

“
*Unity does not
mean absolute
conformity*
”

Diversity in God's Creation



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

It never ceases to amaze me that I can go anywhere in the world and see such a diverse array of beauty.

We were recently in Coffs Harbour. Such beautiful beaches, such beautiful bushland, such beautiful colours. The next week we were in Canberra. This time beautiful hills, different vegetation, different colours and different weather. Variety and diversity everywhere you go.

This diversity is not confined to nature. It is the same when it comes to people and even the church.

When you interact with the body of Christ across denominations, you notice that they all love Jesus. But what different expressions of worship. The Orthodox churches with their complex and colourful liturgies. The Charismatic and Pentecostal Churches with their loud energetic worship styles. Then there is the calm and quiet of the Quakers. The variety is immense.

When I travel across the flock of Lutherans in NSW and the ACT there is also such variety. Some congregations are

very ordered and organized. While other churches are casual and spontaneous. Some have an immense heart for justice issues, while others again are focused on local or overseas mission.

God's created world is diverse everywhere.

Alternative models of ministry

The second of our strategic priorities highlights the diversity of being church. It highlights that while there is one goal, "...to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 1:10b). This goal is not to make us all identical clones.

Unity does not mean absolute conformity. We all love Jesus, but we may express that love in different ways.

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*Different
expressions can
point in parallel
to Christ*
”

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



- Developing and supporting alternative models for ministry
- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations in transition
- 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

Calls

- Pastor Tim Stringer (Greensborough, Vic) has declined the call to Wagga Wagga.
- Pastor Paul Hannola (Tuggeranong) has declined the call to Renmark, SA.

Installation

- Pastor Tim Muller was installed at Immanuel Woden on 1 November, 2020.

Birth

- Pastor Joseph and Rehab Graham welcomed a baby daughter, Karissa born on September 20, a sister for Nathaniel

Deaths

- Charlie Watt, 12 year old son of Katrina and Luke, and grandson of Pr Haydn and Ruth Blaess died unexpectedly in his sleep, on 8 September 2020. The family live in the border town of Buronga and were limited to 20 invited guests for the funeral, due to covid restrictions.
- Pastor Martin Freund died on 22 October, 2020. Pastor Freund was ordained at Bathurst in 1962, he then served Bathurst-Orange from 1962-1965, and Broken Hill 1965-67, before serving various locations in SA and WA, and retired in Reynella, Adelaide.

For example, most of our pastors preach on the same lectionary text each Sunday. Each pastor is working in a different context. So each pastor hears different things jumping out at him from the same text. It is the same bible, but slightly different emphases are heard and thus applied and preached across our district. It is the same bible but each person emphasizes something different from the same text.

This is the mystery of the church of God. There is one goal, but as that goal is expressed, there is such diversity.

Diversity however has a limit. When that diversity goes in opposite directions or says opposite things that can't be tolerated. Truth cannot tolerate error. But it will tolerate different expressions which point in parallel to Christ.

Article V of the Augsburg Confession says "to obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is provided the Gospel and the sacraments". For the church to function, we need preachers and teachers of the word. People to administer the sacraments. We call this position the office of the ministry. What Augsburg V does not stipulate, is the pathway for how these people are to be trained. Training must occur. But it allows for this training to be done in different ways.

Our church currently allows people to be trained in two ways. Some pastors are trained at an institution (ALC) and then go out

“
What innovative ways can we explore so that many more will come to love Jesus?
 ”

into the field. Others are identified, put in the field, and then trained. Trained on the job so to speak. We refer to this second group of pastors as SMP's - Special Ministry Pastors. There is one office of the ministry, but there can be different ways of training for that office.

In the previous Contact I wrote - "Fulfilling the mission of Christ today is exciting and challenging. In the past mission occurred far away overseas. Today things have turned around. The mission field is now all around us. We are living in foreign lands. We live in the mission field."

Given our current mission field, what innovative ways might we need to explore in how we train people for the office of the ministry, so that many more in our contemporary world will come to love Jesus?

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus

COVID has kept us too far apart ...



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Installation of Pastor Tim Muller at Woden

My life really seems to have made a big circle. In 1968, at the age of 10, I attended the opening of the first church building at Woden in Canberra. (My father David Muller was on the NSW Mission Board.)

My first 21 years were in the Henty area; at St Paul's Church and School in Henty, and St Pauls College in Walla Walla. I lived and worked on my parents' farm, (David and Neva Muller) and became involved as a youth leader at Henty and regionally, including at War-rambui summer camps. I did volunteer work at the camp and picked and sold apples as a fundraiser.

I strongly sensed God calling me to be a pastor; a call affirmed by family and friends. I studied at Luther Seminary in Adelaide from 1980-84, and at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus Ohio, 1984-85. In the US I was engaged to the love of my life Mary Boshammer from Chinchilla Queensland, and we married during my vicarage year spent at St Marys and Springwood in 1986.

After a year back at seminary in Adelaide, and ordination in December 1987 at Henty, we headed to our first parish in Auckland, New Zealand. Our first 3 sons were born there. I served 6 years in Auckland, and then was called to St Stephen's in Adelaide, South Australia, where I served for 10 years. Mary continued her calling as an ER RN at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and our fourth son was born.

