



“
*The mission
field is now
all around us*
”

Walking Together in Mission



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

Walking together

Jenny and I really enjoy going on walks in the Sydney regional bush. When we were living in the Blue Mountains we finished 25 of the many different walks in the area. Now that we are living in North West Sydney we are progressively doing the walks nearby.

The walks in the Sydney urban area are amazing in that when you enter the bush and walk in the valleys and gullies, you lose all sense that you are in suburbia. You could be hundreds of kilometers away from the city, but in fact you are right in the middle of it.

Walking in the bush usually holds some risk. Whether it is acquiring some unwanted leeches or coming across a snake. Then there is the ever present risk of falling off the edge of a cliff or ledge, getting trapped as you climb under a fallen log, or even ending up in a stream or river by mistake. You must keep alert. But the risk and adventure is what also makes it exciting! The



only way to minimize that risk is to walk with someone you know and not go alone.

Mission

Fulfilling the mission of Christ today is exciting and challenging. In the past, mission occurred far away overseas. We gave donations so that someone else would go on the adventure. But 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.

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“
*Jesus
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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 Peter Ghalayini (Ringwood, Vic) has declined the call to Wagga Wagga.
- Pastor Tim Muller (Columbus Ohio, USA) has accepted the call to Woden, ACT.

Installation

- Danny Brock was installed on 2 August at LifeWay Epping as the new Church Planter for Western Sydney.

Birth

- Pastor Hans Peethala (Liverpool) and Cynderella welcomed a baby girl, Carissa Zarah, born on August 7, a sister for Ethan and Yamiyah.

This is challenging to those of us who have never seen ourselves as missionaries. Jesus is calling us to learn new skills, and new ways of communicating with those outside the church. We have to risk stepping out and speaking up and we might end up sounding and looking like dummies.

As with physical walks, being on God's mission is best undertaken when we are working with others on the goal. They can help us reflect on whether that was the best thing to say. How could you communicate better with that unbelieving person? What might you say and when is the best time to bring up the topic of faith? Do you wait patiently or do you speak up immediately? So many things are uncertain, but with the help of others we can give it a go.

The NSW and ACT District at its synod in 2020 said yes to doing mission together. We call it the **Strategic Plan:**

Walking together in Mission.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands his church to go to all the nations and make disciples, baptizing and teaching in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. We are called to go into the world and introduce people to Jesus. Just like walking in the bush, obeying Christ's command together brings much joy, and doing it

“Christ walks with us”

with others works best.

When the task Christ has given us, seems too overwhelming, we can encourage each other to keep going. When we do not have the resources, others can assist us. When things go wrong we can help each other to get up and try again.

But the best news of all is that it is not only us humans walking together, but it is Christ who walks with us. Matthew 28:20 ends with Christ saying “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Christ walks with us. What more encouragement do we need to embrace the task of mission.

In the early church when 3000 new believers put their faith in Jesus as Lord, they immediately gathered together to learn more of the teachings of Jesus, to partake in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and to cling to each other for support. Jesus was present with them in his word and through his sacrament. As we embark on this walk in mission together may we be heartened and strengthened knowing we walk together with Christ in the mission God has given us to do.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series



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

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm on Zoom

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

Installation of Church Planter for Sydney

‘Can we go to a Lutheran Church?’

My wife, Michelle, grew up in Malaysia with a grandfather who would take the whole family to a Lutheran church every week, so whenever we found ourselves ‘between churches’ she would ask ‘that’ question.

I was born into an Anglican family, was baptised and confirmed but can’t remember going to church ever. I do remember an apologetical conversation at the age of five or six, which started with the strong argument of ‘If you don’t believe in God..’, and ended with the rebuttal of ‘why don’t you become a priest?’

My answer is a vivid memory, one I believe marked my life from then on, ‘I will!’ I replied with all the fortitude and assurance one could muster at such a young age.

At 21 I was recommended to re-establish a youth ministry in a church on the other side of the planet, in the mountains of Southern California.

For the past 30 years I have been involved in pioneering or re-establishing ministries in three countries, USA, Australia and Canada; from youth ministries to young adult ministries to churches.

I moved to Winnipeg, Canada in 1997 where I established a city wide Young Adult Ministry, helped ‘repot’ a Vineyard church, met a nice Lutheran girl, and then, with her help, we set about planting a University Church.

Michelle and I were married at a surprise wedding in that church plant in April 2007. We welcomed our first son into our family in July 2008 and then

followed him up with another son in December 2012.

After becoming Canadian citizens on the 1st of April 2014, we moved to Australia on December 26th that same year.

Continued next page



Danny and Michelle Brock, with their sons Dylan and Cody

Walking Together in Mission - Introducing our new logo

Imagine a church where all its decisions, energies and activities are focused on God's Mission.

Imagine a church where every congregation, school, aged care facility, ministry group and agency support, encourage, complement and work together in being active in God's mission.

Our new logo for Walking Together in Mission is designed to encourage and remind us that as NSW and ACT District this is not just an imagination, but this is our intention as how to be church in NSW and ACT.

Our central focus 'Walking Together in Mission' means:

- God's Mission is our central focus
- God's Mission is affecting our decisions, energies and activities
- God's Mission brings us together, where we encourage, support, complement and work together.

