



“
*People need
other people
to support them
as they do
God’s work*
”

Supporting Congregations and Ministries



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

In January, Jenny and I could not get to South Australia for our planned holiday. Instead, we ended up staying a week at Mulwala. Mulwala is 100 km west of Albury along the river Murray. Mulwala was due to host the world water skiing championships in March last year. But it was postponed because of Covid.

One of the most dazzling water ski tricks is called the water ski pyramid. A group of skiers support other skiers on their shoulders, until a pyramid is formed. Two, three or even four tiers

high, it is a spectacular sight. It’s only possible because one group of skiers support another group on their shoulders.

It’s not dissimilar in God’s kingdom, and amongst his people the church. People living out God’s command need other people to support them as they do his work. Doing God’s work in the world is often very challenging.

Whether in life or in faith, getting by, day by day can be very challenging. Life and the walk of faith can sometimes be overwhelming. Things go wrong. Accidents happen. Prayers don’t seem to be answered. People leave. Some people don’t do the things they had promised. We lose confidence in what we know to be true. We can even start to lose our faith.

It’s at times like this that we need the support of others. In daily life and our walk of faith, we need assistance from those around us. So its not unusual to have to ask others for support. And we

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LCA NSW and ACT District is *Walking together* IN MISSION by:



- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations in transition
- Developing and supporting alternative models for ministry
- Planting and renewing congregations
- Developing and supporting networking and connections between congregations and ministries
- Developing and supporting leadership – through the Bishop leading leadership teams

DISTRICT NEWS

For your prayer
and care

Installation

- Janet Moeller was installed as Principal of the Lutheran School Wagga Wagga on 7 February.

Retirement

- Pastor David Grulke retired from St Luke's Albury, his final service was on 15 November.

Acceptance into SMP Program

- Francis Leung has been accepted into the SMP program by the College of Bishops at their meeting in December. Francis leads the Chinese Lutheran Church of Blessing at Strathfield.

Realignment

- On 31 January members of the Illawarra congregation voted to join LifeWay congregation (Epping and Newcastle).

Closure

- Members of the Estonian congregation in Canberra have decided to cease holding Estonian language services as of 5 December 2020. The few remaining members will be included in the pastoral care of St Peters Reid.

Death

- Pastor John Wilksch passed away on 11 December 2020. Pastor Wilksch served at St Paul's College Walla Walla from 1982 to 1988.

From previous page

certainly don't need to feel shame if we do.

If something goes wrong with my car, I don't hesitate to ring someone for help or support, because I have no idea how to get it going again. I might lift the bonnet when it stops, but it does not help, because I don't know what I am doing. So, I call a mechanic. If my computer does strange things, no amount of looking in the settings helps, because really I have no idea of what to do next. I must rely on a computer technician. Someone else who knows more about these things than I do. In so many situations of the walk of life and faith we need others to support us and help us.

We should not be surprised that God has set up the creation and his church to operate in this way. In Ephesians 4, St Paul is talking about the body of Christ – the Church - he is explaining how we all are growing up to be like Christ, and we are all interconnected and interlocked just like a human body. When we support each other in love, and as each part does its share, the body of Christ fulfills its purpose of proclaiming Jesus to the world.

From Christ the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16.

“

*When we support
each other in love,
the body of Christ
fulfills its purpose*

”

It's how it is meant to work. Each one supporting the other.

Just before he faced his death on the cross, Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. He was going through a huge trial. So, he looked for support from his disciples. Unfortunately, the disciples instead of praying along with him, fell asleep. If Jesus reached out for support, we can feel at ease to do the same.

Our district office, the Bishop, the administrator and the secretary are set up to assist and support. That is their job and role. So don't hesitate to ask for help or support.

There are times each church and each ministry needs other churches or other ministries. Don't hesitate to ask for support. You can't do it alone. After all people like to help. It's how God made the church to operate. Like a networked body, each doing their part. Each supporting the other.

We probably won't ever be able to form a water ski pyramid, but we can fulfill Gods purpose of showing Jesus to the world. Reach out and support each other as we walk together in mission.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus

Bishop
LCA NSW and ACT District

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series

Join with members of the LCA NSW and ACT District in the next online Bible study led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

**Thursday 11 March, 7.30pm
on Zoom**

To register, please email
kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au

(Turn to page 14 for the Bible Study notes)



New Principal for Wagga Wagga Lutheran School



Janet Moeller

I'm excited to begin a new chapter in my life and career as the new Principal this year at Lutheran School Wagga Wagga. The portrait below was created by a former colleague. It highlights my American heritage, my attachment to my new home in Australia and my fond

memories of living in Hong Kong as well as other parts of Asia.

