

# Together

SEPTEMBER 2021

**Calvary's vision for a  
community hub**

**Little Town  
to light up  
Loxton**

**THE PLACES  
GOD TAKES US**

 **LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

*Magazine of the Lutheran Church of Australia  
South Australia – Northern Territory District*

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Front cover: A student at Calvary Lutheran Primary School in Morphett Vale pats Jedda, a therapy dog who supports children while they learn to read. Read about the school's vision for a community hub on page 12. Photo: supplied.

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# Together

Together is published four times a year for members of the Lutheran Church of Australia SA-NT District.

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### Publication deadline

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## Editor's note

'Change is the only constant' is the saying, and in recent times it's seemed truer than ever given the frequent ways we're having to adapt in our day-to-day lives.

While change can sometimes be difficult, even painful, it can also be the catalyst for a new direction, opening doors to blessings that would otherwise have gone unclaimed. Such was the case for Pastor Mark Kleemann, who found himself unexpectedly called into a military role that at times put him further out of his comfort zone than he'd ever been before. The journeys – both physical and spiritual – that his role as a military chaplain have taken him on could probably fill a book, but we bring you the abridged version in our article on page 6 (the first in a two-part series).

Also in this edition, Calvary Lutheran Primary School in Morphett Vale is seeking to create positive change in the lives of their school families with plans for a Community Hub

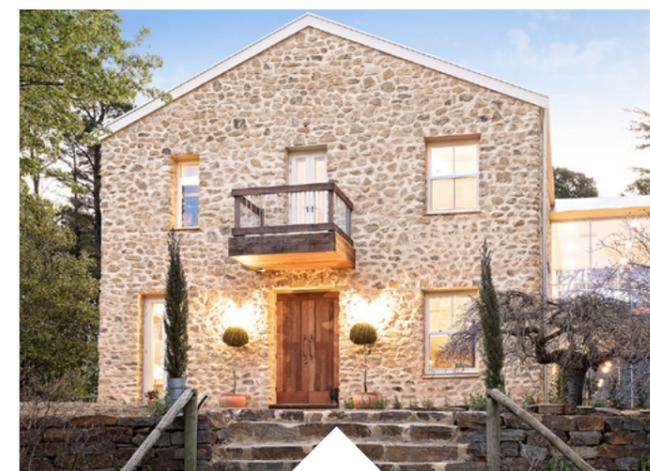
While the information contained in Together is correct at the time of going to print, we recognise that COVID-19 is an evolving concern and therefore some details published may have changed by the time this magazine reaches our readers.

underway (page 12), and a spectacular illuminated display is in the works as Little Town Productions teams up with renown projection specialists, illuminart, to light up Loxton this coming festive season (page 10).

I hope you enjoy this edition!

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”**  
Hebrews 13:8

We welcome your story submissions, suggestions and feedback. Email the editor at [jessica.smith@lca.org.au](mailto:jessica.smith@lca.org.au)



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Pastor David Altus,  
Bishop SA-NT District  
Lutheran Church of Australia

## A word from your Bishop...

We live with an expectation that things get fixed.

We are used to having things repaired, put back together, improved, or these days mostly replaced. We call the repairer, visit our GP, pay for things to be fixed or replaced, and we expect the government to fix everything - or we threaten to replace them too!

Right now Australians are complaining about the pace of the vaccine roll-out, our place in the queue, and we are demanding our choice of vaccine, forgetting that this time last year we didn't even know if there would be one that worked. Not long ago we had begun to think we had the problem fixed, dare I say that we had all but eliminated "the virus" on our safe island home, keeping it offshore or at least in quarantine, but not anymore. They say we are going to have to learn to live with it, just like the rest of the world.

What if we do have to live with it, just like we have to live with many other things we can't escape or ultimately fix? Are we ready for that?

We find it hard to live with what is broken and can't be fixed, or where there is delay and we have to wait. That includes our bodies, our relationships, and the church.

Eliud Kipchoge, winner of the recent

Olympic marathon said "Where the marathon starts is after 30 kilometres. That's where you feel pain everywhere in your body. The muscles are really aching, and only the most prepared and well-organized athlete is going to do well after that."

The marathon starts at 30km. Kipchoge said at the point where his body is breaking down, aching and hurting, is where all his training over the past five months kicks in. It enables him to keep going when it feels all too hard.

Christians face the challenges, demands and obstacles of life including the things we can't fix with faith, our God given faith in Jesus Christ. We live with God's eternal perspective and timeline to restore all things, including us, to himself. In the meantime we are called to persevere, endure and trust. When we begin to hurt for whatever reason, individually or as church, it is not the time to give up. All the years in worship hearing his word, feeding on him in his supper, receiving his forgiveness, in prayer and fellowship with other Christians, and exercising self-discipline, are not suddenly wasted when we hit the wall, or something we can't get through or over. In fact it is then that this very training comes to the fore when it is needed most. It's for these very times in life, whatever the wall or the challenge of the "unfixable" might be.

