

# Parish Camp

2014

This year the annual parish camp was held over the Labour Day Weekend, from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, at the stunning location of Marysville, where the sixty five participants enjoyed a relaxing environment and joyful atmosphere.

The theme for the camp was the Acts of the Apostles, participants learned about events that shaped the life of the early Church and how the Holy Spirit filled and guided the followers of Jesus, this provided inspiration and renewed commitment for participants to follow the example of our Lord and the holy Apostles. We prayed together at the start and end of each day and before and after each meal. On Saturday we were blessed with the visit of our parish priest Father Dimitri and about 20 other parishioners and we celebrated the Divine Liturgy together the service included the blessing of icons.

Learning about icons was enriched when Father Deacon Jack Lutfi facilitated an icon making workshop for children and parents. Such activity made the children proud of themselves; they learned a new skill and achieved a memorable outcome in making their first icon.

In addition, there were a great range of exciting outdoor activities. Children, parents, day visitors and leaders enjoyed cycling and bushwalking in the beautiful and serene natural surrounds. Furthermore, we enjoyed a range of physical activities; canoeing, table tennis, cricket and ball games using the facilities that the camp site provided.

In the evenings, we had special gatherings for all of the groups to play games and competitions where children and parents laughed from the bottom of their hearts. Adding to that some parents performed folk songs so that the interaction between the old and new generations is sustained. Then we concluded with camp fires and roasting of marshmallows.

As members of St Nicholas parish, we hope that this experience will have made a deep impression on each person who attended the camp, young and old, for it was a perfect environment indeed, to promote and encourage physical, moral, spiritual, social and community life.