

Northern Aboriginal Christian Convention. Sept 26th-30th 2007.

This year the Mareeba Community church hosted the NACC at the Cotton's Farm on a beautiful spot right beside the Barron River.

The preparations for the NACC started in the month of August. The church went out to the Campsite and cleaned and cut away the bush for five consecutive Saturdays. Everyone helped! This was a blessing. Jack Laban caught fish from the river, others brought food, others cooked, and we shared, ate, and worked together. In September, we finalised the rest of the convention preparation. Giving towards the Convention began in April. The Church folks gave over \$2,000. They donated food for the meals too. Those who had 4WD vehicles made them available for use before, after, and during the time of the convention. Everybody helped. Some women baked biscuits and cakes for the tea breaks and all helped in cooking and looking after all our guests at the convention. We thank CDF a grant of \$3,000 to assist with speaker travel costs and hire of equipment like the generator.

People came from Northern NSW, and SE Q'ld, to West the Gulf and Northern Q'ld. and Ps Hosea Bani from the Churches of Christ in Vanuatu. The young people from Toowoomba North Church of Christ looked after the Children's Programme throughout the convention, allowing the parents and guardians to attend the studies.

There were tents and campfires everywhere beside the Barron River, as people arrived to settle for the weekend. (Just some weeks ago this place had tall bushes and grass!)

Ps Harley Hayward from the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship church in Perth, and David Newby from Team Ministries International Dubbo NSW were the guest speakers at the convention. Both men shared with the people what God had laid on their hearts to share. Ps Harley spoke of how a person can be a disciple of Christ - at work, in relationship to other Christians and non-Christians, in ministry, to extended family, and in marriage relationship. That today Australia does not use the word adultery but words like extra marital affairs, or defacto relationship. God does not have that language. David Newby spoke on God's forgiveness to man and that man has need to forgive one another in every area of relationship as above, so that his life would be healthy and whole and that the land he lives on would be healed and produce abundance as it should, 2nd Chron 7:14. He shared examples of where this had taken place. 'Unforgiveness is like taking poison and expecting the other person, you do not want to forgive, to die.'

We believe that beside the Barron River that weekend God touched many lives. Pray for those people who have now gone to their homes to walk closer to God in obedience to His Word.
(Theresa Sese – Mareeba)