For our Walking Together in Mission to move from being something we imagine to becoming a reality, we are prioritising our decisions, energies, resources and activities around

six priorities:

Alternative Models - encouraging congregations and ministries to develop ways of being God's missionaries in their communities with God's Gospel. As our communities differ so will the way we look and act in being a church of God's word and sacrament.

Supporting - supporting each other in mission and ministry.

Transitioning - we are living in a changing environment; our congregations and ministries are going through changes and as a district we are aiming to help congregations and ministries change in healthy and God pleasing ways.

Planting and Renewing Congregations - working with LCA new and renewing churches we are looking at church planting opportunities and to assist congregations in being renewed.

Networking and Connecting - as the body of Christ, spread throughout NSW and ACT, we see that it is essential that we intentionally network and connect with each other to fulfill God's Mission.



Leadership - Leadership teams led by the Bishop will be put into place to lead and guide us in Walking Together.

Our Walking Together in Mission logo will appear regularly throughout our District, reminding us of our focus of being Christians walking together, focussing on God's mission in the variety of different environments in NSW and ACT.

Pr Richard Schwedes

After about four and a half years helping at a church location plant in Ipswich, Queensland, Michelle applied for and was offered a position in Western Sydney.

Who would have thought or even imagined that a move to Western Sydney in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, while borders were closing and cities were in lockdown, that at the same time the Lutheran Church NSW and ACT District were praying for God to send someone to plant a church in Western Sydney! Or that the request of 'Can we go to a Lutheran Church' made time and time again by a good Lutheran girl would be an opportunity for God to move!

If you're reading this and the thought of being involved in the

creation of something new for God makes your heart beat faster, or the 'still small voice' of the Spirit is whispering to you to help plant a church, or even if you think that the whole idea of stepping into the unknown of church planting is for someone else then you can be involved. Whether by joining our Western Sydney church planting team, joining our new church, or even giving financially towards the district's church planting initiative, you can be involved in what God is doing in the Lutheran Church.

Danny Brock
danny.brock@lifeway.net.au

Danny was installed at LifeWay Epping on 2 August by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus and Pr Mark Schultz, as a church planter based in western Sydney.

Lutheran Church of Australia NSW and ACT District

At the District Convention of Synod in Walla Walla in March this year, the Synod resolved that the NSW District register a trade name as determined by the District Church Council which includes the Australian Capital Territory, and that the District conduct its activities under this trade name.

The DCC resolved at their May meeting, and we have now registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission the new District name 'Lutheran Church of Australia, NSW and ACT District'. We will now be rolling out the new name, logo and branding over the coming weeks.



ABN 55 137 191 133

DCC

Artwork rescued from Concord House

Almost a year after the sale of Concord House had been settled and vacated by District Office staff, a significant artwork has been saved from the building, and transported to its new home at St Paul's College, Walla Walla.

Ward Westphal, member of District Church Council and Woden congregation knew of the large painting, and felt it upon his heart to enquire about whether the new owners would permit the district to reclaim it.

On Thursday 4 June 2020, Ward and long-time friend Grant Rollinson drove from Canberra to Sydney to remove the painting. Grant has experience in packing and transporting artwork. Mark Simpfordorfer also helped out on the day. They secured it onto the back tray of Grant's restored '90 VW Transporter. A week later Ward and Grant delivered the painting to St Paul's College Walla Walla and hung it in the reception office area.

The artist, Leanne Stahl has compiled her story of 'Your Word Gives Life'.

Painting commissioned



Leanne Stahl

Two things came together for me as an emerging artist in early 1995. First, I had completed in the previous year a *Bachelor of Arts - Visual Arts* at the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur. Second, I was commissioned to do a painting for the two-storey foyer wall at Concord House that was large, visually bright and conveying a Christian message. My husband, Rolly Stahl, was the pastor of Liverpool Lutheran Church at the time.

In my final Uni year, I began exploring a new theme in my paintings - *The Word*, featuring biblical images that came alive for me. For the Concord House painting, I was led to a theme of 'Delighting in the Word', based on ideas and images from Psalms 119 and Psalm 19, Proverbs, Isaiah, Hebrews 4:12, and 1 Peter.

Painting process

The painting is 305 x 200cm, larger than a table tennis table. Rolly constructed the frame by gluing three panels of craft-wood onto a pine frame.

For both text and texture, I cut out 1052 small letters out of canvas, and 30 large letters from mountboard for the words. The large shapes were also cut from mountboard. After sealing the surface with a white undercoat called "gesso", I drew up the design. Then I glued all the letters and shapes onto the surface - and sealed them with gesso. Now it was ready to paint! I'm unsure of the hours, but it took around 6 months to complete.

Installation and Dedication

The painting was installed in March 1996. It wasn't easy. The 6 metre wall space had a staircase in front. The painting hangs on batons made from two C section rails that hook together. The baton/rails are recycled alloy floor tracking that aeroplane seats are bolted to, sourced from Mascot airport.

The painting was dedicated on Friday 29th March 1996. It remained hanging at Concord House until June 2020, even after the building was sold in December 2015 and with a delayed settlement handed over to the new owners in October 2018. District staff continued in the office as tenants for another 9 months, and finally vacated in July 2019.