We moved to the USA in 2004, with 4 sons in tow. I studied again at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, completing requirements for the STM degree and writing a thesis titled "Abuse, Shame, and Deep Forgiveness." I worked as an interim pastor in three congregations over three years.

From 2007-2020 I served as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, also in Columbus. Ascension is in a multi-cultural part of the city. Many founding members moved further out, with some families continuing to come on into Ascension. I was part of establishing a Swahili language worshipping community in partnership with another Lutheran church. (In the picture, the dress that Mary is wearing is a farewell gift from this mainly Tanzanian community.)

Both Mary and I loved our time in the USA. Mary continued her calling as a nurse, working from the children's hospital as a skilled RN in children's homes. Our children did much of their education in the US. Our third son Micah returned to Australia in 2015, to Adelaide, and our second son Caleb, married to Liz, returned in 2018, living in Melbourne. Our oldest Joel, a psychologist, and youngest son, Zebedee, a high



Installation of Pr Tim Muller (kneeling) I-r Pr Ian Rentsch, Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, Pr Darren Jaensch, Pr Paul Hannola

school graduate, returned to Australia with us in September.

We have been through the quarantine in Sydney (with a wonderful view over the harbour), have celebrated my father's 90th birthday, have had some holiday time, and are now settling into church and home at Woden.

My installation as pastor of Immanuel Woden Valley Lutheran Church took place on Sunday November 1st at an afternoon service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in neighbouring Curtin. Using Holy Trinity allowed for more to participate and was the first combined in-person worship for Immanuel since the COVID-19 restrictions started.

I am very enthused about being pastor at Immanuel. I really think my life has been made up of the receiving and giving of treasures, especially the treasure of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I had no idea as a youth on the farm that one day I would live in three countries and be part of wonderful Christian communities there. (We do literally have some family treasures in a container which left our former house on August 17 and has not yet reached Taiwan.)

I treasure my time studying at two Lutheran seminaries, and serving in both the LCA and the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), and now I very much look forward to serving in the NSW-ACT District. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and empower us all as Jesus' mission partners.

Pastor Tim Muller



Members of the Muller family: I-r Zebedee, David, Pr Tim, Mary, and Joel

Outreach and Discipleship in Orange

Greetings and blessings to you from our Saviour and Lord.

My name is Brant Waterson, and you may remember an introduction to my family and I while I was studying at ALC. Since then I have finished my B. Theology (graduate this year) and we are currently based in Orange NSW. Here I have been called to be the Coordinator of Outreach and Discipleship. In this role I assist Pastor James Leach in matters of worship throughout the parish and mission work in Orange.

Looking back

What a turbulent year we have had to date. I pray that this finds you healthy and in good spirits. Yet within this time we are also called to rely on the Lord. It is through his gifts and grace that we receive all things.

For my family and I, the Lord has continued to bless us in many ways.

To start things off, we have moved into a house giving us a great deal of stability and peace going forward as we are no longer subject to the whims of landlords and selling houses.

Pastor James Leach came over before we had moved in to bless the house. It was a wonderful moment as our daughter, Anastasia, followed James around with a big smile repeating Amen at the end of each prayer. This has helped give our house a wonderful feel and warmth. Our neighbours have felt it too, and have been drawn into conversations and prayer ever since.

Helping others

Another part of this wonderful time is that we can help others with the furniture that we no longer need due to downsizing.

Our Heavenly Father continues to put situations in front of me that encourages me to speak words of peace and grace to those who are in need, both spiritually and physically. The movers that were helping me turned out to need my help in return.

I am continuing to contact those that I have served in funerals throughout the year. Some have started to come to church intermittently. A few of them have gathered together as a small group of support for each other. This time has been a great encouragement to me to see these people supported and uplifted.

Reaching out

I have even been able to contact members from Bathurst and other areas near Orange. There have been some extremely positive first steps. It would be great for your prayers that they are moved by the Spirit.

Recently I have found myself drawn into many situations,

and places God has called on me to bear witness to him and stand tall for our shared faith in Christ. While this is a situation that I find myself in regularly, many people have asked how they can bear witness to others. I thought I would take some time to share how I 'do' evangelism.

For me evangelism is sharing God with others. To do that effectively I look to the bible to give examples. How did Christ share God? How did the Apostles share God? What are the important parts of sharing God with those who do not know?

While you ponder and maybe even look up answers to my questions (the Gospels and Acts are great places to start), I will let you know that for me, Jesus walked, talked, ate, slept and taught amongst the sinners. He did this by being with them where they were. He didn't drag them to the temple, nor did he speak to them as if they should know all the correct religious lingo. Rather he entered their lives where they were. Helped them where they were at. Guided them towards God. (Mark 2: 16-17)

Christ as my example

With Christ as my example, I talk to people. A lot of people. People in the church and outside. From my neighbours all the way to the parents at school pick up, even the plumber who came to fix my heater. (Great timing for it to break during the cold snap). I ask them about themselves, their day, their work and so on. Some do not want to talk, so I say have a blessed day and let them be. Others are more willing, they talk about family, pets, they don't like their job, and so on. Then things slowly grow as our friendship grows. Some over hours, others over weeks.