Nicola McDermott, the young Australian who won the first Olympic silver medal in high jump for our country since 1964, wore a wrist band in Tokyo that read "**Jesus makes all**

**things new**". She said "It just gave the freedom not to think about the past and focus on what I needed to do. At my first world championships I came last and I didn't clear a single bar... but I just remember I've got a clean slate, just like my past is a clean slate, so is today." Enduring



bullying as a teenager and early failure as an athlete, she finds her identity and strength in Jesus to face each new challenge. She gave a powerful witness to that on the world stage.

Our faith is not just in a God who fixes things on our demand, but a God who is about making all things new in his own time, beginning with us, from the inside out. It's a work that commenced in us at baptism, is renewed every day and will come to completion when we are finally with him in heaven. We face and start each day focussing not on what is broken, but on Christ who is making all things new.

As we face the day's obstacles and challenges with him, we too are going to need to persevere, exercise self-discipline, encourage each other and work together as his body, and draw on the faith that God has honed and hardened in us for the most testing of times in life.

God bless you, and us together, with a resilient faith when we need it most. God help us with the daily self-discipline and exercise of faith that prepares us to live with what is breaking down and what we can't fix, and to make a difference for him where we can, being part of his renewing of all things in Christ.

Image: Pexels

## From the Bishop's diary...

### New District Church Council members

We welcome retired Lutheran School Principal Rob Hoff, and new Assistant Bishops Andrew Brook (Unley) and Joel Cramer (Salisbury) to the DCC table. DCC had a half day together in mid-August to begin to identify our next strategic priorities.

### Chaplaincy

Pastor Peter Miller will retire at the end of 2021 after serving the SA-NT District initially as Tertiary Chaplain, then also overseeing chaplaincy generally. We thank God for his heart and willingness to go anywhere, anytime to serve people in hospitals and prisons as well as their families, and for his support of the volunteer chaplains. Expressions of interest have been sought from pastors across the LCA from mid-August to find a replacement for this role, which DCC have agreed needs to continue.

### "Towards Home"

Lutheran Care have led the consortium of care agencies that have been awarded a two-year contract to fund *Towards Home*, a new coordinated way of addressing homelessness in the city and southern area of Adelaide. This is a significant opportunity and responsibility, and we ask for your prayers for all involved and mostly for those they seek to serve.

### Pastors

**Pastor Mark Kleemann** has returned to parish ministry after 10 years of service in the Australian Defence Force. We have called him to the SA-NT District until the end of the year and currently he is assisting with the Albert Park-Semaphore Parish.

**Pastor Darrin Kohrt** recently celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of his ordination, which was special considering the significant health challenge he continues to face. We thank God that he is still able to serve even in a limited way and for the support of the Loxton Concordia and outlying congregations.

**Pastor Avito Da Costa** has also been able to provide service there by the good grace of Riverview. Pray for Darrin's recovery and for all pastors struggling with health issues.

**Pastor Murray Smith** completed his service at Bordertown and now he and Tracy will prepare to serve in PNG next year.

### Wives of Pastors Retreat

A retreat for wives of pastors will be held on September 24-26<sup>th</sup> at Sevenhill Centre of Ignatian Spirituality. Thanks to Deborah Myers and others for organising this opportunity.

### Bereavements

We continue to commend to the Lord the families of **Pastors Harry Ludwig, Clem Traeger, Ted Prenzler, Dave Preuss, Colin Hentschke and Ray Schmidt, Mrs Carol Wilksch and Myrtle Hage**, as they grieve the deaths of their loved ones this year. The St Stephens community have also been shocked by the sudden death of **Nicolas Hu**. He was being prepared to become the next pastor to the Chinese people there. We pray for his wife Amy and her two young children and thank all who have offered them support in different ways. We also remember before God **George Scherer** who served on the District Constitutions committee for many years.

### Anniversaries

**Glenelg** celebrated their 90th at the end of August, both **Dutton** and **Monarto** will celebrate their 150th in September, and **Seaford** their 25th in November. We thank God together with his people in these places of worship and witness and pray for the ongoing ministry there.



You are invited to  
**Good Shepherd School's  
40th Birthday celebrations**

**Friday 29th October** - celebration worship with the school community, school tours and morning tea.

**Saturday 30th October** - celebration evening dinner.

**Sunday 31st October** - Praise and Thanksgiving community worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Para Vista. Followed by a family picnic on the school grounds and tours.

For more information & bookings:  
[www.gspv.sa.edu.au](http://www.gspv.sa.edu.au) [admin@gspv.sa.edu.au](mailto:admin@gspv.sa.edu.au)

**Zion Wirrabara**   
**Lutheran Church SA**  
**100th Anniversary**

**Sunday, October 24th, 2021**

Worship 10:30am, followed by light lunch & fellowship.

