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UPCOMING EVENTS

**College Exams (x3)
21st-23rd June**

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**College mid-year
vacation
25th June– 17th July**

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**Holiday to Cairns
with Kez
27th June-3rd July**

...

The Journey Continues...

~ AMANDA LEWIS; APRIL 25TH 2011 ~

A Time Of RESTRUCTURE!

When I agreed back in 2008 to come back and go to Bible College, 'should all go well in Romania', it was very much a prospect for the 'distant' future.

Now, having been back in Australia for seven months and studying for three of those, it's at the very forefront of my everyday reality.

Learning how to [study](#) again is just a small part of what I've been dealing with but, needless to say, it's been a challenge all the same. [Living in a community](#) of like-minded people, all wanting to soak up the word of God is so uplifting. Conversations are full of healthy subjects that edify each other... and the food- well that just tests our limitations and self-control!

Knowing the busyness that was to come, I deliberately made myself relax during [January](#) and just enjoyed spending time with family and friends. On the 29th January, I celebrated with my brother [Adam](#) and his fiancée Fiona, at their engagement party which also provided an opportunity to see family I hadn't seen in years. The date has been booked and they are planning to marry on 5th November, the weekend before my 'Stuvac' before my yearly exams. I

feel privileged also, to have been asked to join them in the wedding party, meaning there is plenty of fun and planning to add to the list of things to do.

Joy in seeing two couples married in February and March, made trips back to [Castle Hill](#) inevitable, but it has been nice

to continue in fellowship with my [home church](#) over the majority of weekends which has also helped me ensure time out from study to relax- something I don't always find easy to do.



**Autumn
is here!**

Two summers in a row has been a true blessing but I'm now appreciating autumn again for what

it is! However, just as I started to feel the drop in temperature, it was time to [drive north](#), to a warmer climate for another adventure...

It was nice not to celebrate [my birthday](#) this year via a virtual Skype party where my nephews eat my cake for me. The day felt very rushed, however, starting with lectures in the morning, before about thirty college mates joined Sarah and I for joint birthday gelato. I hastily packed my bags and made the almost two hour bumper-to-bumper drive home before taking in the tastes and smells of a local Thai restaurant for dinner, followed by a good old ice-cream cake for dessert.

Adrenaline pumping, I repacked my bags before trying to sleep- alarm ringing in my ear at 5:30am, triggering another full

Please Pray...

» **Praise** God that I am settling well into college life and loving digging deeper into his word.

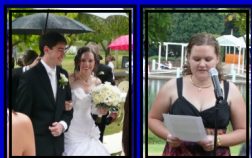
» **Praise** for the way God worked during college mission in Yamba and **Pray** for the young girl who became Jesus' friend at Kids Club.

» **Praise** for the developing friendships at college and **Pray** that I would have time to continue building on my pre-existing relationships with friends and family.

» **Pray** that I would balance my priorities and commitments to study, ministry and rest and that I would be diligent in doing my assessments and preparation for exams.

» **Pray** that the Lord would continue to provide for my financial, spiritual and especially my physical needs, as my body learns to cope with spending so many hours behind desks.

**“He guides the humble
in what is right
and teaches them
his way.”
Psalm 25: 8-10 (NIV)**



**Check out my
Facebook
for more photos**

day. Leaving home, I headed via college to pick up Vicky, making it around a ten hour drive up the East Coast to [Yamba](#), where we spent the week on [College Mission...](#)

Amidst a lot of fun, the week was encouraging and I'm very glad I went! It was a packed week from Sunday to Sunday including two church services, two Scripture classes and three afternoons of Kids Club on the 'lost' theme of Luke 15. There were Bible Studies for women and men and teenage girls and boys and not to forget the ferry trip with some of the older women and a women's 'sunset-sips' night based on the theme 'what is true wealth?'. The adults enjoyed a trivia night on the Saturday and the kids had their own entertainment with a mini-trivia followed by watching 'The Prince of Egypt'. I could easily go on, but you can sense my enthusiasm.

Of course, it wouldn't be a trip up north without going on a slight detour further north (a few hours) to the [Gold Coast](#) to see Kez, Kate and Danny. This time round involved shopping whilst Kez was at work, helping out with Crossroads (a Government-funded church program for adults with disabilities and their carers), and going to Sea World for a relaxing day out. It was interesting to compare my memories from when my family went to SeaWorld in 1997.

And because I had driven further north, I now potentially had a 12 hour drive back to Sydney, so the excuse became- to stop half way for a few days to see Amanda and Joel and Buzzy and Olly in [Coffs Harbour](#). With plenty of talking and cooking and coffee- it was nice to relax, knowing what was to come.

All too soon it was back to the books and into study mode, knowing two assessments are due this coming Friday. I enjoyed celebrating [Easter](#) with my church family, despite much of my time being caught up with assessments, and this morning I joined my brothers at our local [ANZAC Dawn Service](#)- something I missed whilst away from Australia. It's always beautiful seeing the way our nation comes together on probably the most patriarchal day of the year (alongside Australia Day)! A part of me that will never change!

The next few months will be much the same with [study and assessments and exams](#). I am also still trying to further plans to lead a [short term trip](#) during the Dec-Jan college holidays. One reason for this trip is that it's a part of one of my degree subjects to spend four consecutive weeks in another culture (or equivalent). I do have some ideas about location, but the decision is still pending.

I am not too far off meeting my monthly [financial needs](#) for this two year period, but I would appreciate your prayer for a few more people to be willing to support me on a monthly basis. God certainly has got me this far and I trust he knows the rest!

One of those blessings, which I know God has his timing for, is that the week after my mid-year exams, Kez and I will be flying to [Cairns](#) for a week for a time of pure relaxation. I'm sure 'bliss' will be an understated description!

In my last newsletter, I mentioned I was waiting for my new [prayer cards](#) to be printed. Well, they are now done and many of you would have received one in the mail. If you didn't receive one and would like me to send one to you, please email me your address and I would be more than happy to drop it in the post!

You may also have noticed a slight change in my newsletter... well I just decided that a change in times is as good an excuse as any! No other reason! ;p

Thank you always for your continued love, support and prayers!

~Manda~

Photos: Adam & Fiona's Engagement Party; Dave & Marilyn's Wedding; Jet Boating on Sydney Harbour (our Christmas present from Mum & Dad); My 26th Birthday; Yamba Mission Team; SeaWorld with Kez.

Sharing the love of God through International Teams



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“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” Philipians 2:13