

Media Release
6 April 2005



RESURRECTION DAY AT THE WAYSIDE CHAPEL

The Wayside Chapel has celebrated 6th April 2005 as Resurrection Day.

General Manager, Graham Long said The Wayside Chapel had decided to celebrate a “*Resurrection*”, because for the last few years The Wayside Chapel had been in survival mode, dealing with people in crisis, trying to maintain its many services and relying largely on the goodwill of its many volunteers.

“There has been no time to be ‘in the news’ or to be out and about promoting The Wayside Chapel. We have faced tough times and have had to focus on helping the people who come to us for assistance. Now there is a renewed sense of passion at The Wayside Chapel.

“Some changes have been made and we wanted our friends and supporters to meet the new team and see the changes that are underway,” Mr Long said.

Since the 1960s The Wayside Chapel has seen the famous and the cool, the tired and abused, the beleaguered and the beautiful, and those who just need a good shower. It is also a sacred place for people of all faiths and of none, where the human journey of the whole family of humanity is celebrated.

Mr Long said “Today we still help the neediest people in our community plus ordinary people caught up in terrible times (for example bereavement, domestic turmoil, mental illness) - something that could happen to any of us at any time. Our support is without boundaries”.

“Our Patron, Her Excellency, Prof. Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW launched our new social marketing campaign and many of our individual and corporate supporters joined us, including representatives from the Kings Cross Forum and the Kings Cross Partnership and Bill Crews, who worked here in the Ted Noffs days..

The Wayside Chapel has a crisis centre, a street outreach program, a coffee shop, an op shop and provides home visits for the elderly.

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The Wayside Chapel is a well known Sydney Icon that provides unconditional love, care and support for people on and around the streets of Kings Cross. It has a long history of being at the forefront of social justice issues. Wayside pioneered Australia’s first 24 hour crisis centre, the first Drug Referral Centre, co-founded the Aboriginal Affairs Foundation and started Life Education Australia. In the 60’s and 70’s it was also considered a first-class arts establishment.