Meanwhile Rolly and I moved from Liverpool in Sydney to Woden in Canberra; and then to Para Vista in Adelaide where we currently live.

The story continues...

For 24 years this painting has belonged to the NSW District. Thank



'Your Word Gives Life' by Leanne Stahl

you Ward, Grant and Mark for its relocation. I'm grateful it has a new home and pray it is a blessing at St Paul's College.

As an artist, I am still painting on the theme of God's Word. I've undertaken various commissions and been involved in exhibitions. Over the past 4 years I've been organising exhibitions with other artists from our congregation as part of the *South Australia Living Artists Festival* each August.

This painting - *Your Word Gives Life* - is significant because it marked the beginning - and confirmed God's calling - for me to paint on themes from God's Word. This calling has not changed to this day.

My paintings are a visual contemplative prayer journal flowing from my quiet times with God, and are lessons He is using to shape me. I find that years after a painting is completed, I am nowhere near mastering the lesson of that painting; whether it be *Remaining in the Vine*, or *Living in God's Joy*, or *Sheltering in His Wings* and not living in fear. God's Word - in the journal of my paintings - is still teaching and moulding me, because 'the Word of God is living and active' (Hebrews 4:12).

Leanne Stahl



Ward Westphal and Mark Simpfordorfer



The painting's new home at St Paul's College

New members on District Church Council

Malcolm Hall



Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Malcolm Hall. I am the Church Planter for St Luke's Lutheran Church in Albury. I am 51yrs old, married to Celia my wife of 30yrs. We have three children, two are adults now.

Our 15yr old is a student at St Paul's College at Walla Walla – where she really enjoys her high school experience.

As one of the newest members of NSW and ACT District Church Council, I am humbled to be part of an accomplished and talented team of Christians. I hope through faith in Christ, that my experiences as a church planter can be extended to other congregations within our District. To not only plant new churches, but also reignite the confidence in older congregations so they too can participate with God in His missional harvest (Luke 10:1-12).

I would like to leave you with a quote from a famous missiologist David Bosh:

“Mission is not primarily an activity of the church, but an attribute of God. It is not the church that has a mission of salvation to fulfill in the world: it is the mission of the Son and Spirit through the Father that includes the church.”

Mission is thereby seen as a movement from God to the world; the church is viewed as an instrument for that mission. There is church because there is mission, not vice versa”.

May God continue to bless all every day.

Malcolm Hall

Joanne Knobel

Joanne Knobel was elected to DCC at District Synod in March 2020, and is a current member of Mt Zion Lutheran Church, Walla Walla with her husband Rodger and sons, Jack (14) and Daniel (12). Joanne moved to the Riverina in 2003 from Sydney, meeting Rodger 'on the tractor' and settling on their farm in Alma Park.



Joanne Knobel

Joanne was introduced to the Lutheran Church after she started working at St Paul's College, initially as the Principal's secretary, and now as the Enrolment, Marketing & Event Manager. As a Christian since her mid 20's, Joanne was attracted to the foundational message of the Lutheran church - grace and forgiveness. Joanne and her family started a long association with St John's Chapel Jindera, embracing the contemporary approach to sharing the gospel, but still being connected and honouring the traditions of

the Lutheran Church. Joanne served the church as kids church co-ordinator, elder, worship leader and moved into the position of the Burrumbuttock Parish Administrator for 7 years.

Joanne brings a diverse background to DCC, with Human Resources experience, church administration, event management, leadership and communication skills along with a Certificate IV in Ministry which was funded by a full scholarship received from the LCA.

Joanne serves currently as a board member at St Paul's Lutheran Primary School Henty, and previously as President of the Parent & Friend Association. She is an accredited School Scripture Teacher and has taught SRE at a local primary school for 6 years. Joanne's passion is seeing the eyes of young children light up with the message of love and hope that Jesus brings them – sharing this message using puppets, plays and song.

As a new DDC member, Joanne hopes to bring a fresh view on how the gospel can reach young families and young people in these challenging times we find ourselves. “Young people today take in messages in such a new and unknown way to most of us! With the use of technology, social media and the way we gather, the good news has the potential to reach so many people. The gospel can stay the same, how it is presented is the challenge for us to all embrace”.

Joanne Knobel

District Church Council news

Western Sydney Church Plant

The District Church Council at a special meeting in July resolved to support a Western Sydney Church Planting project. The project will be overseen by the Lifeway congregation and as part of the project Danny Brock has been employed to lead the plant. We would encourage you to pray for this new planting venture as it slowly takes shape.

Sydney Indonesian Lutheran Church loan

The DCC have resolved to provide the Sydney Indonesian Lutheran Church a \$20,000 interest free loan from the Mission Development Fund to under-

take some capital works on their church property at Yagoona.

St Paul's College loans

Given the LLL's reduction in loan interest rates, the DCC decided to match the LLL Loan interest rate for the loans they have extended to St Paul's College.

Bishop's manse solar panels

At the initiative of the bishop and in the interests of sustainability and stewardship, the DCC approved the installation of solar panels to the bishop's manse. In doing so it was recognized that this also enhances the value of this District asset.