Past members & friends welcome.

**RSVP: 86632410 / 0429129314  
by Oct 10th for catering purposes**

# THE PLACES GOD TAKES US

Pastor Mark Kleemann



Mark Kleemann prepares for a flight in Katherine, NT.

By Jessica Smith

**L**ate 2013. As the aircraft prepares to land at a military base in Afghanistan the team onboard is notified that a suicide bomber had, the day before, attempted to breach the compound, detonating his vehicle after coalition forces had opened fire. The news brings a heightened sense of awareness and the mood is tense as the plane lands. Mark Kleemann, RAAF Chaplain, numbers among the arrivals. This is his first overseas deployment. Alongside the other military personnel, he steps off the aircraft in full body armour. The weapons he undertook hours of intense training to handle are ready at his side. ‘What are you doing, Lord?’ is the phrase that runs through his head.

As a former parish pastor who had previously served for over 12 years across multiple Lutheran congregations in South Australia, this scenario is not one Mark ever expected to find himself in.

“If you’d said to me when I did my theological training and completed it and was ordained that God was going to take me down the path of military training and military chaplaincy, I would have laughed,” he says. “I never thought that was possible – there was no way in the world I had even contemplated it.”

Mark was working in parish ministry when his son entered military recruit training and shared with the family some of the challenges he could see his mates facing – loneliness,

separation from loved ones and the demands of military life, among others. As Mark started thinking about what life in the military must be like, he felt an urging from God, a call that became stronger and stronger.

**“I tried to push that sense of call away because I was thinking ‘at my age? What are you doing, God?’ While the call itself was strong, I couldn’t see myself fitting in there, in that space.”**

Eventually, though, Mark did decide to test the call, and in 2010, at the ‘mature’ age of fifty, entered 17 weeks of Officer Training School in Victoria, leaving his wife, Karen, and family in SA.



Images: supplied



Graduation day was a proud moment for Mark (centre) after an injury threatened to derail his final training.

“My prayer to God was ‘if this is the pathway you want me to take, open the doors and affirm it’”.

Thrust completely out of his comfort zone, the rigours of military training meant Mark’s physical fitness was tested against other recruits who were half his age or younger, most being aged between 19-25. Leadership exercises, classroom assignments, weapons handling and various tests to assess physical and mental competence under pressure were also part of the course. The training was gruelling, designed to ‘deconstruct then reconstruct’ recruits in the image of the ideal officer. Throughout the process, Mark questioned whether he would pass.



Mark (far right), with wife Karen and their three sons.

“I kept thinking there would be a door that would close, that I wouldn’t pass some military aspect and that would be the end of that,” says Mark.

“I remember saying once ‘if you want me to do this, Lord, you’d better get me through the first time, because I ‘aint coming back for a second bite at this cherry! And surprise,

surprise, every door that I thought might shut and I thought might be an out for me, just stayed open.”

Recognising him as a non-judgemental listening ear, other recruits would often come to Mark throughout the course to debrief or for support and guidance, forging comradeship despite the generation gap.

The day he discovered he’d passed officer training was an emotional one. Mark had suffered an injury, a torn hamstring, in the weeks leading up to the end of course field exercise that threatened to derail his final training. After undertaking a medical, he was deemed fit to participate in the last assigned field work and was determined to push through any lingering pain, but wondered if this might result in his effort not being at required the level.

“On the final day of field exercise, after having completed my “officer” lead component, one of the senior instructors came up and he put his hand on my shoulder and whispered in my ear ‘you’ve passed’. I put my head into my hat and the other young fellows around me – we were all good mates by then – had seen this instructor talk to me, and they thought something had happened and were all asking me ‘Padre, Padre, what’s wrong, what’s wrong?’ And I just looked up and I had tears in my eyes and I said ‘I passed, I will graduate, I can go home for now, to my family!’”.

**Part two of Pastor Mark Kleemann’s story will be continued in the next edition of Together magazine.**

**Has God led you on an unexpected journey?**  
We’d love to tell your story. Get in touch with the editor Jess at [jessica.smith@lca.org.au](mailto:jessica.smith@lca.org.au)

Reflecting gods love



## Professional Standards

by Dave Biar, Professional Standards Officer

Child safety within the Church is a focus at the moment, with Draft LCA Child Safety Standards currently being trialled in a small number of South Australian congregations. It is important that our Church embraces the proposed standards, given that the child safety regulatory landscape in Australia is changing - most jurisdictions have either already implemented a new regulatory framework for child safety compliance or have indicated their intention to do so in the near future.

Targeted consultation in relation to the draft standards is well underway, producing some robust and constructive discussions which have already generated many suggestions for improvement. The consultation and trial will help us to gain a realistic picture of the implementation process, in terms of practicalities, constraints, timeframes and workload. Participants in the trial have also been able to identify areas for improvement and have already provided us with many helpful suggestions.. A big thank you to those who have contributed to the consultations to date or who are participating in the trial.