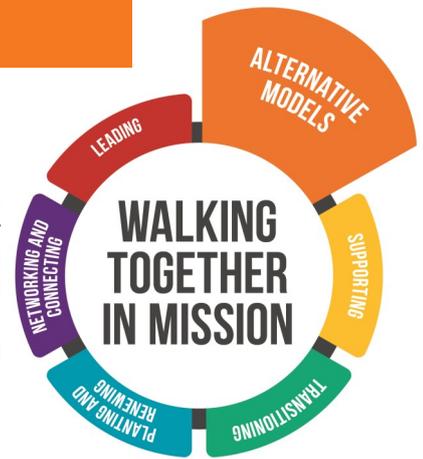
This idea of talking comes from John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." I care about how they are. I would like to help as much as I can or guide them to others that can. This is how I reach out to others. I challenge their views on Christians by acting rather than saying. I care rather than judge. I love rather than hate.

Give it a go

If you would like to try it yourself, start with a neighbour. Invite them to coffee or tea. Ask them about them. Listen. Show them that you are here for them. Help if they ask. If you cannot help them, we are part of a community of people that can.

May the Lord our God bless you and all that you do,

Brant Waterson



Brant and Elizabeth Waterson with their children Anastasia and Calhon

District Church Council News

Live Streaming Grants

The District Church Council has continued to support Livestreaming in several congregations across the District. In this last quarter 3 congregations have been supported to install a permanent Livestream System including the Woden Valley Lutheran Church \$12,760, the Belconnen Lutheran Church \$10,000 and the Tuggeranong Lutheran Church \$16,517. This together with the previous support provided will allow those unable to attend their local Church to be able to still access a local service from home.

Western Sydney Church Plant

The District Church Council has been continuing to work with the Sydney Future directions team and Life-way Lutheran Church as well as Church Plant leader Danny Brook as they progress to selecting the Church Plant area and what missional spaces may be available as part of the Church Plant.

Temora Youth Disciple Maker

The DCC have resolved to provide \$5000 per year for the next 3 years to assist the Temora Lutheran Church in supporting a Youth Disciple Maker position. The Church Council was quite excited in supporting this position, as they realise that the disciple journey is such an important part of faith formation.

New and Renewing Churches

The District Church Council resolved to increase their support for Dean Eaton's Church Planting Mentor and Mission facilitator position given the large amount of work he is now doing in NSW. This funding has been

increased to \$40,000 per year for the next 3 years. This is also in light of the knowledge that some of the LCA funding for ministry positions has dried up due to the reduction in interest rates causing the LLL Permanent funds income to the LCA to be reduced.

Head of Entity for Schools and LEVNT Incorporation

Working together with LEVNT (Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW and Tasmania) and in light of legal advice, the DCC resolved to move the Head of Entity for Schools back to being School Principals in NSW rather than LEVNT. LEVNT at the same time is working toward Incorporation due to changes in Victorian legislation and Schools management.

Warrambui Support

Warrambui have been facing a difficult time during Covid due to the inability to run camps. They have been working with the District Church Council to provide a range of scenarios and solutions as we anticipate what the future post Covid and particularly 2021 look like. As such Warrambui have also been looking at using some of the quiet time to undertake some required capital works, including the removal of the asbestos from the Dome. The DCC have resolved to affirm the Warrambui board that the District will maintain the solvency of Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre during this period. Further they have provided in principal support for the refurbishment of the Dome subject to anticipated estimates. The Warrambui board has been encouraged to proceed to tender for this development.

Continued next page

Appreciation for long service of Albury Aged Care Board Chair Phill Edwards

The Directors of Lutheran Aged Care Albury have expressed their heartfelt thanks to former Chair of the board Phill Edwards, who resigned in September, after 15 years as a Director and 9 years as Chair of the Board.

Phill is recognised for his great expertise in putting together vital governance practises and documents. His work with the CEO/Managing Director Wendy Rocks, and other Directors over the years has been given with sincere commitment to Lutheran Aged Care, and that work has been valuable in the forward movement of the organisation.

Over that time there have been many challenges and difficult times as is the case in the aged care sector generally, but Phill's constancy of commitment

and work has been an important part of the team work that has seen Lutheran Aged Care come to this time in its development.



Phill Edwards

The Directors on behalf of the organisation and the NSW and ACT District of the Lutheran Church thank Phill most sincerely for his contribution and send best regards for his future endeavours.

Wendy Rocks
Lutheran Aged Care Albury CEO



District Financial update

The impact of the coronavirus in 2020 has been felt at all levels of the community, and the church has not been immune. The NSW District has been able to receive JobKeeper for the vast majority of pastors and staff in the District. Further, we have also become eligible for JobKeeper 2.0 which helps fund some salary and wage costs through to the end of December this year.

The NSW District Congregation Financial Assistance Policy has provided financial assistance to many congregations in NSW during the coronavirus pandemic, helping ensure that congregations and parishes are able to meet all their financial obligations, including the ability to cover payroll and other expenses.

On a broader District level, Turning Point Ministries, after having the January and February camps cancelled due to bush fires, has had to cancel all the camps through to now due to the pandemic. The side effect of not running camps has been that the loss of income has ensured that the District remains eligible for the government's JobKeeper support.