Grant application process

The District Church Council have endorsed a new Grant Proposal process that involves grants being approved in three stages. First by the District Mission Team, then being sent through to the Finance Advisory Committee for financial review, and then finally being presented to the District Church Council. This three stage process will ensure that grant applications fit with our strategic plan.

Live Streaming Grants

The District Church Council resolved to support livestreaming in several congregations across the District as

Continued next page

Professional Standards



What a time our world is going through. COVID 19 has turned life 'upside-down' in so many ways for us all. As many of you are or will be returning to public worship in our church buildings, this has required more planning and preparation than perhaps we've taken into account previously. Our District office have been supplying many pieces of information to pastors and congregational/parish leadership, that include the requirements that Government health departments have given to be able to meet again in a public environment. It is, more than ever, important to be communicating these to our members so that everyone can make informed choices about returning to public worship. Many people are not yet able to do that for health reasons, therefore the extra work that has gone into recorded or live streamed or printed services, is I'm sure, greatly appreciated.

In the June edition of Contact, I spoke about online safety measures and made mention of LCA Policies and Procedures that are relevant to that environment. I would encourage congregational leadership to become familiar with those and other relevant policies in the continued planning and delivery of ministries that may be online for some time to come.

I recently sent information to pastors and congregational leadership members in the ACT regarding new laws that will come into effect in April 2021.

These new laws have a specific focus on the protection of vulnerable adults. We need to remember in our planning of activities, to take into account the needs of the people involved in those activities, not because our governing jurisdiction asks us to do that, but because each person that attends any of our activities is a person worthy of our attention, a gift from God to us.

The week of 6th-12th September 2020, is **National Child Protection Week**. NAPCAN (National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) will be holding events to mark this, although many of their events will now become online events. The theme this year is **'Putting children first....'** and this was front of mind when the National Child Protection Week campaign was launched in **1990**, with the aim of bringing abuse and neglect out of the shadows and putting child wellbeing on the national agenda. This year's theme of 'Putting children first' invites Australians to look at how we prioritise children and their lives and communities – as individuals, as part of families, organisations, communities and society. To grow up well, children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them and access to essential things like, food, shelter and healthcare.

Perhaps this means that we can recognise and promote the things that we can or are doing right now to put chil-

dren's safety and wellbeing first.

We can reflect on the past and look ahead and think of where we need to focus our attention into the future.....or perhaps it might be a bit of all the above.

I recently read in an article that 'policies alone do not keep children and young people safe'.

Safe Church training – Level 1 is at this time still not able to be delivered in face-to-face workshops. There is the alternate option to do the training online. If you think that this method is for you, then I encourage you to register for the iLearn training. Go to the LCA website and follow the links through Professional Standards Training to the LCA Safe Church Training page. Scroll down for information and links to the online training.

If you are due for **Refresher** training, this can also be accessed on the LCA website, through links on the Safe Church Training page.

God's blessings to you all,

Carolyn Kiss, LCA NSW
Professional Standards Officer

0457 770 100
carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au

Continued from page 5

many other congregations link into these live streams. So far, a grant of \$15,604 has been approved for St Paul's Sydney to install a permanent livestream system in their church. A grant of \$5900 has been approved for the Walla Walla Parish to allow them to set up a quality mobile livestream system.

Bass Hill Finnish Lutheran Church Manse

As part of the agreement to continue to support the Finnish Lutheran Ministry in Sydney, the DCC agreed to buy a further 1% interest in the Bass Hill Manse. This agreement helps the Finnish Lutheran Church free up capital to be able to support ministry in the short to medium term.

NSW District Share Investment

The District Church Council resolved to undertake the investment strategy as proposed by the Finance Advisory Committee. The investment strategy includes investment in a range of ethical investments in both Australian and international shares, as part of good stewardship of the resources with which the District has been supplied. The long term proposal is to invest \$5M in international shares index funds and \$8M in a range of Australian index funds. Given the current market this is to be a staged investment, to be evaluated on a regular basis. At this time the District has invested \$1.6M in the Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund and \$1.6M in Vanguard Investments Aus-

tralian Shares Index Fund, a further \$1,666,667 has been invested in Vanguard Investments International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund.

Board Appointments

Pastor Garry Kenney has been appointed as the Pastor representative on the Lutheran Aged Care Albury Board.

Brianna O'Keeffe and Brian Giles-Browne have been appointed to the Warrambui Board.

David Walsh and Kelly Nadebaum have been appointed to the St Pauls College Board.

Russell Veerhuis, for DCC



WARRAMBUI NEWS

September 2020

Prayer Points

- Pray for Interns Imogen and Adam as they return to their homes and to what God is calling them to next
- Pray for recruitment for senior staff positions
- God's wisdom in planning. Strength and peace for staff in difficult times

Praise Points

- For the group that stayed in July and others coming later in the year
- For the support from Christian Venues Association during this season
- For the rain and the green hills around Warrambui

Director's Update

2020 continues to be a challenging year at Warrambui, as we navigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

At the time of writing, Warrambui has only hosted one group in the past five months, with only another one or two groups expected before the end of September. Despite having 217 beds, we are also currently limited to a maximum group size of 40 guests under the four square metre rule.