If you have any questions about the proposed standards please contact Dave Biar at [dave.biar@lca.org.au](mailto:dave.biar@lca.org.au) or Mary-Ann Carver, LCA Child Protection Project Officer at [mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au](mailto:mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au)



## District update

By Angela Rogers  
District Administrator

Being a treasurer of a congregation or parish is not always an easy job as it has lots of little complexities like GST, PAYG, BAS, ACNC, HRS and the list goes on. There are also time constraints in that invoices must be paid and people reimbursed in a timely manner, and all with two signatories to sign cheques or authorise electronic payments. But the role of a treasurer in a congregation or parish is of vital importance. The role does require someone who has some financial knowledge, a willingness to carry out the task and the time to do so.

If your congregation or parish is having difficulty in finding a treasurer the 'By the Book' bookkeeping service offered by the SA-NT District Office may

be of interest to you. We are able to provide you a bookkeeping service whereby all transactions are recorded, invoices and reimbursements paid, payroll reconciled, invoices issued, deposits allocated, BAS returns completed, reports provided for Church Council and financial review preparation completed all utilising the MYOB system. There is a fee for this service which includes the MYOB licence fee and a time component each month.



If you would like to know more about this service please contact me at [angela.rogers@lca.org.au](mailto:angela.rogers@lca.org.au)

## Hospital chaplaincy

By Peter Miller  
Director of Chaplaincy

Our chaplains and pastoral carers are eager to visit patients in all public & private hospitals and rehabilitation institutions in Adelaide.

If you are aware of family members, friends, or fellow parishioners whom you feel may welcome a friendly visit, please do contact us. Whether they are Lutherans, members of other denominations, or people with no particular religious commitment, we count it a privilege to be invited to offer them some care.

### Get in contact

The 2021 Year Book (pages 190-192) has a list of the names of pastors who look after particular hospitals in their local areas Contact Pastor Peter Miller, the SA-NT District Chaplain at any time and he will arrange for the person to receive a visit.

Mobile (24/7): 0409725573 District Office: 0882675211  
Email: [peter.miller@lca.org.au](mailto:peter.miller@lca.org.au)



The Samoan (below right) and Tongan (above) groups celebrated the end of their quarantine period with worship services.

## Islander visitors sing songs of praise

by Jessica Smith

Beautiful harmonies could be heard from afar recently, as visitors from the Pacific Islands sang songs of praise in Lutheran churches across the Riverland.

The 800 odd travellers, hailing from Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Samoa, are part of a seasonal worker program, providing labour for industries including the Riverland's citrus growers.

When the workers arrived in April they were initially housed at Paringa for a two-week quarantine period. With the majority being of Christian faith, they celebrated the end of their quarantine confinement with worship services, followed by a meal. The Lutheran community in the Riverland was pleased to be able to offer their facilities and assistance, and services were held at Paringa Lutheran Church, Renmark Lutheran Church and St Peters Lutheran Church in Loxton, as well as The Victorious Church in Paringa.

Tukini Tavui, CEO of the Pacific Islands Council of South Australia (PICSA), the group that has helped to arrange the program, says they aim to assist the workers to integrate with the local community. Fortnightly church services in their own language will help to ease their transition, and it is hoped that the connections they make through local sporting clubs and church groups will help them feel settled in their temporary home.

Images: Kelvin Burgemeister



"We hope to foster ongoing participation of Pacific Island workers within the local church communities," he says. "The Pacific Islands is predominantly a Christian community, so faith is an integral part of their identity."

With some of the workers likely to be in Australia for more than a year, Tukini says this model of community integration will hopefully be rolled out beyond the Riverland.

"We hope to replicate this for all our Pacific Islands workers across South Australia and Western Australia."

## 150th Anniversary of the foundation of Pilgrims of Zion Lutheran Congregation Sedan



21 November 2021

Thanksgiving Service 10am at the church & catered lunch at Sedan Recreation Park.

To be followed by the launch of the new Sedan Town History Book, The Plains Capital: Sedan 1870-2020. All welcome

Enquires to Sue Grieger  
ph 0400084894 or [psgrieger@outlook.com](mailto:psgrieger@outlook.com)



From left: Sonya Altschwager (Loxton Waikerie Councillor, Loxton Chamber of Commerce), Jason Sander (Pastor, St Peter's), Cindi Drennan (illuminart), Aimee Gladigau (Little Town creative team), Deb Thiele (Loxton Waikerie Councillor, Loxton Lights up), John Gladigau (Little Town project manager).

# Little Town to *light up Loxton*

by Jessica Smith

An off-hand suggestion has become the catalyst for one of Little Town Production's biggest shows to date – one which will see St Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton lit up in spectacular style, as part of Christmas celebrations later this year. The display will form part of the Loxton Lights Festival - which is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year - and will be the first large-scale illumination of its type ever staged in the Riverland.