I grew up in Oregon USA, in a family of German Lutherans. One of my grandmother's proud moments was holding me at age two as I sang the liturgy at full voice. My grandfather taught in a two-room Lutheran schoolhouse in Cornelius, Oregon and insisted his call to teaching was more authentic than mine because it was writ-



ten in German. After ten years of teaching, he married my grandmother and bought her father's farmhouse and land, thus beginning his second career as a farmer. My mother taught in Lutheran schools and I attended Lutheran schools through to University.

I took a few detours before coming to Australia. Over the years I have taught in America, Hong Kong, India, and Melbourne before moving to Wagga Wagga.

Although my voice gives me away as 'not from around here', I have a sense of home when I sing "This is the Feast" – something I have now done in Lutheran churches on three continents. When I'm feeling a bit homesick about former places, the music and heritage remind me that heaven is truly my home in the family of God.

Ms Janet Moeller

Pastoral Mission in Tamworth

If you had asked me where I thought I would be, only two years ago, 'being engaged in alternative models of ministry' would have been the furthest thing from my mind. Although I had attained a Bachelor of Theology from ALC eight years ago, shortly after getting married to Nicole – for all intents and purposes being prepared for 'regular' ordained ministry – God had other ideas.

A rare auto-immune disorder turned what was meant to be a year's leave-of-absence for family issues into a seven-year journey through a spiritual wilderness, battling with my physical and mental health concerns and the ongoing unemployment they caused.

And then, just as I was getting used to my situation, God shook things up again – in the form of a call to consider being a 'Pastoral Mission Worker' in Tamworth.



David and Nicole Jarman

What does a 'Pastoral Mission Worker' do, exactly? In spirit, it is to encourage and build up our little regional congregation, focussing on mission and engagement with our local community.

In truth, it is not at all like what was planned back in late 2019, when everyone's focus was still on the terrible bushfires engulfing our state and country. About a fortnight after my installation, our nation went into lockdown as we all prepared to weather the storm that the pandemic represented. Shortly after that, I was called upon to provide pastoral care for a severely sick hospital patient and her family. In the weeks that followed, I was asked to conduct that patient's funeral – the first, I am somewhat embarrassed to say, that I had ever experienced personally.

Amidst those days of grief, anxiety and societal panic, my role seemed to shift from 'missional' to 'pastoral,' as I saw God comfort, encourage, and look out for His little flock when everything around us seemingly turned to a shifting sand of fear, uncertainty, and doubt.

It seemed that my role was to become 'all things to all people,' doing whatever needed to be done to simply help 'keep the lights on' for our little church - making sure that our congregation continued to receive Word



Continued next page

District Church Council News

Warrambui Dome Redevelopment

While there have been fewer camp bookings at Warrambui due to Covid, they have taken the opportunity to redevelop the Dome building. After an extensive tender process, District Church Council gave authority to Warrambui Board to enter into a contract of up to \$2.166 million for the purpose of refurbishing the Dome. DCC resolved to extend a loan, on terms comparable to the prevailing terms of the LLL loans, to finance the construction. DCC also asked that Warrambui develop a longer-term plan (up to ten years) that combines both a business plan and a mission plan consistent with the District's strategic mission plan.

Missional House for Western Sydney Church Plant

LifeWay congregation is in the process of planting a new church in Western Sydney. The District Church Council has agreed to support the Western Sydney Church plant, purchasing a home in Glenmore Park, near Penrith. Known as a Missional House, it will provide accommodation and meeting space for the new church group. After considering options to lease or buy, it was decided to purchase a property in Cascade Ave Glenmore Park for \$1,055,000. The house remains the property of the District, while rented out to Church Planter Danny Brock and his family. It is possible that as the church plant grows it may be in a position to purchase the Missional House from the District. The District also allocated up to \$20,000 for minor repairs and painting the interior of the home prior to Danny and his family moving in.

Approval for Francis Leung to commence Specific Ministry Pastor program

Francis Leung has been faithfully serving the Lutheran Church of Blessing worshipping community (previously Bennelong Asian Mission) for over 12 months. The District Church Council has supported an application to the College of Bishops for Francis Leung to be enrolled in the LCA SMP program, this was approved by the College of Bishops at their recent meeting.

LACA Board nominations

The District Church Council endorsed the re-nominations of Wendy Rocks and Laura Thompson and the nominations of Louise Ward, Ron Asquith and Timothy Francis to the Lutheran Aged Care Albury Board. The District Church Council gives thanks for their willingness to serve in this way.

Russell Veerhuis on behalf of DCC



Francis Leung (standing, far left) and members of Lutheran Church of Blessing with Bishop Robert (centre)

From previous page

and Sacrament. For most of that time this meant conducting weekly services on Zoom and – when one could – provide Holy Communion. I continue to act as a worship leader, help arrange weekly worship, provide devotions for those unable to attend, conduct services and preach. Pastoral care remains a high priority, and I hope to also restart in-person fellowship groups and bible studies soon.

While the more 'traditional' face-to-face avenues of mission and engagement were diminished in scope, God opened other doors during the past 12 months. For me this was 'third place' ministry opportunities – those times when we meet with others for fellowship (as opposed to the first and second places: our homes and workplaces).

