE teaching - it is full of opportunities.

*- Leone Hanger, Scripture teacher and Board member*

## Hard Questions for the Teacher

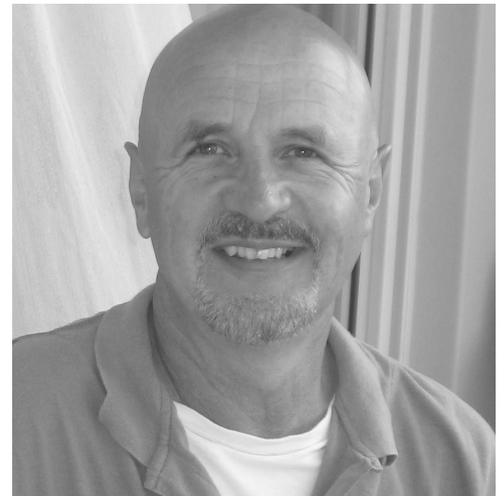
The moment I walked into my first class at Boambee Primary, I could feel the energy and enthusiasm of youth. I have three classes of 11 and 12 year olds and was initially keen to find out what they knew about the world, God and Jesus. Had they formed their own world view? Did they know about the theory of evolution?

To my surprise, they were more or less a blank canvas. Of course they had some idea of God, some idea about right and wrong. Now they were able to learn about sin and how it came into the world. Now I was able to share with them how everything in the Bible pointed toward Jesus and how each and every one of us is able to choose salvation and eternal life. Amazingly, every time I read from the Bible, you could hear a pin drop. (Not always so when I was talking!)

As the weeks progressed, I found the kids more and more willing to have a go at answering questions and more willing to ask questions. Some of their questions were so profound, philosophers are no doubt still debating them—eg, "What did God do before he created the earth?", "If God is not human, what is he?", "What is the difference between Jesus and God, in spiritual ways?", and this is one of my favourites, "What will happen when the sun becomes a red giant and swallows up the earth in approximately 5 billion years?"

What a blessing and amazing opportunity to share my love of God and the Gospel with 90 beautiful children and three teachers.

*- Elgar Starkis*



Elgar Starkis, one of our newest scripture teachers, began in term 2 this year

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*(From front page)* “Just teen-toddlers finding their feet, they stumble from delight to dilemma, and soon life overwhelms the unseasoned youngster.

“To my mind, herein lies the importance of scripture in schools - it is essential to the future wellbeing of our up-and-coming adults. Often hampered by their fractured family, devoid of the 'developing wisdom' provided by parental guidance, left to float into difficulty, so willing to let life just happen to them, many would run a mile rather than make a decision and endure the consequences.

“This is why Christian Studies is in a prime position to help our students build the Biblically ethical framework needed for their moral future. This program informs, promotes discussion and invites students to experience what is possible in their lives, knowing that God is in their corner.”

As you can see, God is working mightily in our schools. The kingdom of God is advancing thanks to the support of many. Thank you, and please continue to partner with us.

- Darren Gray

## Treasurer's Report for 8 Months to 31 August

Our income from donations for the first eight months of the year continues to be well ahead of last year for the same period. As a board we are very grateful to God and to you our supporters for this.

We are coming up to the time when we need to plan our activities for next year.

	2013 Jan-Aug Actual	2014 Jan-Aug Actual	2014 Jan—Aug Plan	2014 Jan-Dec Plan
<b>Income</b>	53,115	67,960	63,512	95,268
<b>Expenses</b>	74,574	67,673	68,984	95,268
<b>Net Assets</b>	17,227	20,363	14,604	20,076

Broadly, our planned expenses breakdown for 2014 is: Primary teaching materials, \$22,000, Insurances and admin, \$5,000, Salaries for high school teachers \$68,300.

The costs for primary teaching materials and insurance/admin are fairly stable and easy to forecast. High school salaries depend on how much teaching we are able to provide in the high schools. This is a combination of the schools having time available for us and our having the resources to pay our teachers. To put it bluntly, if we are to do more in the high schools we will need more income! So please can you prayerfully consider your giving for next year and let us know if you feel able to give more. Thank you again for your wonderful support this year.

- Guy Butler