"This has been a crazy, crazy journey," says John Gladigau, Little Town's producer and playwright.

While planning for an upcoming local theatre production focussing on the farming community, *Kick Off Ya Boots*, John found himself standing outside the Hentschke Transports grain shed – the location that the play was originally going to be held at – with Hentschke family member, Sam.

"What about we light up the silos to promote *Kick Off Ya Boots*?" mused Sam.

It was to be the comment that sparked the beginning of a whole new production – but at the time it didn't seem so significant.

Inspired by the idea, John spoke to a Little Town colleague who put him in touch with a company that created light displays. It wasn't until later that John realised the contact was the owner of illuminart, widely known as the leading large-scale projection company in Australia. After this fortuitous meeting an idea began to grow in John's mind for a new, stand-alone production – one that went far beyond the original *Kick Off Ya Boots* concept – but it was one he wasn't sure was achievable.

"After meeting for coffee, the embryonic idea of doing a much larger event as a Little Town production at Christmas came

into being – but with an \$80,000 price tag for the illumination alone, this seemed completely unattainable."

But somehow opportunity came knocking, in ways that John can only describe as 'amazing'.

"God opened door after door – one immediately after the other, and in the order they needed to be. From the people who heard of it, to those who approached us, and those prepared to help finance it."

In the course of a week Little Town was unexpectedly inundated with offers to assist in financing the project. A \$25,000 LLL Mission Outreach Grant came first and was gratefully accepted, followed by a pledge of \$10,000 from St Peter's Loxton church, and shortly after that \$40,000 was underwritten from Loxton Waikerie District Council.

"And everything just snowballed from there," says John. "What started as an off-the-cuff remark has led to a major tourism project for Loxton, involving all the community, including the local high school, commercial businesses, churches and the entire arts community. It's a mission opportunity we could only dream of, and a responsibility we take very seriously."

The show itself is set to be a spectacle that will delight and entertain and will feature the message of Jesus through the nativity.



Rural farming life will be reflected on the stage in a brand new Little Town production, *Kick Off Ya Boots*, scheduled for October. There will be two performances of the dinner theatre show, which will celebrate agriculture and living in the rural community, with an underlying mental health message.

"*Kick off Ya Boots* is going to be a fully-fledged Little Town production, based on a rural farming family, their life experiences with droughts, succession, finances and their relationships with each other," says producer and playwright John Gladigau.

"There will be lots of laughs, great music and drama, and all built around a hearty three course country meal. It's about kicking off your boots and having a good time, but could also be described as leaving your worries at the door and focussing on the things that are within your control – and leaving those that aren't to others and to God."

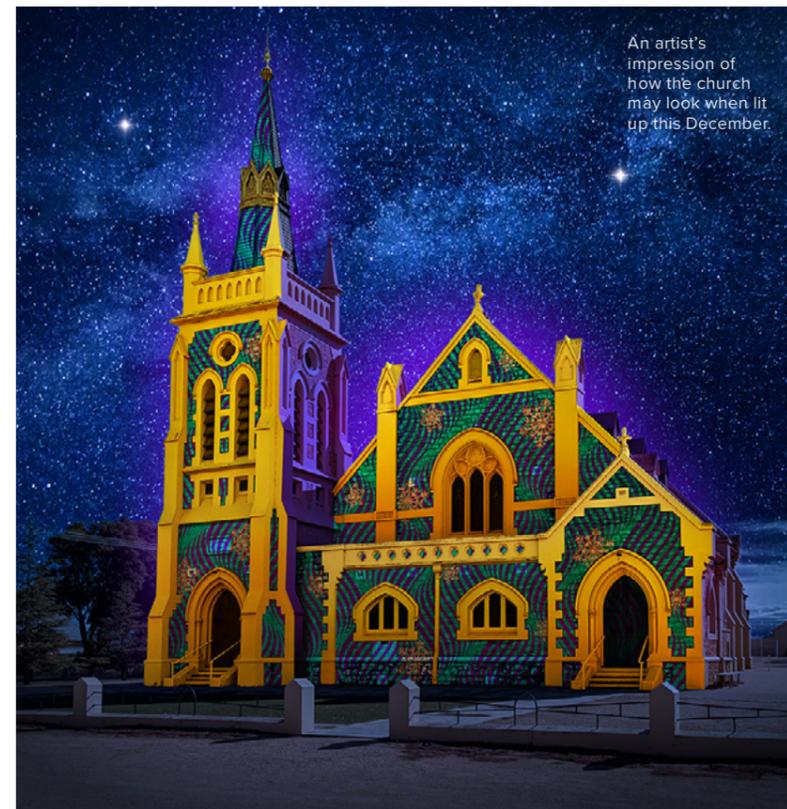
Inspired by a previous production he created 12 years ago called *If Farmers Ruled the World*, John says he's always wanted to build on the concept, to encompass

the themes of communities looking out for each other while managing expectations and their own wellbeing.