A summary of the 2020 budget and the third quarter income and expenses is provided in the table at right. If you would like a comprehensive copy, please feel free to contact the District Administrator.

Notes for the third quarter summary

- Interest from investments has been reduced significantly due to lower interest rates, and not yet realising our full investment in the share market.
- Staff salary costs are lower due to the Federal Government JobKeeper support
- Turning Point Ministries income and ex-

- penditure is minimal due to no camps being run
- Mission and Ministry Income and Expenditure includes the Cost of running the Pastors Conference and Synod in March 2020.
- Office Expenses include Legal fees and strata levy's for the new office.
- Mission and Ministry expenses includes the grants as listed in the DCC report.

Russell Veerhuis, Administrator

<u>2020 NSW District Budget</u>		
	2020 Budget	2020 January - September
Income		
Congregations Contributions	\$165,150	\$101,350
Mission and Ministry income	\$72,000	\$54,951
TPM Camp income	\$145,350	\$4,867
Investment - Bank Interest	\$672,000	\$300,839
Other District Income	\$20,400	\$4,385
Total Income	\$1,074,900	\$466,392
Expenses		
LCA Budget	\$207,250	\$150,000
Mission and Ministry	\$386,775	\$385,329
Office Expenses	\$84,700	\$72,817
Staff Salaries + housing Expenses	\$348,300	\$209,476
TPM Camp expenses	\$149,200	\$8,582
Depreciation	\$70,099	\$55,112
Other expenses	\$21,500	\$6,552
Total Expenses	\$1,267,824	\$887,868
Net Profit/Loss	-\$192,924	-\$421,476

Continued from previous page

NSW District further Share Investment

Given the current fiscal environment, and the strength of the Australian Share market, the Finance Advisory Committee in implementing the Districts Investment Strategy has resolved to invest a further \$1M in the Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund and \$1M in Vanguard Investments Australian Shares Index Fund. A further \$500,000 will also be invested in Vanguard Investments International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund.

This brings our total investment to:

- Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$2.6M
- Vanguard Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$2.6M
- Vanguard Investments International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund \$2,166,666.

Russell Veerhuis, for DCC

Professional Standards

Greetings to you all. I would like to congratulate those of you who have undertaken your Safe Church training over these past weeks and months using the iLearn online platform. For some of you it has been a bit of a challenge, however I am grateful that you have committed to your training. If you have any queries regarding training, please email or phone me.

There are still a few uncertainties with travel into the future, but I am hopeful that 2021 will again see wider opportunities for face-to-face training workshops.

I would like to introduce you to the LCA NZ Child Protection Office, Mary-Ann Carver. Mary-Ann has been with the Church in this role since December 2018 and is part of the Church's Child Protection Project team. Mary-Ann has extensive experience in Social Work and Child Protection work. The following is an excerpt from the PSD eNews in October.

Hello everyone,

My role as the Child Protection Project Officer is to raise awareness of the importance of child safety in the church and to help the LCA NZ be as safe and protective as possible in relation to children and young people. The LCA NZ has a strong and long-standing commitment to the protection of children and those who are vulnerable. This is best demonstrated in the Object of the Church's Constitution which requires us to maintain and promote a culture of care in relation to children and to strive to protect children from all forms of abuse. Our Synod has also resolved that children are a "precious gift from God" and that they are to be nourished, nurtured, protected, listened to and valued. These are impressive foundations upon which to build and progress a strong and vibrant child safe church.

Being a "child-safe" church does not just involve having excellent policies and procedures and nor is it only about making sure everyone has working with children checks and attends training. Whilst these are important components, they are not the foundations. The building blocks for a child safe church are about cherishing and valuing children. It is about engaging with children in their spiritual journeys in meaningful ways, by remembering to ask them for their opinions and about making sure we respond and listen to them when they try to tell us things. It is about noticing the children who sit in our pews, about embracing their different cultures and abilities and about always making sure that children feel welcome and appreciated. This is how children feel safe. When children feel safe, not only do they speak up, but they also thrive.

A child-safe church is also about making sure that we understand the fundamentals of child abuse and how it manifests, that we always maintain appropriate boundaries with children and that we know what to do if we become aware of something or someone



concerning, even if relates to something that happened a long time ago. It is about appreciating that children need adults to help them stay safe and that their best interests must be the primary consideration in our decision making. Helping our church to do this properly is a large part of my role.

Another part of my role has been about implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As you probably know, the Royal Commission had a lot to say about child safety in the church, most particularly in relation to the wide-spread sexual abuse of children across all denominations. The Commission's multiple reports make for harrowing reading but the lessons learnt are very important - they help us understand how to prevent child abuse in the church, how best to respond, how to help those who have been hurt and, most importantly, how to make sure it never happens again.

An exciting development in the child safety area for the LCA NZ is that we have developed our own "LCA NZ Child Safety Standards for Congregations". These are closely based on the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. There will be further work prior to implementation in congregations.

We are blessed to have Mary-Ann with us in the vital area of the Church's work.

As we approach the end of the year and now that some of the restrictions around gathering for worship have eased, many of you will be preparing for your Advent and Christmas worship. I pray that your congregations will be able to share the joyous message with your wider communities.

