

On Saturday 9th December Glenbrook Oval was a sea of glow sticks and candles as the community gathered for Christmas In The Mountains.

The event is an annual gift to the community from Blue Mountains City Church. With approximately 8,000 people in attendance this year, it was the biggest to date.

Organisers were extremely pleased with the peaceful and attentive crowd. Families came in droves to enjoy local school presentations, wonderful music, Christmas carols and the presentation of the Christmas Story. The story of Jesus' birth was beautifully re-created with a great cast including lots of shepherds and angels, wise men and baby Jesus played by local baby boy, Jayden Harvey. The live animals including camels, lambs and a donkey were a hit with the children.

Pastor John Drury shared an uplifting Christmas message of hope in Jesus Christ and there was a hush over the crowd as local man Chris Barlow shared about his miraculous healing from a near fatal accident earlier this year.

As usual, the grand finale of fireworks drew gasps and applause from the audience and was a beautiful spectacle to end a wonderful evening.

Pastor Marion Drury, who was the compare for the evening said, *"It was not without challenges and obstacles to overcome. Every year it is a work of faith, a miracle that comes together – right in front of our eyes."*

Blue Mountains City Church would like to thank all the volunteers who served with wonderful attitudes to make Christmas In The Mountains a success. Also, organisers thank all the school and community groups involved as well as local businesses who generously sponsored the event. Great appreciation also goes to the wonderful Blue Mountains community who came and enjoyed the night – God bless you and Merry Christmas!