In this time of challenge, we continue to seek God's will and keep working towards improving our operations and facilities to better serve groups, and be a place of ministry, long into the future.

We have, of course, developed and implemented COVID-19 Safety Plans to be able to host groups in the current environment. This has included the installation of perspex screens at our serveries and setting up sanitisation stations at the entrances to our venues.

Hosting the group in late July provided us with a valuable

opportunity to implement these Safety Plans. It was also a much appreciated opportunity for staff to experience some "normality" and provide excellent service to guests.

In July we farewelled our amazing Maintenance Manager, Josh Weber. Josh had been with us since early 2016 and we, as a team, are very sad to see him go. Josh's strong work ethic, integrity and quality workmanship, as well as his sense of fun and his infectious laugh, will mean he is sorely missed. I have greatly appreciated the work Josh has done during his time at Warrambui, particularly his commitment to improving facilities and grounds, making lasting positive change, and increasing safety for staff and guests. We wish Josh, his wife Thea, and young son Isaiah God's richest blessings for their future.

In order to assist us whilst we recruit to fill this position, and with other upcoming projects, we are seeking specialist volunteers with trades and other various skills and qualifications.



I have called you by name; now you belong to me.
When you cross deep rivers, I will be with you,
and you won't drown.
When you walk through fire, you won't be burned
or scorched by the flames. Isaiah 43:1b-2

Please see the notice on this page if you are potentially interested in volunteering to support our ministry.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we were unable to hold the Tree Planting day we had planned for 2 August in conjunction with Greening Australia. Staff and interns have continued planting native trees in the high erosion risk areas of the former pine forest and another Tree Planting day is being planned for 2021 to further rehabilitate the area.

We continue to progress with investigations and planning towards a

possible refurbishment of the Dome, and to seek God's guidance as we consider and work through the potential scope and timing of this project.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have been blessed by support from the Christian Venues Association (CVA). As the peak body for Christian Camping in Australia, the CVA has provided advice, support and assistance to us and Campsites around the country. We thank God for their hard work and support during this difficult time.

We also thank you for your continued prayers and support. We humbly ask that as we continue moving forward in this strange and unsettled time, that you keep Warrambui, our staff, and our ministry in your prayers.

God's blessings,

Dean

Centre Director



Specialist Volunteers Register

Warrambui is seeking specialist volunteers to assist with specific activities and projects. If you have trade and specialist skills or qualifications, and are interested in supporting Warrambui's ministry, please contact us and register to be informed of upcoming opportunities where we could use your expertise.

We are currently seeking people with skills and qualifications in:

- Trades and construction
- Chainsaw operation and tree-felling

To register please e-mail operations@warrambui.com.au or call us on (02) 6220 1000.

Our Supporters' Newsletter provides updates on Warrambui happening and upcoming general volunteering opportunities. To receive the Supporter's Newsletter please email supporters@warrambui.com.au

Financial Information

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

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

	Budget 2020	Pro Rata Budget	Actual to 31 July
Total Bookings	149	75	20
Occupied Bed Nights - Total	16,535	8268	2115
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,395,328	\$697,664	\$241,472
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,367,459	\$685,230	\$438,298
OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS	\$27,869	\$12,434	-\$196,826

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the operating loss has continued to grow, at \$196,826 at the end of June. Government support has helped reduce the second quarter loss. A contribution to the District through Special Ministry is \$47,982.

Ministry Update

What an interesting year it has been! There have been so many changes around the world, our country, our state, Warrambui, and the ARISE Warrambui intern program, even since the last issue of this magazine in June.

Since then, we have farewelled two of our three interns for this year. Adam left us to return to his family in Clarence Town in early June, and Imogen left us to return home to Tumbarumba in late July. We have loved journeying with these amazing young people who came to us and served alongside us for part of an unexpectedly difficult year. Even in the 6 months they were here they learnt and grew so much, and in ways that were completely not anticipated. We pray that they are continually aware of God's presence with them as they take their next steps in their continual journey with him.

With Adam and Imogen gone, that leaves Caleb left. We are so grateful for the way that Caleb has persevered through a very trying year, and despite losing two of his fellow interns he is choosing to continue on serving God and Warrambui for the remainder of the year. Things have, and will continue to look very different with him as the sole intern, but we are so thankful for his faithfulness and look forward to see the ways that God is going to continue to grow him, and the different opportunities that this year will provide for him and us.



As always, we are very thankful for your prayer support for the ARISE internship program, and at this time we ask that you continue to pray for Caleb .

Blessings,

Andrew Sharp – Ministry Development Manager

P.S The interns did manage to have some fun together while they were here as the photos show!



WARRAMBUI VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP 2021



ARISE

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





TURNING POINT MINISTRIES

Faith filled events, growing disciples of Jesus Christ.

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

2020 has been a very different year for Turning Point Ministries. We are thankful for our parents, campers and leaders for their patience and understanding as they have worked with us during this time. Unfortunately, we have had to announce that we will not be running Back2Base in the October school holidays. We had also hoped to run Junior Youth Camp in this break, which cannot happen either. Our foremost priority apart from sharing the Gospel is the health and safety of our campers and volunteer leaders who attend our camps. We are watching the restrictions and COVID-19 scenario very closely and note that our attendees come from a range of regions - Sydney, ACT, and the Riverina - and the potential risks in bringing us all together again.