Carolyn Kiss
LCA NZ Professional Standards Officer
PH: 0457 770 100
email: carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au

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

Wednesday 25 November, 7.30pm
on Zoom

To register, please email
kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au
(Turn to page 14 for the Bible Study notes)



AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

COVID Safe TPM Camps in 2021

2020 has obviously been a difficult year for so many of us, this includes TPM and Warrambui. The TPM Camping Team have met regularly to discuss all reasonable camping options for our people, unfortunately it has meant camps have needed to be cancelled. We move into 2021 with the hope that restrictions will continue to ease allowing us to bring camps back, in a modified way. TPM will be implementing new COVID safe protocols in close consultation with the LCA NSW/ACT District and Warrambui. We ask for your patience, understanding and prayers as these are new to us all and undoubtedly there may be some learning curves along the way. We strongly encourage all parents of campers to read over all pre-camp information that is sent to ensure we all meet the requirements to attend. Some of the protocols will include a reduced number of campers and leaders allowed in the space we have at Warrambui, meaning once all allocated camper spaces are filled we may create a waiting list for registrations. Again we ask for your understanding in this process. The best way to ensure your child gets a place on camp is to book early, so keep an eye on our social media, website and emails going out.

Time for New Leadership

After being involved in LYNSW Camps in 1998-2000 and then TPM camps from the beginning in 2001, I have made the decision to conclude my involvement in the TPM Camping Team. It is time for new leadership to be ushered in with the youthful passion and faith needed to take TPM onto the next part of the journey that God has planned for it. I am so humbled and honoured to have walked with and disciplined so many young people over the years in the many camps I have been involved in. I count it a huge blessing to have led the TPM Camping Team over the past few years and to have worked alongside incredibly faithful and Jesus focused people. I know God has some incredible plans for the young lives in our District and for TPM to play a part in those lives. I will continue to pray for God's blessing on the work of TPM and I encourage you all to do the same.

Dion Jaeschke: Outgoing Chairperson, TPM Camping Team

HISTORY MAKERS 2021 RECONNECT

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, we have had to split History Makers into two separate camps. Camp might be a little different, but our God remains the same.

History Makers A

Date: 3pm Mon 18 - 2pm Thur 21 Jan
Age group: Grades 10 to 12
Location: Warrambui, in the Village

History Makers B

Date: 3pm Thur 21 - 2pm Sun 24 Jan
Age group: Grades 7 to 9
Location: Warrambui, in the Village

Limited places are available. Register early online
tpm.org.au/events/historymakers

Leadership Training Evening

Our annual Leadership Camp will be held as an evening only event this year.

5pm Sun 17 Jan Ages 16+

Easter Camp

Be challenged to a new understanding of Jesus' life, death and resurrection!

1 - 4 April Ages 13+



WARRAMBUI NEWS

December 2020

Prayer Points

- Prayer for 2020 Interns Caleb, Imogen and Adam as seek where God is calling them
- Give thanks for Andrew, Tiffany and their family and pray for guidance for their next steps
- Prayer for recruitment for senior staff positions
- God's provision, timing and blessing for the Dome Refurbishment project
- That groups will be able to return in 2021

Praise Points

- For the groups that have been able to host their events at Warrambui this year
- For volunteers that use their gifts to serve at Warrambui
- For the rain and the green hills around Warrambui

Director's Update

School camps are back!

We were obviously delighted that the NSW government made the decision in October that school camps could resume at the start of Term 4 after a 6-month hiatus.

We have been able to welcome back a small number of school groups this Term, who were delighted that they were able to return to us and that the camping part of their year's curriculum was not lost.

In the latter part of the year we have also been able to welcome a number of weekend craft groups, some Christian young adult groups, and the NSW District's Mission and Ministry conference in mid-October.

Welcoming these groups, serving them by living Jesus, and providing opportunities for them to grow and be nurtured in their relationships with themselves, others and our Lord is central to Warrambui's mission as an *Alternative Model for Ministry* within the District.

We pray that the COVID-19 situation will continue to improve and that we will be able to continue welcoming many schools and other groups back in early 2021.

In December our remaining volunteer Intern, Caleb Stone, will be finishing his Intern year. We are very grateful to Caleb for his commitment and perseverance during a very different Intern year from what we all expected. We have greatly admired Caleb's work ethic, positive attitude and willingness to serve. We feel very blessed that God called 3 amazing young people, in Caleb and his fellow Interns Imogen Radford and Adam Welch, here for 2020.

The Arise Volunteer Internship Program is how Warrambui *Develops and Supports Leadership* in young people and we are again seeking interested people to serve as Interns for 2021. If you know of a young person who is looking for an opportunity to serve and grow in a Christian community, we would love to speak to them, particularly those people who may have had to give up plans for an overseas gap year due to COVID-19.

In January, we will also be farewelling our Ministry Development Manager, Andrew Sharp and his wife Tiffany and children Bethany, Micah and Lydia. Andrew has been with us for 5 years leading the Arise Volunteer Internship Program and coordinating our onsite activities and programs for school groups.

You have given me your salvation as my shield.
Your right hand, O Lord, supports me; your gentleness has made me great.
Psalm 18:35 TLB

We sincerely thank Andrew for his leadership and service, and his family for the warmth, openness and Christian love they have brought to our community. They will all be very much missed. We wish them all God's blessings for their move to Queensland and beyond.