Even before the pandemic, my wife and I had the blessing of fostering friendships with various people dotted around the country, and having an active interest in computing, for us these relationships relied up-

on online interaction to help overcome the tyranny of distance.

During 2020, however, these online connections took on fresh importance. What was once an informal network grew into a regular, weekly, vital form of online fellowship for over 15 people from mostly non-Christian, diverse backgrounds. Over the long weeks we would share stories, discuss world affairs, politics, and culture, while also playing games together and trying to bring levity and joy in difficult times. These broader discussions lead to deeper, more personal conversations, and as of writing one of our non-Christians friends is now inquiring into the faith, asking me for recommendations for books and for explanations of our beliefs. Anecdotally, he seems to be one of many in our younger generations who are growing more disenchanted by the materialism and other problems of our world – sensing the God-shaped hole that permeates our society.

Continued next page

Time for Connection



Jacob Traeger

How much time do you have in your life? Over the last year, many of us have had more time on our hands than we expected. We've been locked down in our homes, had travel plans and holidays cancelled, or had a commute shift from 30 minutes in the car to 30 seconds between the dining room and the home office.

What a gift! A friend of mine tells me he has so enjoyed having everything cancelled and more time to spend with his family that he's never going back to the way things were. Journalist and Canberran Katharine Murphy describes discovering "a neighbourhood and a community that I'd never directly participated in because of my punishing work hours brimming and bonding and occasionally roiling around me."

Let's not pretend that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a *good* thing. But amidst everything else which has been going on, might God have been reminding us of the gift of time? We can think of many things in our lives as a gift from God – our homes, our money, our families, our friends and church communities. Perhaps we more often think about time as a resource to be used productively. We want to use our time to get things done, we talk about 'packing our schedule.' But when we are given back time, we can discover opportunities for connection.

Time and connection go together – many of us who had more time to walk around the streets of our suburbs during the lockdown connected with our neighbours in new

Where society fails to address these deeper concerns, it seems to me that many of these people seek answers online, in the form of long-form discussions, videos, and podcasts. The true battles over truth and meaning – the big debates of our modern Areopagus – are increasingly occurring in the digital sphere.

We all seem to be on a strange, disruptive, and difficult exodus out of Egypt – perhaps out of certain assumptions, possibly some bad habits, and out of all-too-human complacency about being God's church in the world. Each of us are called to be lights on the hill, beacons of hope to a world that needs the Gospel now more than ever, as we travel ever onwards to whatever lies ahead in 2021 and beyond. Wherever you are in your journey with Him, may the Lord bless you, keep you, and give you the strength, encouragement, and grace that you need, just as He has given me.

David Jarman, Tamworth



ways. Murphy says, "I waved at one of my neighbours when he passed my house a couple of times a day walking his dog – a person I'd never waved at despite living three doors up from him for sixteen years." We ran into people out for walks once or twice a week who we otherwise might not see for a month.

Connection is a vital part of mission – we share our faith through relationships – but these can only happen with time. And sometimes our lives can become so full: with work, family commitments, church rosters, our side hustle or extra study, that we simply don't have time to be walking alongside other people and sharing our faith walk – whether with Christians or not-yet-believers.

I've been recently reminded of this with the arrival of Pastor Tim Muller at Immanuel Woden Valley. After over a year of pastoral vacancy where I was serving in many different ways within the church which is sending me as a church planter, I have suddenly received again the gift of time. Time to pray and plan for the next steps in our church planting journey, and time to connect with others. Time to discover what the Holy Spirit is up to in my community, and time to listen to other people's hopes, concerns, and spiritual experiences.

Of course, there have been many people whose experience of 2020 has been different. Many health workers, supermarket workers, cleaners and others have experienced less time and more stress in the last year. Many parents went through a season of trying to educate kids from home – not exactly conducive to having time and mental energy for connection with others! And of course, over 700,000 Australians lost their jobs through the pandemic – leaving them with way too much time on their hands.

So for those of us who have experienced this gift of time in 2020, the question is how will we use it in 2021? Will we fill our schedules again with various commitments and find good things to 'do', or will we try and keep some time free to see what pops up? If we do, we might find that God has some connections waiting for us, or that we have time to enjoy relationships with the people God has placed in our lives. We might even have time to support someone who is struggling to keep up with life, or share some time with someone who has too much of it on their hands.

We might discover that we see God working through the relationships we have, or new ones we have time for. And perhaps we'll have a chance to share God's love, and our joy at the gifts we receive from the one who gives good things generously.

Jacob Traeger
Woden Valley

Professional Standards

Greetings to you all. As we embark on a new year of ministry there will no doubt still be some things that may require us to continue to think and do things a bit differently as a result of the Covid pandemic which appears we will be living with for some time to come.

I have just finished listening to a recording of a webinar that was held on 9th February – the topic being Safer Internet Day. It was also the 15th year that this day has been recognised.

