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Messy Church Australia Newsletter March 2016

Welcome to 2016! Already it is March and most Messy Churches around Australia have had at least one meeting this year. And it is Lent, the time we get ready for Easter, and so there are many Easter-themed Messy Churches happening. For more Easter and Lent ideas see the new Messy Church Australia Pinterest site: <https://www.pinterest.com/messychurchaustr/>

Messy Church Australia Roundtable

Adelaide was the place for the recent Messy Church Australia Roundtable gathering. Representatives came from every state to discuss ways to support Messy Church, grow Messy Church and provide a national perspective and think about a way to *be* Messy Church in Australia (if you would like a copy of the Roundtable Summary Report, please e-mail chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au). Here we are at the end of the meeting:



Australian Messy Church music

Heather Price, a musician from Newcastle, has written songs for the Messy Church where her family go, and is about to release a CD *I am Loved*. Heather came to the Roundtable and shared her work, including a Christmas CD.

Heather is launching *I am Loved* on 7th May at Adamstown Uniting Church at 2.30pm. Heather's *pozible* crowd-sourcing campaign will start on March 20th. For more details see: www.heatherprice.com.au

Statistics

Did you know there are now 190 registered Messy Churches in Australia? We know there are probably more, but many haven't yet registered. If you know of any Messy Churches that are new or not registered, please encourage them to go onto the international registration site www.messychurch.org.uk/registration to make it easier for people looking for a Messy Church to find you. It doesn't cost anything to register.

Snapshots from around Australia

January was quiet with most Messy Churches taking a break, but with back-to-school, St Valentines' Day, Pancake Day and Lent beginning lots of Messy Churches shared their snaps including a Messy Baptism at Freshwater MC and a Messy bless the animals service at Berowra MC. Leeton MC finished last year with a 'Bible Seasides' theme, while Banora Point MC had a 'Promises, promises' theme. Watsonia MC shared with Melbourne Glory to have a bilingual Messy Church! Can you see your Messy Church? If you have permission to share photos, post on the Messy Church Facebook page and share your good ideas!





Training opportunities in Victoria

If you run a Messy Church (or a playgroup) *Join the Dots* is for you! It will enable you to deepen your understanding of your ministry and share with others in similar ministry positions. Whether you live near Werribee, Canterbury or Murrumbena there's a group for you. More information:

<http://messychurchaustralia.com.au/blog>

A ballad to data collection

O Messy friends, both poor and gentry

When did you last check your Directory entry?

Your details may be out of date

'Next time we meet' as 1808.

Your email may still be your last minister's,

Your venue somewhere dark and sinister.

Your local families cannot find you,

Nor Regional Coordinator get behind you.

While you are on a New Year trajectory

Take a moment to check your Directory!