Turning Point Ministries has put together some clear guidelines that will need to be in place to ensure the ongoing health and safety of our attendees before we step back into camping again. We are hoping to run **Young Adults Retreat in November** if restrictions allow us to do so safely. At this stage we are working towards our Summer camping program with a hope that we will be back camping in full next year.

BETTERBLOKESNETWORKUPDATE

The annual Better Blokes Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 this year, however the organising team took the opportunity to launch the Better Blokes Network, a chance to hear quality teaching online and interact with others via breakout rooms and elective sessions. This proved to be a successful time and there are plans to hold more similar events in the near future. Check the Resource section of the Better Blokes website for recordings and testimonials of our events. www.betterblokes.com



We are monitoring government restrictions closely. These are proposed event dates. Please keep an eye on our website, social media and emails for updated information.

All camps are held at Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre unless otherwise stated.

Young Adults Retreat

20 - 22 Nov 2020

Ages 16+

Leadership Camp

8 - 10 January

Ages 16+

History Makers

11 - 15 January

Ages 10 to 16

Easter Camp

1 - 4 April

Ages 13+

Better Blokes

11 - 14 June

Blokes of all ages

Junior Youth Camp

9 - 11 July

Grades 3 to 6

Sisterhood

20 - 22 August

Women of all ages

Back2Base

27 September - 1 October

Grades 7 to 12

Young Adults Retreat

19 - 21 November

Ages 16+



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE

The College of **St. Paul's**

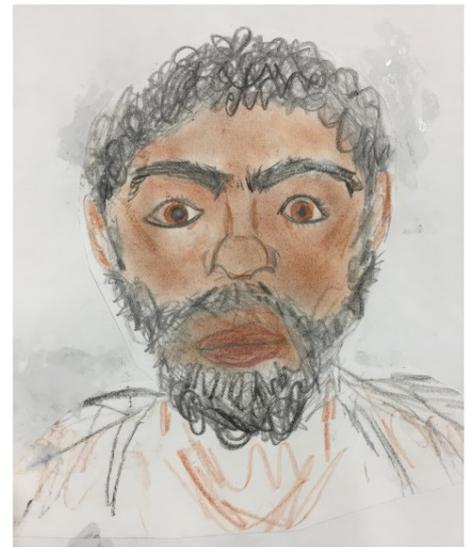
Whoever **you** are, whatever **your** story, **you're** welcome here with us.

Teaching : **Christian studies**

Students in Year 8 Christian Studies have recently completed a unit of work on the life of Jesus. They were challenged to research the social and cultural context in which Jesus lived, and to draw conclusions about how he chose to respond to people and events. The task involved using a Blooms Taxonomy grid to complete several options for a portfolio that required a variation of research and presentation methods.

One of the examples is shown here by **Heath Norris** from Year 8. *"I have drawn Jesus as a middle eastern person because that is where he was born. Most of the pictures I have seen in books and on the internet show Jesus as a Caucasian with blue eyes and long light brown hair. Israel is the middle east where Jesus was working as a carpenter... He was poor so I have drawn Jesus as an imperfect, rugged faced man that looks like he works hard and is poor".*

Other results included dance, puppet plays, musical compositions, created crossword puzzles, memory games on the life of Jesus, worship running sheets, drawings and modelling.



Mission : **Raising awareness**

Year 12 student **Sarah Benoy** is vision impaired, which has never stopped her from following her passions and dreams at St Paul's

Sarah is currently undertaking a leadership and employment preparation program through Vision Australia. Sarah, together with the School Representative Council (SRC) held a charity event for Vision Australia. Sarah chose the theme "Black, White and Grey" as it relates to her vision impairment (Achromotopsia) which is characterised by a lack of colour vision and sees her world only as shades of these tones.

The day consisted of several activities and a lunchtime sausage sizzle. It was fantastic to see such participation with almost every student wearing black, white and grey and buying food! In partnership with the SRC, Sarah and the team raised over \$750 for Vision Australia. This money will go towards providing services to people who are blind or have low vision. Great work!



Boarding enrolments are still open for 2021

FULL-TIME, WEEKLY AND FLEXI BOARDING OPTIONS

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

 **Vision Australia**
Blindness. Low Vision. Opportunity.



St Paul's College **VIRTUAL Junior Beef Judging Comp!**

Innovation : Agriculture students leading the way

Agriculture students are keeping up with the challenges of this year by holding their first virtual beef judging competition for schools across the country.

Livestock Show Team manager Emma Finemore is co-ordinating with students, and so far, schools from all over Australia have registered!

The students will be given videos of cattle to watch and judge on August 20th and will have two weeks to judge the cattle. This is a wonderful initiative by the students and Ms Finemore which showcases our agriculture passion and programs. Watch this space for the results!



Future : Regeneration farming

Our Year 7 Regeneration Agricultural team have had their first lesson with Nutrition Agronomist, Steve Petrie. Students discussed what “regenerative agriculture” is and what it means to them. Students were involved in plant health checks and earth worm explorations. In the following weeks, they will explore testing the soil for pH and structure. Many of these students participating received an Agriculture Scholarship for three years, and this program supports their love of learning all things ag.