What most of us would now realise as a result of 'pandemic living', is that the digital world has become part of our lives very much. Worship, congregational meetings, family gatherings, funerals, education and much more have come to us in the 'Zoom' world. Digital life is and has been in overdrive. Along with that also comes the fact that for some, perhaps many more than we realise, the incursion of the digital world has also introduced a place of being exposed to behaviours that are less than acceptable. Online behaviours – our own and that of others – have perhaps been much less than acceptable. People have and continue to be damaged by cyberbullying. In fact, reports of cyberbullying incidents have 'skyrocketed' according to the eSafety Commissioner. Around Easter 2020, there was a 341% increase in reports, very much driven by Covid restrictions on our lives.

Some of the biggest concerns regarding Social Media and Child Safety is Cyberbullying, Predatory behaviour and Grooming.

I will readily admit to not being too savvy with all the different social media platforms that are around. I am not there, but does that mean that I should not educate myself about them? In our congregational ministry groups and camping ministries we are dealing with adults, children and young people that live in this very digital world.

We may well be hearing from some of them about the hurt that they are exposed to. How do we deal with that? What measures do we have in place to help set up safe online ministries?

Many congregations and ministry groups have set up social media pages to be able to communicate with members. We have been asked to keep connected with congregation members and for many this has been a 'lifeline' particularly if they do not have family close by. We need to remember to treat this method of ministry in the same manner as if we are providing face-to-face Pastoral care ministry. We may be confronted with issues that we do not feel we are equipped to deal with. These matters should still be dealt with as part of your normal Pastoral care team ministry, not necessarily on your own.

Our LCA has several documents relating to the area of Information and Communication Technology, including the ICT Policy and guidelines; LCA Social Media policy; ICT Standards and Protocols. There have also been online worship guidelines added in this past year. Importantly, the LCA Child Protection Policy and Child Protection Procedure also are very relevant.

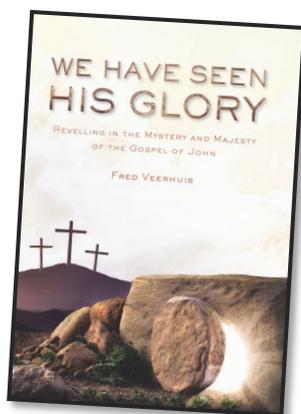
Obviously, the past year has seen the cancellation of many of the proposed Safe Church face-to-face training workshops. I am very grateful to those of you who have engaged with the online training. I acknowledge that for some of you it has been a challenge. As we head into 2021, my prayer is that travel is not so restrictive and face-to-face workshops will again resume and I look forward to engaging with you.

Carolyn Kiss

LCANZ Professional Standards Officer

Ph: 0457 770 100 email: carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au

Pastor Fred Veerhuis' newest book, **"WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY - Revelling in the Mystery and Majesty of the Gospel of John"**, has arrived. It's collected 44 years of mulling over this Gospel, ever since Pastor Harry Wendt triggered a passion in Fred to know more during a seminar in 1977. During this last pandemic year Fred finally got to gather all his reflections together and he's delighted with it. "If I'd given birth to a child, it may not be 'the best looking child' but it sure is a healthy one." Fred says. If the Gospel of John intrigues you, you'll find this book is chock full of John's-Gospel gems.



The initial push for this book came after Fred realised

the pastors he'd met and worked with in Vietnam - most of whom only have primary school education - desperately needed straight Gospel-based teaching. 1000 Vietnamese language copies have been provided to them for free - with thanks to many supporters who made that possible. It has already been used in two different settings in the past month.

This book is also valuable to Australians wanting to learn more about John's Gospel. It's a useful introduction to the Bible, especially the New Testament. It would be an excellent resource for small group Bible Study.

\$15 for one copy, \$12 for two or more, includes postage.

Contact Fred directly to order a copy fred@veerhuis.com.au





WARRAMBUI NEWS

March 2021

Prayer Points

- For the completion of the Dome Renovation Project
- For additional bookings and the ability to manage them with ongoing COVID restrictions
- For ongoing blessing and protection of Warrambui's guests, staff, volunteers and residents in 2021
- For God's leading in future planning by Warrambui Management and Board

Praise Points

- For God's guidance in the recruitment of new staff to fill vacancies
- For recent rains filling tanks and making us green
- For new and returning bookings in 2021

Centre Director's Update

Looking forward in faith

At the beginning of another year at Warrambui we are looking forward in hope and faith for what God has planned for us in 2021.

We are certainly thankful for the cool, comparatively wet summer we are having, in contrast to the previous few years.

It was great to welcome back TPM's Leadership Camp and History Makers in January. It was a blessing to see the young campers return after we were only able to host one TPM Camp in 2020, the Young Adults Retreat in November, due to bushfire smoke and COVID-19.

