

“
To Jonah’s
surprise the
Ninevites
actually heeded
the message”

Jonah 3: Finally on Track



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

Jonah the prodigal missionary is finally on track. For a second time he receives the call of the Lord and now he is on the way. He is heading to Nineveh - that great city - to proclaim God’s message.

He shouts out the message he has received from God. “In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed and overturned.” To his surprise the Ninevites actually heed the message and Jonah 3:5 says “They believed God”.

What they believed about God is not recorded. The doctrinal formulations of their belief were probably lacking. But they were receptive to God. They took it to heart, and that is what mattered. This was evident because they declared a fast and everyone put on sackcloth as a sign of repentance for the way they lived.

The king also declared a fast and even the animals have to be clothed with sackcloth, he is listening deeply to the Word and taking it seriously. The Ninevites are doing everything they can think of, to motivate God to change his mind about his threat to eliminate them. They have even resolved to behave differently in the future!

It all seems so sudden and too easy to Jonah.

Has this ever happened to you? You shared what you believe about Jesus with a friend, or you took them along to church, and they actually heard the Word, took the message to heart and became believers.

This happened for me. I was trying to reach out to a man I had come to know. I invited him to an ecumenical combined church service. There was an invitation for prayer for anyone who wanted to respond to the message. He leaned across to me and said, “I have been touched by this message, but I

“
Jonah obeyed the
word of the Lord”

Jonah 3:3

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



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

DISTRICT NEWS

For your prayer and care

Calls

- Pastor Paul Hannola (Tuggeranong) has been called to Nunawading / Waverley (Vic)
- Pastor Michael Rudolph (Duncraig WA) declined the Call to St Luke's Albury
- Pastor Darryl Shoemsmith (Christchurch NZ) has accepted the call to Henty, and will be installed on 26 February, 2023.

Installation

- Pastor Peter Ravikumar Livingsten was installed at St Mary's on 13 November, and at Springwood on 20 November.

Ordination

- Francis Leung was ordained as a Pastor of the LCA on 27 November, at LifeWay Epping.

Birth

- Pastor Lassi and Iida Pappinen (Sydney Finnish) and big sister Sylvi welcomed a baby girl Taimi, born 4 October 2022.

Death

- Pastor Paul Renner died on 3 September 2022, aged 95. Pastor Paul served Canberra/Snowy Mountains 1952-1955, and Walla Walla 1960-1964.

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don't want to go out the front, can you just pray for me here."

I remember thinking is this real? Has he really become a believer? Shouldn't we just wait a while and see if this is fair dinkum? But I prayed a prayer for him anyway - the best I could - and he went on to be baptised and become a follower of Christ.

We are so used to people who are non-Christians being resistant to the message of grace that if they suddenly respond and want to 'change sides' we can't believe it. It turns our world upside down.

This must have been how the people in Damascus felt after Saul went from killing Christians to becoming one himself. They would have asked, is this for real? Can we trust this Paul? Is this just another of his traps? Is he really now a believer?

We know we are all called to 'spread the word' and we say we are Walking Together in Mission, but do we really believe that God could actually work through me.

“
expect God's Spirit to work through you and make you bold
 ”

That someone might just believe because of a word that I spoke to them about God?

Thankfully God is patient with us. And he wants us to know that he will work through our words, and people may change from unbelief to belief because we spoke his Word to them.

May this truth encourage you to expect God's Spirit to work through you and make you bold in your conversations with people!

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
 NSW and ACT Bishop

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series Jonah 3: Finally on Track



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

**Wednesday 7 December,
 7.30pm on Zoom**

To register, please email Kaye at office.nsw@lca.org.au



The Lutheran Church of Australia has launched a church-wide appeal to assist those affected by severe floods in northern and western New South Wales, particularly around Forbes. Donations can be made through the LCA Disaster and Welfare Fund, with assistance provided under direction from the NSW ACT District.

