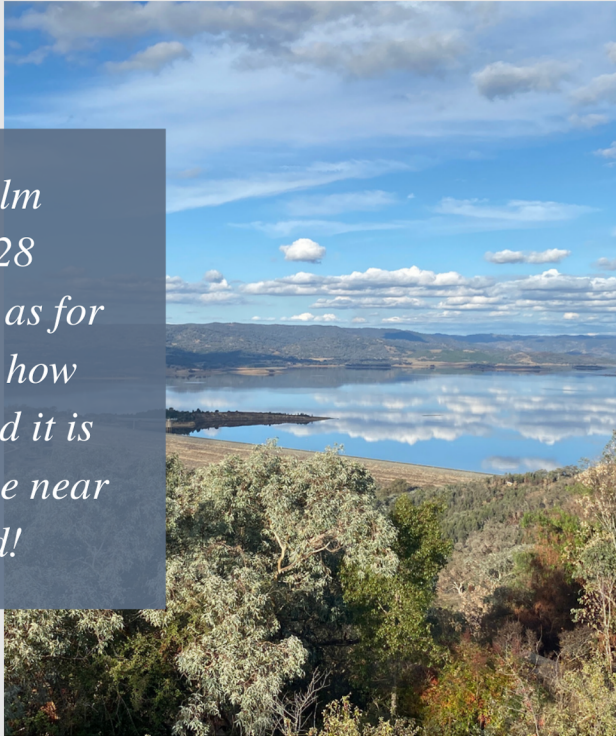


RIDGECREST NEWSLETTER

*Psalm
73:28
But as for
me, how
good it is
to be near
God!*



REFLECTION

As we start 2024 and I sit to write this newsletter I'm a bit lost as to where to start. I guess the last newsletter I sent out was immediately following the fire we had at Ridgecrest in March of 2023 and then we got straight back into camps and the busyness of Insurance Claims and repairs after the fires. In the midst of all this we had record camp attendance with time setup by God for when we needed time away from Ridgecrest due to personal tragedy. In all of this we knew Ridgecrest was protected by God and we were loved by God. How special to see God work in the different area's of need in the fullness of His goodness and love.

RIDGECREST CAMPS

We were able to host our Ridgecrest camps throughout 2023 except our March Craft Camp due to the fires.

February was Ski Camp. April was Car Camp, July was Motocross Camp, PK Camp and Farmers Camp. September was Craft Camp. October was our first Working Bee Camp. We are thankful to each of the committees who plan and prepare for these camps and give of their time to invest in sharing the gospel. There was 2 camps that ended up with waiting lists - and other camps were close to fully booked. We are thankful for the opportunities we continue to step into as we run camps with a heart to tell those who come about the gift of Jesus's death and resurrection and God's grace to them.



*John 5:24
I tell you the truth, those who listen
to my message and believe in God
who sent me have eternal life*

RIDGECREST

NEWSLETTER

*Romans 8:28
And we know
that God
causes
everything to
work together
for the good of
those who
love God and
are called
according to
his purpose
for them.*



AFTER THE FIRES

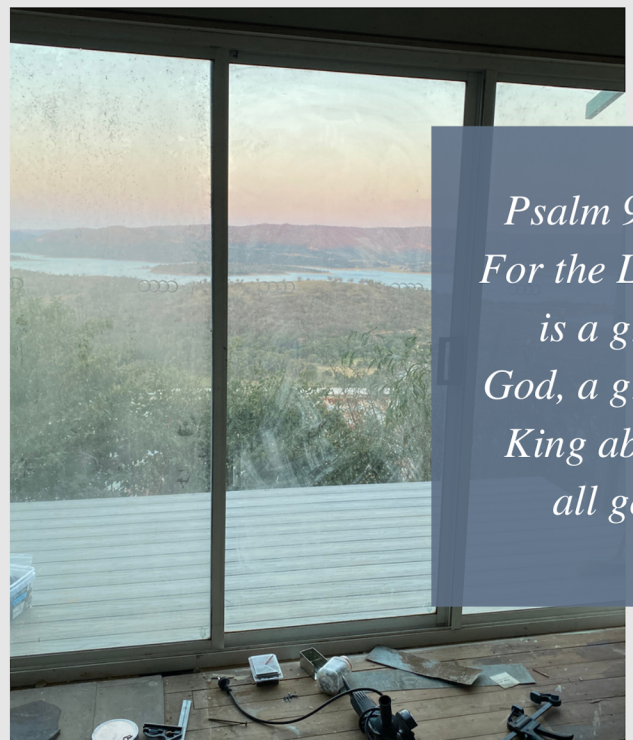
By the end of March, mid April all the remaining burning trees and stumps that had been smouldering for days were finally out and we felt a sense of 'it is finished' that we had been missing until then. Even when camps came back, 2 weeks after the main fire had passed, we would have campers come to us in the kitchen concerned with smouldering smoke that we would need to check out.

We then started to assess what needed repair as a consequence of the fires. We met with an insurance assessor and began the process of requesting and submitting quotes for our insurance company to review. I am pleased to share that our Insurance Company has covered

100% of the expected cost to replace any fire damage on the site. This includes fencing, a water tank, Underground water pipe, Irrigation on the oval, a Portaloo, Team Building Activities and an animal shelter. As we have shared this story at different camps after the fires, we have come to realise that God is replacing 'the old with new' ready for his future at Ridgecrest. How exciting to know that God wants Ridgecrest to continue and our challenge will be to continue to keep listening and being obedient to his voice. Already we have been able to replace the tank. (pictured above.)