We have also begun seeing other groups return in increasing numbers since the end of last year. A number of groups are still choosing not to come, put off by continued uncertainty due to outbreaks and border closures, but we are hopeful that bookings will continue to improve as the years goes on.

Unfortunately, we believe that this ongoing uncertainty also impacted applications for the Arise Volunteer Internship Program. Due to insufficient applications we have commenced 2021 without any Interns. Over the course of the year, we will seek God's guidance as to how we progress with the Program.

Staff Update

We have had a number of new staff members come onboard over the past few months.

The friendly voice you are most likely to hear if you call office belongs to our new Office & Bookings Manager, Kylie Baker. Kylie is a local from Yass who joined us in November. She has settled in incredibly well, establishing herself as a valued member of our team and offering outstanding service to our clients

Caleb Stone (Arise Intern 2020), has returned in 2021 to join our team and work in maintenance and guest services.

In February, we welcomed a new Ministry Development Manager, Elizabeth "Lyzzi" Donnelly-Coode. Lyzzi is close to completing a Masters of Divinity from Sydney Missionary Bible College. She has a passion for Christian camping, and has worked in camping ministry with other organisations including CRU (formerly Crusaders) and Youthworks.

In her new role, Lyzzi plays a key part in Warrambui's contribution towards the District's strategic priorities as we Walk Together in Mission including:

- Developing and supporting alternative models for ministry; and
- Developing and supporting networking and connections between congregations and ministries.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

We are grateful for God's blessings in sending Kylie, Lyzzi and Caleb to join us in His ministry through His place, Warrambui.

As the year progresses, we will continue to evaluate our staffing requirements with the potential for further recruitment to fill vacant positions in our structure which were not filled in 2020.

Dome Refurbishment

The Dome Refurbishment Project is continuing with the internal wall linings, kitchen and maintenance shed removed to allow for the re-sheeting of the walls, the expansion of the dining area and the construction of the new external kitchen.

Unfortunately, the project has been delayed, in part due to unforeseen additional measures required prior to approval from council, including a bio-diversity assessment. At the time of writing, we have received the Development Approval from council, are progressing towards a Building Approval with an independent Certifier, and hope to begin construction within weeks.



Whilst getting to this stage has taken significantly longer than expected, and operating our Village facility only has its challenges, we remain encouraged that the upgraded Dome and Kitchen will be a greatly improved facility that will keep us in good stead to serve guests by living Jesus for many years to come.



Retreat Hut

Our Retreat Hut has continued to be well utilised since its re-opening in later 2020 once COVID-19 restrictions eased. For those of you unaware of this ministry, our Retreat Hut is a small, self-contained, wood cabin on a quiet edge of our property. It is available on a donation basis for people involved in ministry to have a time away to pray, reflect and refresh. It is utilised more by people of other denominations rather than Lutherans, but aligns with the District's strategic priorities of supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry, and supporting leadership.

Many users over the past few months have expressed their deep gratitude



for this ministry, particularly given the pressures of the past 12 months, and commented on how they feel God speaking to them whenever they stay there. If you are interested in using the Retreat Hut, please give our office a call to make a booking enquiry.



As we continue in an uncertain year with questions over expected booking numbers, with the crucial Dome renovation project getting underway, and with continuing staff vacancies, we remain grateful for your prayers and support.

We particularly ask for your prayers for God's wisdom throughout 2021 and that we will faithfully follow His will and honour Him in all that we do.

God's blessings,

Dean Salzke - Centre Director

WARRAMBUI SUPPORTERS KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to hear more regular updates of Warrambui News, you can join our Friends and Supporters Facebook Group at

www.facebook.com/groups/warrambuifriends

or join the e-news mailing list by emailing

supporters@warrambui.com.au





TURNING POINT MINISTRIES



Faith filled events, growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

Turning Point Ministries is the child, family, youth and young adult event ministry of the Lutheran Church of Australia New South Wales and ACT District.

Easter Camp

1 - 4 April Ages 13+

REGISTRATIONS OPEN!

A once only experiential camp. Easter Camp compliments Confirmation, however all TPM campers are encouraged and invited to attend!

Better Blokes

TBC 2021
Blokes aged 16+

Back2Base

29 June - 2 July
Grades 7 to 12
*Leaders Day Monday 28 June

Junior Youth Camp

2 - 4 July
Grades 3 to 6

Sisterhood

TBC - August
Women of all ages

Young Adults Retreat at Talbingo Mountain Retreat

1 - 4 Oct (Long Weekend)
Ages 16+

Leadership Camp

19 - 21 November
Ages 16+

History Makers 2022

18 - 21 January
Grades 7 to 12
*Leaders Day Monday 17 January

Summer Primary Camp 2022

21 - 23 January
Grades 4 to 6

Please check our website for up to date information. All camps held at Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre unless otherwise stated.