Go to the LCA webpage www.lca.org.au and search for the LCA Disaster and Welfare Fund to make your donation.

NSW and ACT District Synod

Walking with the Light

1 John 1:7



LCA NSW ACT DISTRICT
39TH CONVENTION OF SYNOD

Delegates and visitors from across the NSW and ACT District gathered at Warrambui from 28-30 October 2022 for the 39th Convention of Synod. As much as these past years have held many challenges,

this weekend was a chance to connect with one another and rejoice in what God has done and is doing in our district.

The theme of 'Walking with the Light' was touched on by the pastors and laypeople leading worship, sharing messages on how our relationship with Jesus – the Light of the world – impacts those around us as we share his light through our lives.

At the last District Synod in March 2020, there were discussions about the District's six strategic priorities. This Convention of Synod was a celebration of the focus that this has brought to the mission and ministry work of the LCA NSW and ACT District over the past two and a half years.

During Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus' report to the Convention, a number of guests were invited to share about missional activities, including Jacob Traeger from the Molonglo Valley Gospel Community, Dr Mark Worthing sharing information about Frontier School of Mission training opportunities, and Pastor Mark Schultz (LifeWay Epping) sharing about community programs for high-density housing in Sydney.

Danny Brock, church planter in Western Sydney, shared stories about making connections through the local coffee shop and 'BBQ church'. Pastor Darren

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LCA Bishop Paul Smith, Pr Mark Worthing, church planter Danny Brock

Pastor Ravikumar Installed at St Marys and Springwood



L-r Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, Pr Peter Ravikumar, Uta and Pr Christian Hohl, Pr Mark Simpfendorfer, church planter Danny Brock, at Pr Peter's Installation at St Marys

Members of St Marys and Springwood congregations rejoiced in the long awaited arrival of their new pastor, Rev Dr Peter Ravikumar Livingsten. Pastor Peter accepted their joint call at the end of 2019, but with visa delays and travel restrictions over the past three years, he has only recently arrived in Sydney from his homeland India. Pastor Peter was installed at St Marys in November 13, and at Springwood on November 20.

Pastor Peter tells us a bit about himself:

As the eldest son in the family, my parents dedicated me for the ministry in my early childhood. After completion of high

school education, I began ministering to people in 1976. My first few years of experience in the ministry were as an evangelist.

I attended theological seminary and did eight years of studies to get a Bachelor and Masters level degree. Soon after studies I joined para church organizations like Bible Society of India, Christian Student Movement of India, Ecumenical Centre, human rights organizations and non-government organizations. I was a missionary for one year in the Church of Sweden.

Later I was ordained in the Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church, and served in different parishes as pastor and youth general secretary.

The church deputed me to teach in the seminary in India and I served for fifteen years as a dean of Luther studies. While in the teaching ministry I did my Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in journalism and mass communication and got an honorary degree of D.Litt. (Doctor of Letters). I have attended and presented papers in many national and international conferences, and authored a few books.

During sabbatical leave I took the opportunity to travel to Australia and New Zealand and serve as locum pastor in Bendigo, Tuggeranong and Christchurch congregations of the LCA. With God's grace I accepted the call to serve in St. Marys and Springwood.

I am married and have two daughters, both are married and we have a grand-daughter too.

With humble submission
Rev. Dr. L. Peter Ravikumar

Kupke shared his vision for growing an intercessory prayer network across the district, and Pastor Ian Rentsch spoke about his role in encouraging congregations in developing vision and plans around the District's strategic priorities.



Three proposals were presented to the Synod delegates and passed, including the digital distribution of papers at future Synods, and the resolution that all delegates to LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod will be required to have completed Safe Church Level 1 training and have a working with children check. The third proposal included changes to the District Constitution and By-Laws, in order to bring clarity and accuracy to these documents.

The Synod also heard from District ministries including St Paul's College, Warrambui, Lutheran Women and Turning Point Ministries, and from representatives of the LCA, including the LLL, ALWS, LCA Local and International Mission.

