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Even the Premier says 'Well done' to the Gospel Tent at Tamworth

NSW Premier Kristina Keneally and the local member for Tamworth stopped at the Scripture Union Gospel Music Tent, at Tamworth Music Festival 2010, after hearing about the wonderful volunteer spirit and cooperation between the Tamworth district churches serving the festival goers with free tea, coffee, cool drinks and wonderful home baked goodies. She Selected an ANZAC Biscuit, then chatted with the ladies on duty. She read through the roster of the different churches assisting, and chatted with SU's Jonathan Harris for several minutes then was photographed with tent volunteers and scripture union interns from the UK. She was clearly impressed at the country spirit, and said "Well done, great work".

When told of the Tent she was walking down Peel Street and asked if this could be included in her walk so the party detoured from Peel Street to Kable Avenue to comply with the Premier's impromptu request. The visit greatly excited all who were working with the tent – it's not every day you get to serve a home baked Anzac to the Premier.

During Tamworth Country Music Festival the combined Churches of Tamworth and the region join forces with Scripture Union to create a unique Free Country Gospel Music Tent venue with free Tamworth Country Hospitality thrown in.

Volunteers from the local and not so local churches plan the event, put up the circus tent, then man the tent serving free tea coffee cordial and cakes with a good old country chat for those who want to put their Tamworth tired feet up for a bit.

Volunteers from the churches bake cakes, slices and biscuits to give away with the free tea and coffee, during the festival. Some say it's the best baking they have ever tasted. You can taste the country wholesomeness in every bite.

Many Festival-goers come back year after year to visit the tent volunteers, and sample the town's hospitality. The tent has been in operation for as long as most festival goers can remember.

The Gospel Country artists are great, and draw the crowd into the tent, but the local people from Tamworth, Werris Creek, Manilla, Quirindi and further who brave the crowd to serve the tent should be the good news story here. I believe they are awesome unnoticed volunteers that should be noticed, keeping grass roots Country Hospitality at the festival. It is great that they were noticed by our state premier in 2010.

Sadly the excitement is over for this year – but we will be back next year – plan to check us out in 2011. Scripture Union Country Gospel Music Tent at Cable Ave - Just opposite temporary Bus terminal beside the No 1. Oval.