Personal growth : Semester one honours awards

Congratulations to our six recipients, who were presented with their awards on the last day of Term 2. These students have displayed the Lutheran Education values of love : justice : compassion : forgiveness : service : courage : humility : hope.

Pictured from left to right are—

Paige Koschitzke, Year 11

Tom Lieschke, Year 9

Jack Kotzur, Year 10

Ethan Stead, Year 12

Makaela Scheetz, Year 7

Picture separately is **Charlotte Foster, Year 8**



LLL appoints new CEO - Ross Smith

The LLL warmly welcomes Ross Smith as its new Chief Executive Officer, who will take over from Allen Kupke when he retires later this year.

Ross has been CEO of the Anglican Schools Corporation in NSW for four years. He is also Chair of the Glebe Administration Board, which oversees a \$220m investment fund for the Anglican Church in Sydney and was previously also Chair of the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat.

"It's a terrific opportunity to put to missional use all of the experience and skills that God has enabled me to develop over time," Ross said.

Ross comes from a strong finance and management background, with his career shaped by significant involvement in corporate restructuring and work in mergers and acquisitions in Australia, Silicon Valley and London. His corporate credentials include financial sector roles at KPMG, PwC and McGrath Nicol.

He has led the Anglican Schools Corporation, which oversees 14,500 students, since 2016.

Ross is keen to get to know the team at the LLL and the wider Lutheran community ahead of setting strategic goals.

"I'm very conscious that the LLL is the custodian of funds that have been provided by people who are seeking to have their money work in accordance with Lutheran beliefs. We're not just an ADI (Authorised Deposit-taking Institution), and I want to see that deployment of funds with a Lutheran missional approach continues," Ross said.

LLL Board Chair Graeme Huf welcomed the appointment and said Ross would bring new insights to the financial institution.

"The LLL is at the heart of the Lutheran Church in Australia and Ross brings with him great leadership abilities, strong and proven financial acumen, and a deep understanding of how Christianity shapes organisations," Graeme said.

"He understands missional purpose

and the LLL Board looks forward to Ross' engagement with our LLL customers, the Lutheran Church and the communities the LLL supports."

The LLL would like to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and achievements of Allen Kupke, who will be retiring as Ross takes the helm.

After joining the LLL in 1988, Allen held various roles until being appointed as CEO in 2008. During his time, Allen oversaw the growth of deposits from \$560m in June 2009 to \$1.28 billion at June 30 this year. Allen also guided the LLL through the five-year transition from being a Religious Charitable Development Fund to an ADI.



Ross Smith

The LLL wishes Allen God's richest blessings for a fulfilling retirement.

LLL Promotions



You can't go to church but you can still contribute to God's work in the world.

Contact your treasurer about setting up direct debit via REG.

- REG is a **convenient, safe and confidential** way of giving a regular offering to your congregation.
- Your REG offering can come from your **bank, credit union or LLL account**.
- You can set up REG to coincide with your regular income (eg salary, pension, dividends) or budget: **weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or even half-early**.
- **REG keeps things confidential**. Your congregation doesn't receive any information regarding your identity or the amount of your offering.

How REG benefits your congregation

- Provides a regular income flow, making budgeting easier
- Can increase giving through the convenience of direct debits
- Safer because there is less cash to handle and bank each week

To check out the benefits of REG and to register: www.lca.org.au/REG



Finance with a mission

Walking together IN MISSION

The following Bible study is the first in a series that will focus 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.

This first study will also be held online in a Zoom meeting, led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, on Wednesday 16 September at 7.30pm.

All members of the LCA NSW and ACT District are welcome to attend.

Please register by email to kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au



Study 1: Walking Together in Mission Walking Tracks

Around Sydney and in the Blue Mountains there are numerous walking tracks. Some walks are short – only half an hour, other tracks are long – four to five days. But whatever the length it is better to walk these tracks with another person than alone.

With someone else you can share the joy of what you see along the way. With another person they keep you going when you get tired and want to give up. A second person can get help or provide aid if something goes wrong.

- What walks have you enjoyed? Did you walk alone or with someone? Describe the difference?

Walking together as the NSW and ACT District

The NSW and ACT District has embarked on a walk together. We call it the **Strategic Plan: Walking together in mission**. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands his church to go to all the nations and make disciples, baptising and teaching in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Just like walking in the bush, obeying Christ's command together, brings more joy than doing it alone. When the task Christ has given us, seems too overwhelming, we can encourage each other to keep going. When we do not have the resources, others can assist us. When things go wrong we can help each other to get up and try again.

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*)

Acts 2:42-47

1 John 1:1-7

Hebrews 10:19-25

Ephesians 2:14-22

John 17:6-26

- What does this passage say about walking with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- What does this text say about walking with other believers?
- What are the practical implications of this text to the NSW and ACT District?
- What are the practical implications of this text to the congregation (or ministries) you are part of?

Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit you always walk together, and you promise to walk with us. May your Church, which you have created, also walk together and so conform to your will. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we - the Lutheran Church in NSW and ACT - fulfil Christ's great commission. Preserve us from becoming divided, disheartened or distracted. Amen.