Throughout 2020 we have not recruited to fill vacancies left by staff departures in order to minimise costs during the COVID-19 period. As we head into next year and, God willing, return to a higher level of occupancy, we will be recruiting for vacant key positions, such as the Ministry Development Manager.

We humbly ask that you pray with us that God will send the right staff and Interns to serve here in 2021 and beyond.

The Dome Refurbishment Project

continues to progress at a rapid pace in the hope of progressing with construction whilst bookings are reduced due to COVID-19 and over

the December-January period which is normally quieter in terms of bookings.

The plans for the Project include the removal of asbestos containing materials and minor improvements within the existing Dome, the removal of the current kitchen and the construction of a new, adjoined external kitchen.

The Project aims to improve the safety, suitability and appearance of the now 38-year-old Dome, and to take the opportunity to create a larger, more efficient kitchen that is better equipped to cater to large numbers of guests across the entire site, rather than replacing the existing kitchen.

In this way, it is intended that the Dome and new kitchen will set us up to better serve guests for many years ahead and enable us to continue attracting and retaining bookings.

At the time of writing, a development application has been submitted to the Yass Valley Council and we are in the process of finalising costs estimates, tendering for a construction manager, and liaising with the NSW District Church Council prior to the final determination to proceed with the project.

What a strange year it has been. We are incredibly grateful to our supporters who continue to significantly help us in many ways, including our volunteer landscapers, our financial supporters, and those who have prayed for our ministry throughout the year. We thank you for all you have done as partners in our ministry in 2020 as we again put faith in our Lord and Saviour, knowing that He knows what lies ahead for Warrambui in 2021.

God's blessings,
Dean Salzke



Financial Information

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

Income and Expenditure Statement for the period 1 January – 30 September 2020

	Budget 2020	Pro Rata Budget	Actual to 30 Sept
Total Bookings	149	112	22
Occupied Bed Nights - Total	16,535	12,401	2458
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,395,328	\$1,046,496	\$286,624
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,367,459	\$1,025,594	\$560,866
OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS	\$27,869	\$20,902	-\$274,243

With continuing COVID-19 restrictions, the operating loss continued to grow. Expenses have been minimised as much as possible to keep the site ready for operation. School restrictions have been eased for Term 4 so we will see some bookings come through for the next quarter. A contribution to the District through Special Ministry is \$69,699 at September.

Farewell from Caleb & Andrew

CALEB

2020. WELL it has definitely not been a normal year and so as you can imagine the internship wasn't either. Though this year has been really hard, I can see how much I have grown and what this program has taught me. I haven't done normal intern things like TPM camps, or run activities for lots of school groups. I have, however, gotten to help shovel about 100 tonnes of gravel and sand, plant hundreds of native trees, and fix things. None of this is what I had signed up for, but I still loved this opportunity that 'Bui gave me. When the kitchen was running, I loved working there as well, but I got to spend most of my time doing maintenance which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

This year I really feel I have grown spiritually through the Cert IV study. Although it was hard and a lot to take in, I really enjoyed the unit of study about the Bible.

I am grateful for the friends I have made at 'Bui this year and the journey I have had. The internship while unusual this year, has been heaps of fun even though it required a lot of perseverance to get through this year.

-Caleb Stone

ANDREW

As everyone wherever I go keeps saying, 2020 has been the most bizarre, weird, unique, unprecedented year that we have had. Our ARISE internship year for 2020 has been no different. We started out with a quiet yet enthusiastic team of three interns, however, due to different circumstances and the strangeness of the year we will finish with just one intern. As Caleb mentioned in his article above, this has been far from a usual internship year. What I have been so impressed by is the way that Caleb has pressed on through so many different hardships and trials, that aren't just limited to the pandemic. But I have seen him lean on God and place his trust in him to bring him through it all, and I have loved seeing the growth personally and spiritually in him this year.

Over the last few weeks, I have made what is probably one of the hardest decisions of my life. After 5 years of service at Warrambui, my time here is up, and I am ready to pass the baton on to the next person to run this race. I have such a deep heart for this place. Initially, I came here as an 18-year-old and this is where I really "grew-up" in my faith.

10 years later I returned and I've had the privilege of leading 14 young adults through the internship program. I have seen God grow some amazing people during their internship years, and they have each taught me a thing or two along the way! I have been incredibly blessed to be able to call Warrambui my home and work for the last 5 years and I will miss this place so much.

I have faith that God will continue to provide and be faithful for Warrambui, as he always has, and always will. As for my family and I, at the time of writing we are unsure of exactly what's next for us, but we pray he will reveal that to us in his timing as we step out in faith as we continue to follow him. For now, we will return to our "home" in Toowoomba, Qld, sometime early in the new year.

Thank you everyone in the NSW District for your prayer support for the internship program, we know you pray and we can feel your prayers behind us. Continue to pray and uplift this amazing place, and amazing program.

God bless, Andrew.

WARRAMBUI VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP 2021



Let your roots grow down into him...
then your faith will grow strong in the truth. (Col 2:7)

ARISE is a program designed for young adults to experience practical ministry and undertake ministry and theology studies as they learn to serve Jesus and each other while assisting in the operations of Lutheran Retreat and Conference Centre.