Bishop Robert was re-elected for another Synodical term, and the new District Church Council was installed at the closing worship service.

LCANZ Bishop Paul Smith shared news from the LCA national office and Australian Lutheran College, and preached at the closing worship service. Using words from several Christmas carols, Bishop Paul encouraged us to be the people who bring Christmas to the world – translating the gospel into our daily lives and walking in joy and hopefulness.

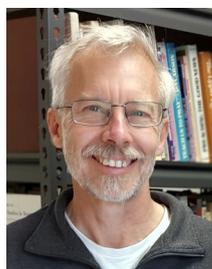
'Yet in thy dark streets shineth,
the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.'

Tanya Cunningham
NSW and ACT District Communications

Note: Synod Minutes will soon be available on the District website www.nswact.lca.org.au



Frontier School of Mission kicks off in 2023



Dr Mark Worthing

Frontier School of Mission is pleased to announce that in partnership with Melbourne School of Theology (MST) two accredited units will be offered in block format in the first semester of 2023.

Dr Mark Worthing, the Campus Dean of MST-Frontier, will be offering **Foundational Christian Belief** in late February. This unit examines the basics of the Christian faith as expressed through the church year.

In late March, Dr Tania Nelson, head of the LCA Department of Local Mission, and Pastor Nathan Hedt, LCA Pastor for New and Renewing Churches, will be offering **Missional Discipleship**. This unit will look at

the pattern of Jesus' making of disciples and how this can be applied in Australia today.

Both units are suitable for anyone wanting more training in mission, church planting, or lay preaching roles in their local congregations. Students are also welcome to take the units for academic credit, or simply as a audit (no written work with a nominal cost).

Both units will be held over a five-day period at Port Macquarie. Please contact Pastor Mark Worthing or the District Office for more information.

Pr Mark Worthing mworthing@mst.edu.au
District Office 02 8660 1200



Welcome two new DCC members

The recent District Synod elected two new members to District Church Council. Jarmo Ronneberg is a member of Narraweena Lutheran Church, and Pastor Darren Jaensch is currently Director General Chaplaincy for Army, based in Canberra.



Jarmo Ronneberg

Jarmo and his wife Seija live in Colaroy, on Sydney's Northern Beaches. They have two children and three grandchildren, who all fortunately live close by.

Jarmo is a qualified Mechanical Engineer. He also has a post graduate Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Wesley College.

Before retirement Jarmo worked as one of the three founding directors for an Australian high-tech company that grew to have offices throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Jarmo and Seija have both been active members of Redeemer Narraweena and Sydney Finnish Lutheran congregations. They also are proud to be able to participate in Bible distribution work with Gideons Australia.

Pastor Darren has served much of his ministry journey in Army chaplaincy (1998-present), including part-time and full-time service, operational deployments (East Timor, Iraq, Middle East), and culminating in his current role as Director General Chaplaincy for Army.

His Army chaplaincy was positively influenced by former servants of the NSW and ACT District in chaplaincy, including Pastors Ken Schmidt, Garry Kenny and Theo Mackenzie. What he has most enjoyed in this role has been the diversity and calibre of faith groups and people that he has had the privilege of serving alongside, leading and sitting at the feet of.

Prior to this he served parishes in Palmerston/Katherine NT (1997-2000), Ingham/Mission Beach QLD (1994-1997), and vicarage at Wollongong (1992) which was his second introduction to the NSW and ACT District, following a week of fieldwork at St Paul's College Walla Walla.



District Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, LCA Bishop Paul Smith, Administrator Russell Veerhuis and DCC members Pr Darren Jaensch, Pr Richard Schwedes, Bruce Arnold, Liz Eckermann, Joanne Knobel, Tony von Brandenstein (absent: Jarmo Ronneberg, Ward Westphal)



Pastor Darren Jaensch

His most recent postings in Army have seen him active in the NSW and ACT pastorate since 2008.