0435 314 384

tpm.org.au
event.bookings@tpm.org.au

[@tpmcamping](https://facebook.com/tpmcamping)
[@turningpointministries_nsw](https://facebook.com/turningpointministries_nsw)



HISTORY MAKERS RECAP

After much anticipation History Makers made its return this January with the theme, "Reconnect". History Makers was postponed twice due to the bushfires and global pandemic, however we felt God telling us that our theme was more relevant now than ever. We waited two years to have this camp, so there was a lot of excitement for it amongst campers and leaders.

Camp was split into group A and B due to Covid restrictions. We ran the same four day camp back-to-back! It was full of activities like out-of-your-comfort-zone games, capture the flag (featuring lots of water balloons), worship night, skit night, and studies. The studies this camp focused on our individual relationship with God, how He views us, speaks to us and the lengths He goes to become intimate with us. Knowing our worth in His eyes and understanding that He speaks in many different ways allows us to be in deeper relationship with Him. We had 30 campers and 10 leaders on each camp and we were blessed to have many new faces with us this year. There were many returning campers who reconnected with their friends, which was encouraging to be a part of. A massive thank you to our leaders for the huge effort they put into camp, and to our campers - we can't wait to see you again!

Many blessings, Ryan and Megan Plummer, and Bec White

Here's what leader Eva Reichstein has to say about History Makers...

HM21 was a blast! It was great having 2 smaller camps as this allowed us to connect with the campers on a more personal level. I loved seeing everyone getting involved in the games, worship and especially the discussions. My highlight of camp was being able to encourage the campers in their walk with God and reconnect with Him.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT RECAP

It was fun and relaxing to be together at Burrill Pines down at the South Coast over the weekend of 12-14 Feb. Some of us were lucky enough to turn it into a long weekend. TPM has been hosting these retreats for 5 years now. They've been a great way to grow in our faith and to bond outside of our regular youth camps. We've seen them as an opportunity for our leaders to enjoy being campers and be invested in, but they have also provided a space for those who aren't necessarily interested or able to lead. We look forward to hosting more YARs, and plan to host 2 each year.





CONVENTION OF GENERAL SYNOD



LCA General Synod

28 September – 3 October 2021 (COVID-19 permitting)

Venue: The **Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre** offers us all the facilities we need to host an excellent convention. In addition, it is ideally located for easy access via public transport from the full range of accommodation options. Some hotels are even part of the complex.

The theme is based on Isaiah 55:3, '... **come** to me, **listen**, that you may **live**'. Daily sermons will explore the chapters of Isaiah 55.

Lay Delegates

Each LCA parish is entitled to elect lay delegates according to confirmed membership: up to one delegate for every 400 members (max 3 delegates)

By 31 March 2021 parishes must appoint their delegate/s and notify the LCA by adding details to LAMP2. Enquiries email lamp2@lca.org.au

If an elected delegate is unable to attend, the parish may elect an alternate. A delegate must have been elected before any alternate can be appointed. Elected delegates serve for the synodical period.

LCA General Pastors Conference

6 - 8 July 2021 (COVID-19 permitting)

Venue to be confirmed

LWA Convention

24 - 26 September 2021 (COVID-19 permitting)

Venue: Horsham, Victoria

Travel and Accommodation

Due to COVID-19 uncertainties, **please do not book any travel or accommodation** until dates and venues are confirmed. Information about accommodation and travel will be given to all delegates via Synod eNews.

To keep up to date on General Convention news subscribe to Synod eNews. Go to www.lca.org.au/enews and follow the prompts.

www.generalsynod.lca.org.au



We all love *The Lutheran*. But it comes to you only once a month. In the meantime a lot is happening around your church.

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Lutheran Women of Australia Convention

Horsham Church of Christ
on **Friday 24th September, 2021** and
Saturday 25th September, 2021

Closing Service and
Installation of new office bearers

on **Sunday 26th September, 2021**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Horsham, 9am.

Convention Theme:

'BEING Strong in the Lord'

Ephesians 6:10-18

enquiries to LWA Secretary

Linda Niewand nieco@aanet.com.au

LCA ahead of its time?

Article by Marilyn Wall

Saturday, February 13, 2021 marked the 13th Anniversary of the National Apology, made by the former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, to the Stolen Generations of First Nations peoples!

But did you know that 8 years prior to this, July 23 2000, our very own Lutheran Church of Australia delivered their own Acknowledgement and Apology. The occasion, was the LCA's 2000 National Synod with the delivery by Dr Lance Steicke, the then President of the LCA.

"We are sorry for the bad things that have happened in the past. Please forgive us."

Is this not an occasion we too should mark within churches, to remind our future generations of the commitment that was made on behalf of the Church at that time? Resolving to work together with Aboriginal peoples, to share and learn together, to accept and respect each other, Dr Steicke, implored for help, on behalf of the non-Aboriginal sections of the church, to continue to engage in the reconciliation journey together.

"Help us to listen to you and learn from you. We promise to work with you and others for justice and harmony in relationships."