"I don't think that we as rural communities do mental health well," he says. "We tend sometimes to ask people how they are doing, but then aren't prepared if the answer isn't what we expect – and then we may just simply point out where there are services for people to use, and then we stand back and think we have done our job."

"*Kick Off Ya Boots* is a different approach. It's about bringing people together to have a good time – not to preach to them or say what they should or shouldn't be doing. It's more about realising how great rural communities can be, the support we can be for each other, and allowing the attendees to maybe put themselves into the production and realise that others are also experiencing the things that they are."

***Kick Off Ya Boots will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> of October in the Lutheran Peace Hall in Loxton. For more information visit the Little Town Productions or St Peter's Lutheran Church Loxton Facebook pages, or contact John Gladigau at [jbgldigau@bigpond.com](mailto:jbgldigau@bigpond.com)***



An artist's impression of how the church may look when lit up this December.

"Much like attending a Little Town production, it will be an experience from the moment you arrive to the moment you leave," says John.

"There will be choirs, singers, a marketplace, food stalls and possibly an art exhibition in Peace Hall, and a floral art display in St Peter's church to whet the appetite and have people in the mood for the main event."

"The actual illumination on St Peter's church will feature an 8-10 minute animated lights extravaganza, which will focus on what it means to live in Loxton and the Riverland, including the river, fruit growing, farming, being a local tourist site – and celebrating the 30 years of Loxton Lights Up. Integrated into this will be the nativity story, told using music and performers from within our Little Town community."

"Local artists and musicians, including students from Loxton High School, are working with illuminart to ensure this a truly local project focussed on developing and celebrating local talent."

**Loxton Lights Festival will be held over eight days from December 17-24. See the Little Town/illuminart production at the grounds of St Peter's Lutheran Church in Loxton. For more information visit [www.littletown.com.au](http://www.littletown.com.au)**

# Calvary's vision for a community hub

By Jessica Smith

Calvary Lutheran Primary School in Morphett Vale has big plans for the creation of a community hub – one that will help change the lives of struggling and vulnerable local families. The hub would provide a safe space where those facing challenges such as abuse, neglect and poverty could access a range of support programs and services, with the aim of reducing childhood trauma and adversity within the community. With the vision for the facility well formed, the school now hopes to find ways they can fund the project.

'A school with a beating heart' is how Principal Angela Branford describes Calvary. There is an overwhelming sense of warmth and genuine care at the school, something that struck Angela the moment she arrived ten years ago.

"I had been in schools that were indeed caring, however this was different," she says. "It was like nothing I had really experienced before."

It was an incident that happened six years ago that Angela says opened her eyes to the difference the school community can make in the lives of its families, and planted the seed of the idea that was to become the Calvary Community Hub vision.