Pastor Darren and his wife Julie, and their sons Isaac and Lachy currently attend Good Shepherd Tuggeranong. Following completion of his current role in Army in early 2023, Darren will be installed as Pastor at Holy Cross Belconnen (May 2023).

He is very much looking forward to this shift in focus and ministry activity, and is hoping that it will both reinvigorate his passion for more pastorally and sacramentally focussed ministry interactions, and perhaps provide some localised stability that will enable Julie more freedom of movement to travel in her role as National Staff Worker for the Military Christian Fellowship of Australia.

Pastor Darren will serve as Pastor Representative on the DCC and will bring not only that pastoral and theological input but also his recent experience in leadership, strategic planning, governance and capability management infused from his current role.

To relax, Pastor Darren enjoys spending time at home with the family (a rare thing in his current role), watching his eldest son play cricket, encouraging his youngest in musical pursuits, and is hoping to spend more time trying to not fall off of his Suzuki Boulevard.

Jarmo Ronneberg and Pr Darren Jaensch



Lutheran Nurse of the Year Award

Nominations are now invited for the Lutheran Nurse of the Year award for 2023.

The award recognises faithful and outstanding service during the preceding calendar year by a Registered or Enrolled Nurse who is an active member of a Lutheran congregation in Australia or New Zealand. It comprises a certificate and a \$100 monetary gift. Nominations may be submitted by congregations, schools, aged-care facilities or other bodies or agencies within the LCA NZ.

Nominations must be lodged with the LNAA secretary, Mrs Rose Howard, on the official nomination form by no later than 31 March 2023, together with a separate sheet giving details of the service that forms the basis of the nomination, and references from three people, including the congregation's pastor.

The award was launched in 2020, to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, who is recognised as the founder of modern nursing. The inaugural winner in 2020 was Angela Uhrhane, of Albury/Wodonga, NSW/Vic. Last year's joint recipients were Fred Miegel of Alice Springs and Gillian Mibus of Adelaide.

Contact Pr Bob Wiebusch for further details and a nomination form
robert.wiebusch@lca.org.au



Visual Art Exhibition

The members of St Peter's, Port Macquarie once again participated in this year's annual LCA Commission on Worship Simultaneous Visual Art Exhibition in August. This year's theme was 'Free Indeed', based on the words from John 8:36 "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed."

Artists were challenge to present visual images of freedom and the members and friends of St Peter's took up the challenge with twelve artists participating and submitting works in oil, acrylic, water colour, photos, drawings, cartoons, sculpture and metalwork. The artwork was displayed on Sunday 28 August and the theme for that week's worship centred around freedom in Christ.

Pictured from left to right:
Alan Bruhn, Aileen Huf, Joan Haward, Orion Thompson, Tony Koch, Pastor Mark Worthing, Bob Haward, Tayte Schultz and Juta Cooley.



Free Indeed

New missional books launched by ACR and Frontier

Australian Christian Resources and **Frontier School of Mission** are pleased to announce the first four books in their new joint series.

Return from Exile. How Congregations can survive and thrive post-pandemic. \$14.95. Rev Nathan Hedt, LCA pastor for New and Renewing churches, having experienced one of the Melbourne lockdowns, reflects theological and biblically in this book about how we can understand what has happened and where we go from here as Christian worshipping communities.

The Challenge of Missional Renewal in the Lutheran Church of Australia. \$19.95. Dr Tania Nelson, head of the LCA NZ Department of Local Mission looks at the cultural, political and theological situation of Australia with regard to the missional challenge facing the Lutheran Church.

This is Most Certainly True. Learning Jesus Christ through Luther's Small Catechism. \$19.95. Dr Mark Worthing revisits Luther's Small Catechism as a basis for teaching new and mature Christians alike the basics of the Christian faith and the Christian life in this guide that is particularly suited to small groups and new member classes.