Witnessed by the large congregation at the 2000 Synodical Convention in Tanunda, SA, a formal rite of reconciliation between the Lutheran Church of Australia and Indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ, was led by the late Pastor George Rosendale, from Hope Vale in Far North Queensland and Dr Lance Steicke (see picture above). During the proceedings Pastor Jimmy Haines (who has since died) spoke on behalf of the Aboriginal peoples of Central Aus-



Pastor George Rosendale (now deceased) and Dr Lance Steicke [Source The Lutheran, August 2000 edition]

tralia, while Dr Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, commended the steps taken by the LCA.

Leading to this was the submission of the report entitled 'We're All People' by the then LCA Committee convened to research Aboriginal issues and ministry. Prepared for the 1997 General Synod, this report included more than 30 recommendations (see website link below) for consideration and implementation.

The Lutheran (28 August 2000) reported on these reconciliation events of the 2000 Synod.

Additional information can be found on the Our Stories page on the LCA RAP website www.rap.lca.org.au/our-stories/

*Marilyn Wall is the RAP Project Officer
LCA's Hearing the Indigenous Voice*

I'M JOINING IN GOD'S MISSION THROUGH Stamps for Mission

Who would have thought the once-popular children's pastime of stamp collecting was still alive? Not only is stamp collecting still going strong, but it continues to make a world of difference to communities around the globe through the Lutheran Church of Australia's Stamps for Mission program.

Since its inception in 1938, more than \$447,000 has been raised for mission causes, says Peter Nitschke, Stamps for Mission national project director. Funds have supported projects in Australia, Papua New Guinea and many Asian countries.

While millions of stamps go through Peter's hands each year, occasionally he finds a rare gem, such as a post-marked envelope worth \$2500. The stamps are sold to local collectors and larger philatelic businesses. An A4 box of stamps can be worth between \$300 and \$1100.

Old stamps are still quite profitable, especially the

higher value ones. Newer stamps are still saleable, however the 'peel and stick' self adhesive stamps are more difficult to clean. Please encourage the purchase of sheet stamps which are easy to clean. These can be commemorative stamps from Australia and Australian Territories such as Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos and Keeling Islands, and Norfolk Island. Ask at your Post Office for sheet stamps.

Thankfully, Peter says there are no signs of stamp collecting dying out. When COVID first hit, Peter had people asking him for stamps they could help clean. More stamps were collected and cleaned during 2020, resulting in more funds raised for overseas mission.

*To support mission projects,
send used stamps to:*

Marie Bahr
Unit 1, 452 Kemp St
Lavington NSW 2641

Ruth MacConachie
16 Village Bay Cl
Marks Point NSW 2280

Arthur Schuster
A310 Greenway Views
260 Soward Way
Greenway ACT 2900

Marie Hamann
39 Raymond Rd
Springwood NSW 2777



ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

The College of St. Paul's

Whoever you are, whatever your story, you're welcome here with us.

Growth : 79 New Students

The College is very grateful for the significant growth in student enrolments for 2021. Seventy nine new students joined our community, sixty four in Year 7. Moving into 2022 enrolments, we have limited places in all years.

Round 1 enrolment interviews are now open and close on the 30th May. If you are a family in a congregation or know of a family interested exploring St Paul's, please have them contact our Enrolments Manager, Mrs Joanne Knobel.

Academic : What Does That Mean?

Last year our teaching staff engaged in a board conversation about the word academic—what exactly does that mean.? Here is the outcome - **A STUDENT IS ACADEMIC IF HE/SHE HAS A CLEAR FOCUS, COMMITMENT, AND DEDICATION TO LEARNING IN THE PURSUIT OF HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT.**

Essentially, we are saying, for St Paul's the word academic captures all the learning activities and opportunities provided for our students. Each student has the potential to be academic. Our goal is therefore that all students are motivated and aspire to higher levels of achievement in all their endeavours. This is our commitment, this is our mission for learning.



LIVE : LEARN : EXPLORE

A rural day and boarding College offering Christian, Secondary Education in the Riverina

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ST PAUL'S COLLEGE
WALLA WALLA, NSW

The following Bible study is the third in a series that focuses on each of the seven priorities of our District strategic plan 'Walking Together in Mission'. This study can be used by individuals or in a group.

Join the study online on Zoom led by Bishop Robert on Thursday 11 March, 7.30pm. Email kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au to register.



Study 3: Supporting Congregations and Ministries in Mission and Ministry

Support Groups

There are many support groups in our communities these days. Support groups for mental illness, for overcoming addictions, for parents bringing up children and support groups for the elderly. Each group recognises that some of the challenges of life are too big for us alone.

- Have you ever experienced a support group. How did it help, and why?
or
- How are people being supported during this Covid crisis?

To support someone means we share part of the weight of the load. We hold up part of the structure or we offer part of the solution to a situation or problem. Support can be shown in various ways.

Support in the church

- Can you recall a time when you were supported by someone in the church? How did it help?