Arise focuses on building a faith foundation that is grown by living and serving in Christian Community. Whilst volunteering interns will build their character, further discover their identity in Christ, and explore questions of faith in a supportive Christian environment that will give them a solid foundation for whatever lies ahead.

APPLICATIONS OPEN! APPLY NOW!



SO, if you are (or know) someone who is interested and want to know more about this exciting opportunity please contact Andrew Sharp (Ministry Development Manager) for an information pack:

Phone: (02) 6220 1000
Email: ministry@warrambui.com.au



May God's peace fill
your hearts this
Christmas.



Thank you for your prayers and
support. From the Warrambui
Board and Team



St Paul's College, Walla Walla

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

2020 Valedictory

At the end of Term 3 students and staff acknowledged and celebrated our graduating class of 2020 at the annual Valedictory Service. A special time of memories and gratitude. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, parents and extended family members were only able to attend via Live Streaming—hence, a very unique circumstance and ceremony. May our God bless our graduating class of 2020 and watch over them as they journey forward.



Inclusive Education

Industrial Technology Teacher, Mr Peter Holman has used his building talents to create a garden bed for one of our students Breanna, who uses a wheelchair. It will help her to participate in Agriculture in a practical way.

We look forward to seeing the wonderful plants and vegetables Breanna will produce from her new garden bed.

Chapel Refurbishment

Last term our Chapel underwent a transformation with new seating and carpet. It looks absolutely fantastic!

Our sincere thanks to all who contributed to our Annual Appeal, and to the NSW District Church for their financial support to enable us to refurbish the Chapel.

Another great asset for our community.



Enrolment Growth

The College is experiencing significant growth in enrolments for 2021. We are currently managing a waiting list for Years 9 and 10, and a Year 7 class of around 60 students (in three groups)! This is a new and exciting period for St Paul's as we plan for a great future.

We are encouraging anyone who would like to look at the College or indeed enrol their child for 2022 to get in early – Round 1 intakes for 2022 open 1st February to 30 May 2021. To obtain an enrolment pack please contact our Enrolments Manager, Mrs Joanne Knobel or visit our website: www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au

We're not just a **home** away from home, but a **family** away from family

Girls' Rite Journey Hike

Our Year 9 Girls, with their Rite Journey teachers went on an adventure to explore the local icon, Table Top Mountain. They set off with things to let go of; intentions for the future and an air of wonder and awe.

The morning was spent continuing to build their hiking skills and stamina (after a number of previous hikes); continuing to build relationships and connections with each other and an opportunity to view the spectacular vista from a great vantage point.

Students supported and encouraged each other and enjoyed the ceremony of sharing their painted rocks, the 'solo' time and generally being outdoors. It was a great time of reflection and fun, with many great memories.



Boys' Rite Journey Hike

This term in Boys Rite Journey we have been very lucky to go on multiple excursions. As Outdoor Education was a focus in PE, we have been on many hikes, and we also went orienteering. Hikes through Nail Can Hill and along Bakes Trail were great warm-ups for our full day hike on the 7th of September. We split into two groups where one group went to Red Light Hill, and the other went from the Monument along Nail Can Hill's Ridge Trail to Reedy Dam.

During the day, all students completed a solo time. This was around 60 minutes on our own where we had to reflect on ourselves and how we are travelling. We wrote letters to our Year 12 selves, that we will receive back in three years' time. These letters were based on tips for ourselves, what we would like to have accomplished by then and in the future, and things we plan on doing in between now and then. Some people kept themselves busy and built huts, while others just laid there enjoying the sunshine, listening to the various sounds.

Along the hikes, we had a few tough hills to climb. We all supported one another and covered around 14kms on each of the hikes. It was a great achievement by all, and we had an exciting day in the stunning sunshine. We all enjoyed a day out of the classroom and gaining some extra fitness. Huge thanks to our teachers for coming along with us on the different hikes.

Rory Hamilton, Student



The following Bible study is the second 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 Wednesday 25 November, 7.30pm. Email kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au to register.



Study 2: Alternative Models of Ministry

Diversity in Creation

Scientists have identified there are about 1.5 million different species on earth. All these different species live on this one planet earth. On land and in the sea.

- Guess in which year the most recent new species of butterfly was discovered? (Google 'new species of butterfly')

Unity and Diversity

The Christian faith speaks about unity and also highlights diversity. For example, the bible speaks of the unity of the one true God, but then in the next breath reveals to us the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All one, but all different. Ephesians 4 begins by mentioning one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, but then goes on to say there are diverse and different gifts God has given his church for service.

This wonderful tension between unity and diversity is evident in all creation, in the physical creation and also in the spiritual realm. As humans, we are prone to favour one or the other, unity or diversity. This causes problems in the world and the church. A healthy community respects both unity and diversity and keeps them in healthy tension.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

- Can you recall a time when unity and diversity came to loggerheads in your church? Why? What was the solution?

Bible Passages

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

1 Corinthians 12:1-31
Ephesians 4: 7-13
Romans 12:1-13
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 15:1-21

- What does this passage say about walking with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- What does this text say about walking with other believers?
- How might alternative models of ministry support God's mission and ministry in our district?
- How might alternative models of ministry be expressed in our context, both locally and church wide?

Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God in three. We see your diversity in your creation, but are so often threatened in the church when not everyone is just like us. Give us a new appreciation for your amazing creation of the church, with all its diversity. May your Holy Spirit keep us all united in this one true faith. Amen

Walk My Way – Sydney style

- 40,000+ steps
- More than \$6800 raised
- Over 27km walked
- 13 people
- 8 hours
- 1 goal

COVID-19 saw many cancellations of the ALWS Walk My Way fundraiser, although some Lutheran schools managed to complete it in-house.

John Klingberg, organiser of the LifeWay Bushwalkers, and his wife



Bronwyn participated in the first *Walk my Way* event in South Australia. John planned for a group to support ALWS with a walk through the streets of Sydney. COVID-19 restrictions in NSW had been eased for some weeks, so the group was fortunate to be able to attempt this fundraiser.

A fine and cool day greeted the group on Sunday September 27. They assembled at St Pauls Lutheran Church (near Hyde Park) at 8am, and after prayer and a blessing by Pastor Richard Schwedes, set off to walk to LifeWay Lutheran Church, Epping.

After leaving the busy main roads of central Sydney, the

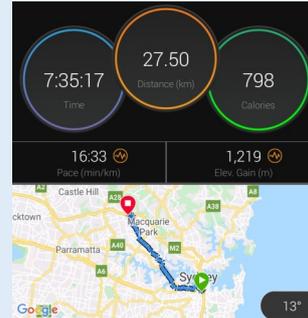


route followed many back streets and green areas, as well as crossing six bridges, and finished the final few kilometres through native bushland.

At about 4pm the team trudged wearily into the LifeWay carpark, for well-earned refreshments, followed by worship.

The goal of supporting many refugee students was achieved, and we hope to make this an annual event.

Mark Simpfendorfer



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

	Location	Pastors and leaders	Congregation/s
February	7 Central West NSW	Pr James Leach - <i>Adele, Amelia, Keziah, Zeek, Eliora, Netanya, Tobias</i> Brant Waterson (Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator, Orange) <i>Elizabeth, Calhon, Anastasia</i>	St John's Forbes St Peter's Orange St Paul's Parkes
	14 Gilgandra/Dubbo	Pr Joseph Graham – <i>Rehab Nathaniel, Karissa</i>	St Mark's Dubbo St John's Gilgandra Preaching place Nyngan
	21 Gunnedah/Tamworth	David Jarman (lay worker) - <i>Nicole</i>	Trinity Gunnedah St Paul's Tamworth
	28 Leeton/Griffith	<i>vacant</i> (Pr Ian Kotzur, locum)	St Paul's Griffith St John's Leeton
March	7 Temora	Pr Darren Kupke - <i>Lee-Anne, Zakea</i>	Trinity Temora Zion Trungley Hall Chapel on the Hill
	14 West Wyalong	Pr Darren Kupke - <i>Lee-Anne, Zakea</i>	Immanuel West Wyalong
	21 Bass Hill Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen	Sydney Finnish
	28 Sydney Chinese	Francis Leung - <i>Peggy</i>	Lutheran Church of Blessing
April	4 Campbelltown	Pr Hans Peethala (part time) – <i>Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa</i>	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	11 Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste - <i>Tina, Matthew, Scarlet</i>	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	18 Chinese	<i>vacant</i>	Chinese Lutheran Pennant Hills
	25 Estonian	Pr Allan Taruste - <i>Tina, Matthew, Scarlet</i>	St John's Estonian Sydney St Peter's Estonian Canberra

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>



Upcoming Events

- November 20 - 22** **Young Adults Retreat**
Warrambui, Ages 16+
- November 25** **'Walking Together' Bible Study**
Zoom online meeting
- 2021**
- January 17** **Leadership Training Evening**
Warrambui, Ages 16+
- January 18 - 21** **History Makers A ***
Warrambui, Years 10-12
- January 21 - 24** **History Makers B ***
Warrambui, Years 7-9
- April 1 - 4** **Easter Camp ***
Warrambui, Ages 13+
- April 15 - 17** **Pastor's Wives Retreat**
'Precious' The Abbey, Jamberoo

*** These are proposed dates for camps, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Please check tpm.org.au for any updates.**

Contact Newsletter

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

Stamps for Mission warmly invites your contribution to this wonderful outreach arm of the Lutheran Church of Australia. Many people in our region of the world who have not known our Saviour Jesus Christ are able to be found through a variety of courses and translation projects sponsored by the Lutheran Church Overseas Mission. Projects in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar this year.

Since its beginning nearly \$447,000 has been raised.

So you can see that the humble postage stamp has wonderful potential.

Marie Hamann NSW Representative

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

Celebrate Ordination 2020 via livestream

Join us at

<https://livestream.com/luthworship/ordination>

on Sunday 6 December
at 2.00pm (ACST).



Assisting regional people coming to Sydney

If you are coming to Sydney for hospital treatment 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



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 the freecall number 1800 644 628

Email complaints@lca.org.au

or write to

Confidential, PO Box 519,
Marden SA 5070