Bring Jesus. Making sense of mission (available January 2023). Rev Steen Olsen draws upon his considerable experience in mission and outreach as he continues this series of thought-provoking reflections about sharing Jesus which he began originally as a series for *The Lutheran*. Great for reading in missional leadership groups or for individual inspiration.



For more information or to order books contact ACR at www.shopACR.com.au





WARRAMBUI NEWS

December 2022

Prayer Points

- For minimal impact of flooding on our operations & guests
- For blessing over the many visa applications we have in process
- For Warrambui to experience a season of growth (in many different ways)
- For further recruitment of people with a heart for our Mission

Praise Points

- For the successful hosting of the NSW and ACT 39th Convention of Synod (without flooding)
- For Ian Marks and his wife Sue joining us
- For the new staff and Interns who will be joining us from overseas in the coming months

Centre Director's Update

Hosting of Synod

In late October we were very pleased to host the LCA NSW and ACT District as they gathered for the 39th Convention of Synod.

It is always an honour and a privilege to host members of our District, and representatives from the LCA and to serve them through our ministry here at Warrambui.

Warrambui's Mission and Vision

During the last 3 years Warrambui has experienced perhaps the most challenging time in its entire history.

At Synod much of the presentation from Warrambui was focused on the actions we have taken to be good stewards of the blessings we have been given, to minimise the impact of the pandemic and other challenges, and to capitalise on opportunities to build a solid foundation for the future.

But perhaps we should have also emphasised our Mission and Vision for the future. Indeed, continually sharing our Mission and Vision and increasing the understanding of them not only in our NSW & ACT District, but also amongst our clients, staff and volunteers, is crucial to our ministry's effectiveness.

So, what is Warrambui's *raison d'être* (our reason to be)?

Our Mission

At Warrambui we serve people by living Jesus. Our mission is to impact the lives of people through the power of the Holy Spirit, by being a loving, vibrant, servanthood community growing with the heart of Jesus

Our Vision

To be a sustainable, vibrant and mission driven centre led by spiritual and economic entrepreneurs. This vision acknowledges Warrambui as a vibrant mission driven gathering destination whilst ensuring its sustainability in the longer term.

What does this mean?

We serve a God who is passionate about growth and who is always seeking to grow His beloved children, especially in their relationship with Him. Warrambui is, above all, God's place, and through it He grows people in abundant, life-changing ways.

Through serving people with the love of Jesus, we provide a place where people of all ages can come away from their routines and the busyness of their everyday lives, and have space for reflection, growth and renewal.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1: 5-8



The Murrumbateman Creek crossing in flood

importance in a world where people potentially feel increasingly busy, less able to avoid distractions, and more isolated than ever before.

Learnings and Growth

As we continue to move forward out of the pandemic and the challenges we have faced, we at Warrambui are seeking to learn from our experiences, grow as individuals and a team, and further establish a base for growth into the future.

We are blessed to have Dr Ian Marks working

alongside our team over the coming months to help us reflect, re-focus on our mission and re-build a strong community that continues to be centred around Christ.

Ian is a former Lutheran school principal who has worked in both government and Lutheran schools. He has completed a PhD on the culture of Lutheran Schools in Queensland.

We are very grateful that Ian and his wife Sue have agreed to join us, and live onsite, and assist us as we transition from "Survival to Thrival".

Flooding and Bridges

Like many parts of the country, Warrambui has experienced an extraordinarily high rainfall in 2022. Warrambui is located between two low-level crossings on Greenwood Road, the main way in over the Murrumbateman Creek, or the alternate route over the Yass River. At the time of writing Warrambui is cut off for the 11th time this year as both the creek and river crossings are flooded.

These repeated floodings have added considerable complexity to our operations and the logistics of getting guests and staff in and out.