Bible Passages

Take a look at the bible passages below and after reading each one ask the following questions. *(Do as many as you have time)*

Luke 8:1-3

Ephesians 4:11-16

Leviticus 25:35-37

- What is this passage saying about support? Who is supporting who?
- What is this text saying about supporting other believers?
- What are practical implications of this text for the NSW and ACT District and congregations?
- What are the practical implications of these texts for your congregation (or ministries) that you are part of?

Here are two examples where support was not given at all well.

Job 4:1-6

2 Timothy 4:16-18

- What went wrong in each case?
- Where do you sometimes need support in your Christian walk?

Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we struggle as people and individuals in life and in faith. Send us people who will support us, and let us see where we can support others.
Amen.

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CAN

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I CAN'T FIND ANY CASH FOR THE OFFERING

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District Prayer Calendar www.lcansw.org.au



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and people, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all — the testimony given in its proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

	<i>Parishes/ Congregations</i>	<i>Pastors & Church Workers (and family)</i>	<i>Locations</i>
March	7 Temora	Pr Darren Kupke (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Trinity Temora Zion Trungley Hall Chapel on the Hill
	14 West Wyalong	Pr Darren Kupke (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Immanuel West Wyalong
	21 Bass Hill Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen (awaiting visa approval)	Sydney Finnish
	28 Sydney Chinese	Francis Leung (Peggy)	Lutheran Church of Blessing
April	4 Campbelltown	Pr Hans Peethala (Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa)	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	11 Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste (Tina, Matthew, Scarlet)	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	18 Chinese	vacant	Chinese Lutheran Sydney
	25 Estonian	Pr Allan Taruste (Tina, Matthew, Scarlet)	St John's Estonian Sydney
May	2 German	Pr Christian Hohl (Ute)	Gnadenfrei Chester Hill Martin Luther Sydney
	9 Illawarra	(see May 30)	
	16 Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang (Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau)	Indonesian Yagoona
	23 Latvian	Pr Colvin MacPherson (Linda)	Sydney Latvian
	30 LifeWay	Pr Mark Schultz (Jo-Anne, Anna, Alex, Georgia) Pr Mark Simpfendorfer (Kaye, Joshua, Dylan) Pr Mathew von Stanke (Elise, Lily, Aaron, Noah) Wilkinson Hu , Cross Cultural and Asian Ministry (Magali, Anna, Esther) Danny Brock , Church planter (Michelle, Dylan, Cody)	LifeWay Epping LifeWay Newcastle LifeWay Westside LifeWay Illawarra

LCA IT Online Shop

LCA agencies and congregations can now order computers and other IT equipment via the LCA IT Online Shop. The products in the online shop have been sourced from reputable suppliers and are recommended by our IT team. Go to <http://itshop.lca.org.au> to see the range and place your order. All prices are ex GST. Please allow for delivery costs.



Hardware · Software · Hosting Services

<http://itshop.lca.org.au>



Contact Newsletter

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www.lcansw.org.au

Assisting regional people coming to Sydney

If you are coming to Sydney for hospitalization and require pastoral care, or if you know someone moving to Sydney for work or study, please let your pastor know. You can also contact District Office and we will endeavor to put you in touch with a pastor who may be able to visit.
District Office 02 8660 1200



Upcoming Events

- March 11** 'Walking Together' Bible Study
Zoom online meeting
- April 1-4** **Easter Camp**
Ages 13+, Warrambui
- April 15-17** **Pastors' Wives Retreat**
'Precious' Mittagong
- May 3-5** **Pastors and Pastoral/Mission Leaders**
Warrambui
- May 28** **DCC**
location tbc
- May 29** **New Horizons Conference**
'Bridging Cultures with the Gospel' Sydney
- June 29 - July 2** **Back2Base**
Years 7-12, Warrambui
- July 2-4** **Junior Youth Camp**
Years 3-6, Warrambui
- July 6-8** **LCA General Pastors Conference**
Venue tbc (COVID-19 permitting)
- Sept 24-26** **LWA Convention**
Horsham, Vic. (COVID-19 permitting)
- Sept 28 - Oct 3** **LCA General Synod**
Melbourne (COVID-19 permitting)

NEW HORIZONS

Bridging cultures with the gospel

DATE

Saturday, 29th May 2021

NSW/ACT EVENT LOCATION

St Paul's Lutheran Church - Sydney
3 Stanley St, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

More info www.lca.org.au/new-horizons



LCA COMPLAINTS

Many complaints can be resolved before lasting hurt is caused, by addressing them quickly in a non-threatening manner and by raising the issue directly with the relevant person or organization in a thoughtful and courteous manner. If this is not applicable or possible in your situation, you may lodge a complaint with the Professional Standards Department in any of the following ways:

Phone: freecall number 1800 644 628 **Email:** complaints@lca.org.au
or write to: Confidential, PO Box 519, Marden SA 5070