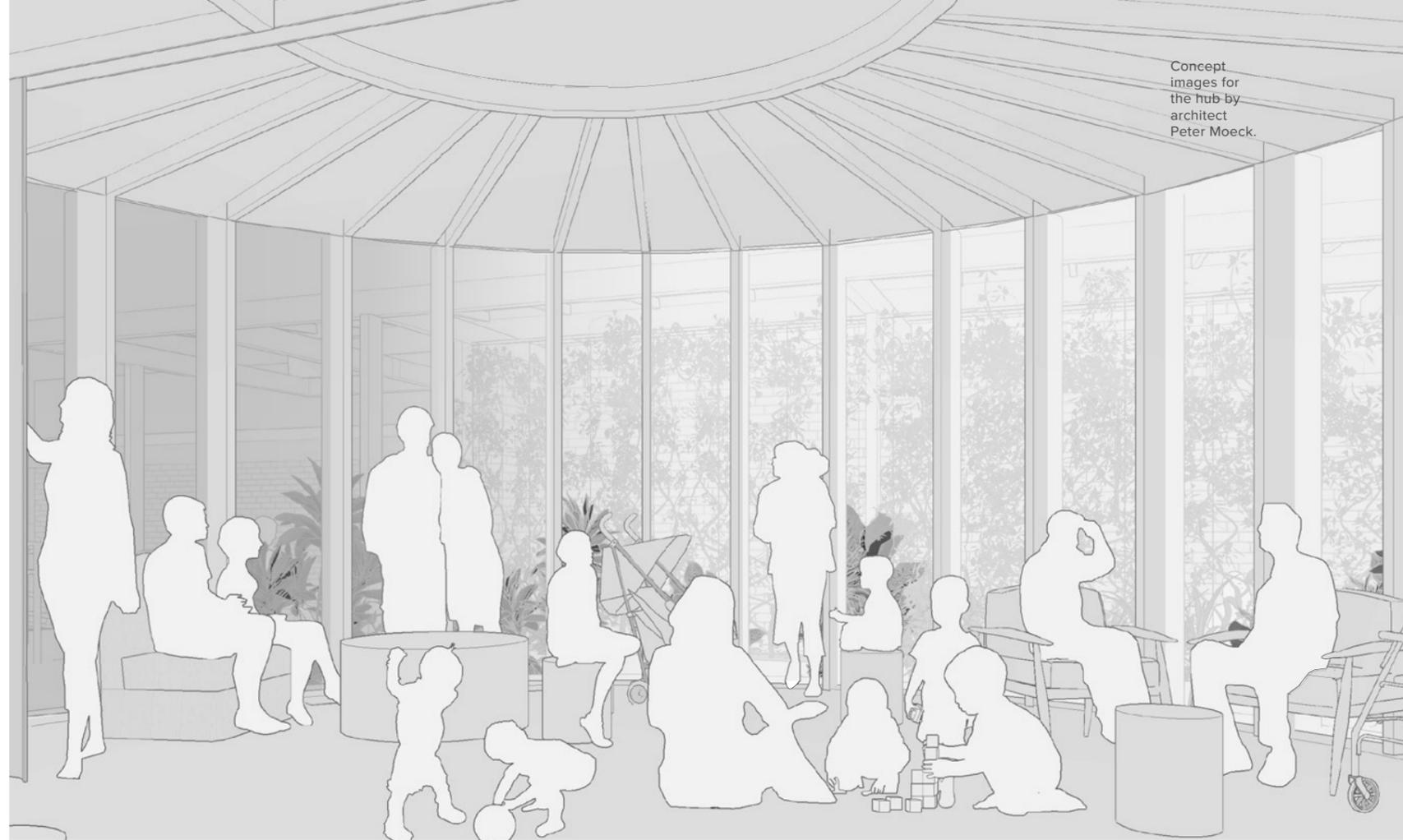
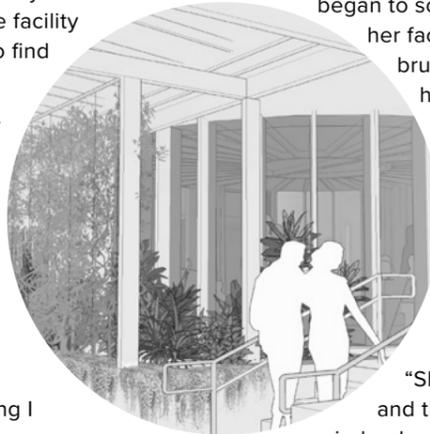
"It was a Tuesday morning...I had done my rounds and had just sat down and begun to check my emails when a parent appeared in my doorway. This was not uncommon as we

have a fairly open door policy, however what was different was that she was bleeding from the face and head, she had bruising on her face, arms and shoulders and she was standing there silently."

When Angela jumped up to help, the mother began to sob. As staff tended to her, cleaning her face and bringing ice packs for her bruises, they discovered what had happened. The woman's partner, who was also her dealer, had assaulted her in a drug-fuelled rage that morning, the attack happening in front of her two young daughters. Escaping the home with her girls, she knew the only place she could go was the school.

"She said that she knew that she and the girls would be safe here, that we wouldn't judge her and that we would help her work out what to do next," says Angela. "This broke my heart – she was a young, caring, amazing mum who found herself in this situation due to poor choice making and a lack of strong supportive networks."

"What made me even sadder was that the only person she felt she could safely come to was the principal of her children's school. She had no other support network - we were it for her."



Concept images for the hub by architect Peter Moeck.

Together with the school community Angela walked alongside the mum and her family, supporting her to attend drug rehab sessions, developing a volunteer role at the school for her so she could find purpose in her days, and helping her to furnish her home when she relocated. After several years the family moved to a new community, with their lives headed in a new, hopeful direction.

This experience, and others like it, was the catalyst for the community hub concept, one that Angela was led to through a process of research, community consultation and collaboration with architect Peter Moeck.

Peter's design concept sees the hub at the heart of the campus, with a circular central space intended to 'warmly embrace' users, against a backdrop of lush garden and a green wall. The area is flexible and can be used open-plan or sectioned off with curtains and sliding doors for privacy. The ceiling features a unique sunshine pattern with radiating timber strips, reflecting the theme of hope.

It is anticipated that the hub would become a prominent support base for the existing co-located Calvary Community, using a model based on Lutheran Community Care's *Family Zone* – supporting adults so that children, and their families, can thrive.

"Building trust and rapport is the key to a long-term relationship and change, for improved lifelong outcomes," says Angela.

While the designs and plans for the Calvary Community Hub are well underway, the school is still exploring how they will secure funding for the project and welcome input and connection with anyone who may be able to assist them to reach their goal.



The proposed hub would support adults so that children and their families can thrive.



Calvary students enjoy play time outdoors.