Unfortunately, the repeated flooding has resulted in lost income as groups have chosen to leave early to avoid being flooded in or have moved to alternate venues to ensure that their camp or Canberra excursion can successfully go ahead.

With several groups due to come in November traveling from as far away as Queensland and Victoria to stay with us for 4 days and visit the nation's capital each day, it is not surprising that some considered the much-higher-than-normal risk of flooding impacting their visit to be too great.

We are blessed that Synod was not impacted by flooding as we experienced good weather in the days leading up to it, with the rains starting again the Sunday it ended and the flood waters not rising until the Monday.

The good news is that the Yass Valley Council has received funding of almost \$5 million to upgrade the two crossings. We will be meeting with the mayor and senior council



Water flows through the Obstacle Course

This is true for all the groups who visit us, from primary school camps, high school retreats, Canberra school excursions, TPM camps, and other denominational Church/youth camps, to charity and community organisations. It is also true for the ministers and ministry people who use our Retreat Hut.

It is best exemplified for me by an interaction I had with a Catholic teacher who became emotional when talking about the impact of Warrambui on his year 11 students. He said that every time they come here, as soon as they enter the driveway the atmosphere changes, walls come down and they are able to reach out to and impact the lives of their students in ways far beyond what they can otherwise hope to do.

So, into the future, we seek to continually grow ourselves in dynamic, vibrant and sustainable ways, to provide a Christ-centred place of refuge, where more and more people can come together, and experience the love of Jesus and life-changing growth - something of increasing

bridges and the logistics of their construction – particularly for the creek crossing which I believe has remained largely unchanged since it was concreted in by then Warrambui Manager, Garry Watson, and local landowners in the 1980s.

Staffing and Interns

In this period of severe workforce shortages, staffing continues to be a challenge for Warrambui, with current staffing levels below what we require to serve the number of groups who wish to stay with us.

After unsuccessfully seeking to recruit catering staff domestically, we have progressed with the recruitment and visa sponsorship of Chefs from overseas. This is a time-consuming

process, but we are pleased to announce that Chef, Udara Rajapaksha, who will be joining us from Sri Lanka in early December. We look forward to welcoming Udara to Australia and our team.

We hope to soon announce the successful appointment and visa sponsorship of a second Chef.

We have also successfully completed the visa process for 2 young women from PNG to join us as part of the Arise Volunteer Internship Program in 2023, with a third application currently being processed.

We are also currently seeking a visa for a person from PNG we have recruited to assist us in supporting our first PNG Interns and to further

develop the ARISE program to meet the needs of PNG participants going forward.

At the time of writing, we are also again advertising for staff to fill several other roles across the organisation and applications for Australian Interns remain open.

Please pray for smoothness in these remaining visa processes, for these new people joining our team from overseas, and that God would send more people to serve Him here alongside us at Warrambui.

Yours in Christ,

Dean Salzke
Warrambui Centre Director

Financial Information

Warrambui Income & Expenditure Statement 1 January - 30 September 2022			
	Budget	Pro-rata Budget	Actual to 30 September
Total bookings	75	56	22
Total occupied bed nights	8,315	6236	2044
Operating income	\$ 749,399	\$ 245,621	\$ 238,737
Operating expenses	\$ 1,183,117	\$ 826,225	\$ 712,088
Operating surplus/loss	\$ (433,717)	\$ (580,605)	\$ (473,351)
Non-operating profit, primarily from the quarry, is \$116,020, giving a net loss of \$357,331.			

Budgeted bookings were set at 50% of a previously 'normal' target due to the expected impacts of the pandemic.

Bookings were lower than expected in the first half of the year, and continue to be impacted.

Continued reductions in bookings, booking length, and numbers per booking, due to COVID-19, are reflected in the low figures for actual bookings and occupied bed nights.

Bookings have also been impacted by staffing shortages, and frequent flooding.

Given these reductions income is down considerably. We are seeing the impact of inflation on expenses such as food and catering supplies.