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>

LCA NSW and ACT Mission and Ministry Conference

Aligning for Mission in 2020 and beyond

for Pastors, Lay Workers and Missional Leaders

19-21 October 2020

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

Key Note Presenter Rev. Ed Vaughan
'Realigning for Missional Leadership'



The founding Principal of the St Michael's Institute, Ed Vaughan is a Church Planter and rector in the Anglican Church. Ed has served in Balmain, Rozelle, Darlinghurst, Dublin.

He is the director of a community and ministry services organisation serving the homeless and women.

He is passionate about raising leaders for the next generation, a church plant coach and leader in Arrow Leadership.

For more information and registration details contact Russell Veerhuis 02 8660 1200 or Pastor Richard Schwedes 02 9331 1822



District Prayer Calendar

www.lcansw.org.au

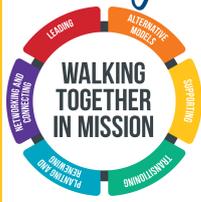


I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come 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	Pastor & family	Congregation/s
September	6 Albury Aged Care	Darryl Mattner – Sonia	
	13 Burrumbuttock	Christian Fandrich – Sarah Joy, Enoch, Abigail, Andreas, Thomas, Sophia, Noah, Bethany	Trinity Bethel Holy Cross Burrumbuttock St Peter's Gerogery Bethlehem Jindera St John's Chapel Jindera
	20 Henty	Kees Sturm – Narelle, Alexander, Eli, Emily	St Stephen's Culcairn St Paul's Henty St John's Pleasant Hills
October	27 Henty Lutheran School	Kaylene McClure principal	St Paul's Lutheran School
	4 Jindera Lutheran School	Brad Moss principal	St John's Lutheran School
	11 Lavington	Peter Fuhlbohm	St Peter's Lavington
	18 Wagga Wagga	vacant	Bethlehem Wagga Wagga Bethlehem Milbrulong
November	25 Wagga Wagga Lutheran School	Peter Weier principal	Lutheran Primary School
	1 Walla Walla	Dan Mueller – Jenny, Eli, Hannah, Zara	Salem Alma Park Zion Walla Walla
	8 St Paul's Lutheran College, Walla Walla	John Borchert chaplain - Charmaine, Joanna Don Walkley principal	St Paul's College
	15 Retired Pastors	Contact District Office for details on retired pastors helping out in vacant parishes at this time	
	22 Military Chaplain	Darren Jaensch – Julie, Isaac, Lachlan	Canberra
December	29 District Committees	District Church Council, Lutheran Women NSW, all other district committees	
	6 NSW District Office	Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus – Jenny Russell Veerhuis Administrator Kaye Simpfordorfer receptionist	

Walking together IN MISSION



a Bible Study series

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

Wednesday 16 September, 7.30pm on Zoom

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

Contact Newsletter

Published 4 times each year by the NSW and ACT District of the Lutheran Church of Australia

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Email: kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au

www.lcansw.org.au

You're free ... indeed!



Peter Steicke's latest book has just been released: **The Freedom Journey - Discovering Grace through the Wilderness.**

Peter says, "Our Father longs to see all his children live in freedom. To bring this about, God lovingly and gently, deliberately and purposefully, with restorative resolve on his heart, leads us into the wilderness."

"The wilderness, at its richest and most basic, is a journey into the heavenly Father's heart. It is a transition from aloofness to intimacy, fear to love, anxiety to peace, insecurity to identity, religion to relationship, abandonment to belonging, and all this entails."

The Freedom Journey addresses the slavish mindsets we're delivered *from* and the renewed mindset Father transforms within us, leading us *into* freedom.

It's ideal for individuals, couples, small groups, and as a congregational study.

You can order **The Freedom Journey** for \$20 (+p&h) from Peter's website www.incrediblyloved.com or from ACR www.shopacr.com.au

Upcoming Events

- September 16** 'Walking Together' Bible Study
Zoom online meeting
- September 27** **Walk Your Way**
St Paul's Sydney to LifeWay Epping
- October 19 - 21** **NSW Mission & Ministry Conference**
Warrambui
- November 13** **DCC**
- November 20 - 22** **Young Adults Retreat ***
Warrambui, Ages 16+

2021

- January 8 - 10** **Leadership Camp ***
Warrambui, Ages 16+
- January 11 - 15** **History Makers ***
Warrambui, Ages 10-16
- April 1 - 4** **Easter Camp ***
Warrambui, Ages 13+

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

Join us for a 26km walking challenge - and raise money to support refugee kids to go to school!

Walk Your Way Sunday 27 September

**8am start at St Paul's Sydney
5pm finish at LifeWay Epping
Stay for church, followed by a light meal.**

DONATE OR REGISTER TO WALK
doyourownthing.walkmyway.org.au/page/LifeWayEppingNewcastle



ALL WELCOME

Can you help us reach our group target of \$2500?

For more information contact John: jcklingberg@optusnet.com.au

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**

Assisting regional people coming to Sydney for hospital treatment



If you are coming to Sydney for hospitalization and require pastoral care, 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