Images supplied

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## IN BRIEF

### 'Know-no-distance' confirmation class

After nearly 20 years, St John's Lutheran Church in Buccleuch has held its first confirmation service, with their congregation lessons held mostly online, due to COVID. It wasn't just locals who benefited – a WA-based student was also able to take part remotely and was able to join the confirmation class in person, travelling interstate with his family for the occasion.

[Read more about this in the news section of the District website.](#)



Confirmation class story and photo - Tracey Woidt; Oscar Joppich photo - ALWS; all others supplied.

### THRIVE conference



Mental health and emotional and spiritual wellness were the focus at the recent THRIVE conference, hosted by The Ark Salisbury Lutheran Church. The day was jam-packed with practical ideas on how to work towards and maintain a healthy heart and mind, with a God-centred focus. Presenters Michelle Bakjac, Pastor Stephen Abraham and Pastor Richard Fox covered topics including resilience,

stress management, Christian meditation and hope and comfort through the message of Jesus.

[Read more about this in the news section of the District website.](#)

### Family Faith Trail

A new Family Faith Trail is on its way! Prayer will be the focus of the new resource, which is being developed by Blueprint Ministries in conjunction with the Uniting Church. There will be plenty of activities for children and family members of all ages and it can be used both in a family setting or as a resource for small groups or congregations.



### Queen's Birthday honours

Congratulations to LCA members Oscar Joppich (pictured) and Kevin Kleemann, who were recognised in the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List. Both Oscar, of Tanunda, and Kevin, of Lobethal, were presented with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

Oscar, a retired teacher, was recognised for his 'service to the Lutheran church and to the community', a reflection of his years of service in both a teaching capacity and as a volunteer of the church and in the local Barossa community.

Kevin, managing director of hills-based Kleemann Funerals, was recognised for 'service to the community of the Adelaide Hills', including volunteer roles in local sporting and community groups and events over many years.

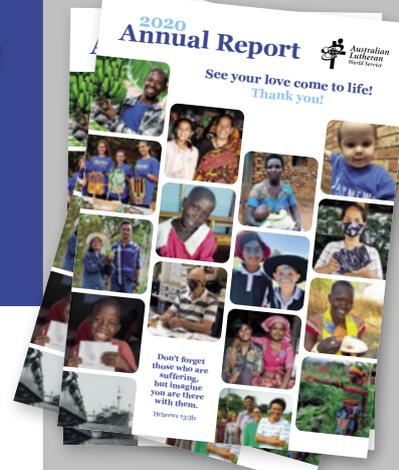


### Denial Bay celebrates 125 years

Ceduna Lutheran Parish recently celebrated the 125 year anniversary of the Denial Bay congregation, marking the occasion with a church service in the bush. Parish members gathered at 'Handtke's property', close to the Denial Bay Church, for the service, followed by lunch around the campfire. Denial Bay's Lutheran roots trace back to European settlement in the 1890s, with descendants from the early church among today's parish members.

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For more than 70 years our Lutheran Church has ministered to people in need through ALWS – Australian Lutheran World Service.

In 2020, despite COVID-19, our church family gave the most money to projects helping people in ALWS history. South Australia and Northern Territory led the way, giving 38.2% of the total – thank you!

Working together, our Lutheran family directly helped 216,527 people in need and at risk of being forgotten by the world. A further 75,455 people received flow-on benefits!



IMAGE: Ajok Kuiti Atem

## See how God blessed your kindness ...



COMING SOON!

### YOU GRACED ...

Super Pigs. Baby Packs. Mudbrick houses. Maybe it was COVID, maybe it was kindness ... but last Christmas people like you gave 11% MORE aid through ALWS Gifts of Grace than ever before! Amazing!



### YOU GRANTED ...

ALWS is fully accredited by the Australian Government. This is evidence your help is effective and best-practice. In 2020, it also unlocked grants of \$3,189,743 to be added to your ALWS ministry.



### YOU WELCOMED ...

In 2020, one in 95 of the world's people were living forcibly displaced from their homes (UNHCR). This is 67% worse than in 2010. Through ALWS, you helped care for 147,362 of these people.



### YOU WALKED ...

Despite COVID-19 stopping public Walk My Way events last year, 2838 people – from 18 months to 85 years – stepped out in Walk your Way so 6390 refugee children could step in to school!

O/hs\*

## YOUR ALWS ACTION

\* O/hs (overheads) = Fundraising – 7.2% + Administration – 8.1%; Programs – 84.7%; according to the ACFID Code of Conduct.



18-month-old Hazel took four months to complete her Walk My Way, but with mum Liana helped 168 refugee children go to school.



Shae, Asha, Emma and Eva from Year 11 at Concordia College in Adelaide made and sold beaded bracelets to help others.



When Nita Jansen celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, she asked people to give gifts to help refugee children go to school.



ALWayS for those forgotten

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