However expenses on the whole have been lower, bringing down the actual loss to below the pro-rata budget loss. We continue to monitor and respond to the current financial situation and operational challenges including staffing, and are actively pursuing alternate staffing measures including visa sponsorships of staff from overseas.

The focus continues to be on growing capacity to host groups as interest in camping grows in 2023.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5: 22,23



AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It's always a pleasure to share what has been happening with TPM and to see where God is working and the opportunities we have. Over the October long weekend, a small group of young adults (and the Veerhuis and Bennett families) met at Mountain Trails Adventure School in Wee Jasper. The Tin Huts is an isolated, rustic spot for camping on the Mountain Trails property. There is a simple enclosed shed with basic cooking facilities, a sink, and campfire. There are no showers, and two drop toilets. Due to all the rain, it was quite an effort to get the vehicles up to the tin huts campsite. A couple of us got bogged, however this gave us a fun activity for Sunday afternoon - using manpower to push the trailer back up the wet clay hilly road. We enjoyed spending time together playing cards, kicking the footy, going for walks, doing sudokus and chatting around the fire. It was nice to be away from technology with limited phone reception. Spending time in nature like that provides a wonderful opportunity to marvel at God's creation and focus on Him in a different way than in the usual busyness of life.

At the recent District Synod I gave an update of the camping ministry of TPM. The highlights I shared include; the diversity and strength of the TPM Camping Ministry Team, the affordability of our camps, the proportion of return campers through safe and predictable events, the dedication of our volunteer leadership group to child safety, and the enthusiasm of campers at recent camps held in person again.

Some areas for prayer and growth include; our camps have had lower numbers than pre-Covid, we are taking a closer look at Easter Camp and how we can make this camp more suitable for families and engage with today's youth, the growth of attendees and leaders from non-Lutheran backgrounds (not a threat, but something for us to be aware of and work with), the diversity of our campers and making sure we are doing our best to be inclusive and cater for all.

As always, we appreciate the support of the district, our leadership team, and families who entrust their children to us.

Peta Bennett (TPM Chairperson)

RELATIONSHEEP

High school camp taking a look into the parable of the lost sheep!

Tue 17 - Fri 20 Jan
\$290 Years 7 - 12

HISTORY MAKERS 2023

GOD'S PROMISES

JUNIOR YOUTH CAMP

A weekend camp for upper primary,
looking at God's promises to us.

3pm Friday 20 – 2pm Sunday 22 January

Grades 3 to 6 in 2023

\$150 Register online at tpm.org.au

Save the Dates

History Makers

17-20 January, Grades 7 to 12

Back2Base

10-14 July, Grades 7 to 12

Junior Youth Camp

20-22 January, Grades 3 to 6

Junior Youth Camp

14-16 July, Grades 3 to 6

Better Blokes

9-12 June

Sisterhood

August, dates TBC

KEEP an eye out for
information on our
Young Adults Retreats
as we finalise locations
and dates! Ages 16+



0435 314 384

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

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



ST PAUL'S COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

The College of St. Paul's

We believe in Community

DEVELOPING LEADERS

College Junior Leaders, **Billy Phegan, Archie Frohling, Tom Janetzki, Natasha Beckett, Lilly Kohlhagen, and Kate Lieschke** recently attended the REROC Take Charge Leadership Forum in Wagga Wagga. The day involved mingling with other like-minded young people from the Riverina Region. The students listened to motivational speakers who encouraged them to be the active voices in their local communities.

AG ROUND UP

Term 3 has been a busy one for Agriculture and Show Team students. Year 9 Agriculture were involved in shearing our stud sheep as well as travelling to Dubbo to complete in the Merino wether challenge. Year 10 Agriculture have been lamb marking and assisting in Show Team sheep preparation, which involves washing, foot pairing, trimming and general health checks.