WORKING BEE CAMP

In October we held our first annual Working Bee camp at Ridgecrest. This came from lots of offers to come and volunteer at Ridgecrest with the words - just let me know when! So we found a when and advertise it. The idea of a 3 day weekend was for people to come for a day or for the whole weekend and help us with some of the bigger jobs that need manpower to complete. This year we removed the damaged Water tank, finished repairing the donated lawn mower and new motor for it, and started the renovation of Cottage 9. The hard work of a few brought about great change. We now have a new 3 bay door, deck, large living area and 2 bedrooms ready for paint down at Cottage 9. We look forward to finishing this project in 2024 and seeing what jobs we will be attacking at our 2024 Working Bee camp.



*Psalm 95:3
For the Lord
is a great
God, a great
King above
all gods.*

RIDGECREST

NEWSLETTER

Psalm 100:2

*Serve the Lord
with joy;
come before
him with
singing.*



WHAT DOES 2024 LOOK LIKE?

2024 is shaping up to be a very busy year for us, with very little down time. From a staffing perspective Pete will continue working in a volunteer capacity at Ridgecrest officially 3 days a week (and look after maintenance as needed) Margaret is a volunteer living onsite and supporting us in the gardens and kitchen as she is able. Renée continues as Manager, cook and filling in the gaps as we are made aware of them. Joshua & Jessica will continue to work at Ridgecrest as their school studies allow. Please continue to pray for the right people to join us at Ridgecrest - our greatest need at the moment would be a full time Gardener/Building and Grounds Maintenance person.

We are almost fully booked from February - November. We have just a couple of free weekends. We are thanking God for using his resource here at Ridgecrest to support and encourage his church Australia wide.

RIDGECREST CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES INC AGM

at Ridgecrest on **Saturday 10th February, 2024**. Everyone welcome.

Please come and support the ongoing ministry of Ridgecrest.

We are also looking for 2 people to join the RCMI Executive. If you have a heart for the camping ministry at Ridgecrest, would you consider joining our executive.

Meetings are by zoom once a month.

WEEKLY WORKING BEE ~ every Thursday ~

For the last few months we have been hosting a weekly working bee here at Ridgecrest to help with some of the jobs that just don't get done. Thank you to those who have been able to come and support us. We are continuing to do this into 2024. Jobs we tackle could be building, painting, preparing for a larger job, repairs to cabins etc. **Everyone is welcome.** If you are able to come at any time and would be happy to offer your skills to us, we'd love to see you. Each **Thursday** we will be starting at 8am (but please come when it suits you) and we try to finish up around 4pm. We'll provide lunch on the day - so all you need to do is come.

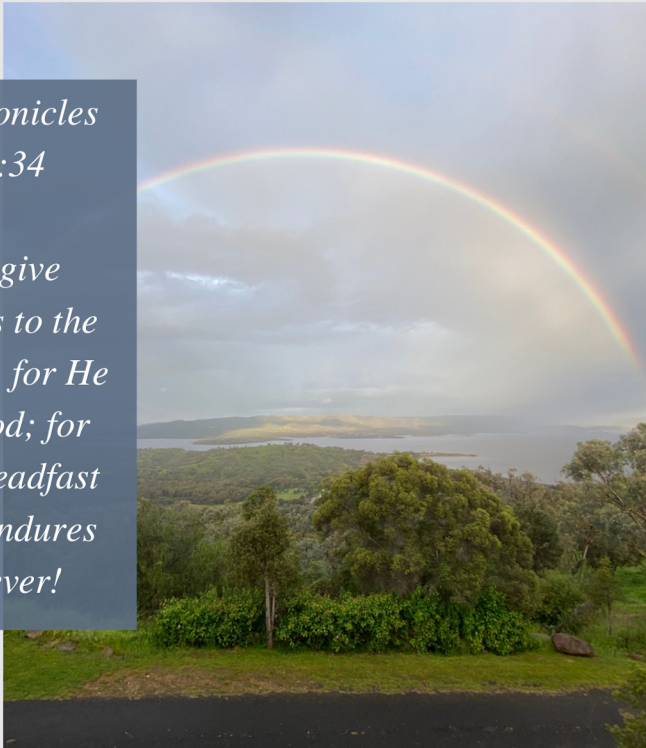


RIDGECREST NEWSLETTER

1 Chronicles

16:34

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!



PRAISE GOD WITH US

- For his protection over Ridgcrest through 2023
- For his favour with our Insurance company
- For the volunteers who have come to help so many times we have asked for help.
- For his provision of Staff for Ridgcrest when we have needed to be unexpectedly away from the site.
- For the donation to specifically renovate Cottage 9.
- For the many people who have been to Ridgcrest this year and have been encouraged in their walk with the Lord or have heard the gospel for the first time.
- For meeting our every need, even when we didn't know we needed it!

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

- For wisdom as we start the replacement process of damaged items from the fires
- For safety during our weekly working bee's.
- For the camps we have booked to come this year.
- For the leaders and committees that are running and planning for camps this year.
- For wisdom for us as we balance the many needs at Ridgcrest.
- For our hearts and minds to be in unity with God and his plans and purposes for us and Ridgcrest.
- For wisdom to know which upgrade project God would like us to tackle this year.
- For hearts and minds to be open to hearing about God's love for them.

2 Thessalonians 3:1

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