SERVICE : FUNDRAISING

Our Year 12 cohort as part of their Service-Learning project and the Student SRC planned a "Farmers Day" fundraiser. The key idea behind "Farmers Day" is raising awareness for farming all over the world, specifically how it may look different in a modern country like Australia compared to refugee camps in countries like Sudan.

Students and staff had a jam-packed day of activities. The day entailed casual dress in line with the theme of "farmers" or country style attire, with prizes for the best dressed. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed at lunch followed by the famous "Farmers Challenge". A variety of games and activities took place with students encouraged to being a coin donation.



CELEBRATING

75 Years

1948-2023

ST PAUL'S COLLEGE
WALLA WALLA, NSW

Friday, 17th March 2023
St. Paul's College Grounds, 3 Klemke Ave, Walla Walla NSW

It's a Wet Drought

"I'm guessing the farmers are liking all this rain." These words greeted me in Canberra back in mid-September. I quickly realised this person hadn't heard of the term, "wet drought".

I don't blame them. Growing up on the sandy soils of Central Eyre Peninsula, I'd also never heard of this term. So the chances are you may not have either. So let's take a moment to explain.

Farmers want rain, but both amounts and timing are critical. They want regular amounts, especially at crucial times. A lack of rain near planting or flowering can kill the plant or make the crop barren. Likewise, too much rain at these crucial times can drown the roots, also destroying the crop or grain. Most things are good in moderation and at the appropriate time.

Put simply, both a normal drought and a wet drought result in poor yields and many frustrations for farming communities.



Crops killed by too much water

So how have farming communities been impacted by the wet drought this year? The continual rain delays getting onto paddocks. And when farmers finally do, they often become bogged. Recovering bogged machinery makes farmers nervous because it can be extremely risky, even deadly. The forces involved are so powerful that recently



a Case Magnum tractor was split in half during an attempted recovery. Even worse, "NSW Farmers Grains Committee chair Justin Everitt said there had been three fatalities involving the recovery of bogged vehicles or machinery, but the number of injuries and near misses were unknown as they were often not reported."

Once the crop is finally planted, rain soon afterwards can kill the seed before it has a chance to germinate. That means most farmers near Temora and West Wyalong resowed paddocks at least three times! Further north, they didn't bother resowing.

These delays in sowing mean, what normally takes a few weeks, has taken a few months. Farmers north of Wagga Wagga have only been able to plant up to 75% of their usual area. Around Parkes, the maximum is closer to 25%. Some farmers in both areas didn't plant anything, others 'planted' more machinery than crop. Some resorted to using aeroplanes or spreaders rather than traditional seeding equipment.



Fences and other infrastructure damaged by floods

The ongoing rains also meant farmers couldn't spray, and spray planes were in short supply. This means the crops that did grow are affected by disease, weeds and mineral deficiencies. Sheep can also become lame from wet feet.

Rain is forecast to continue through summer. Back in September, with harvest still months away, farmers were already discussing the safest way to recover bogged headers. In response to a local fatality, in mid-October, NSW Farmers Grenfell Branch held a machine recovery information workshop on how best to safely extract a bogged machine, with almost 600 people attending.

All of this even before the recent flood events and record-breaking spring rainfalls. These rains have flooded homes, damaged fences, and closed roads, creating all sorts of chaos and anxiety. The roads have deteriorated, with a multitude of potholes destroying both tyres and rims, keeping road workers busy even before the harvest trucks have had a chance to rip them up.



Roads crumbling even before the harvest trucks start.

In particular, we pray for the Forbes congregation. Both their church building and wider community have been flooded recently. We thank God for the opportunities this has given the Central West Parish to shine the love and light of Christ to those in need. May the love shown warm people's hearts and bring them to a place of surrender to Christ.

You can support the Forbes community through the LCA Flood Appeal (see ad on page 2).

The Lutheran Church were specifically mentioned on national TV by an appreciative recipient of their home cooked meals (search Youtube for The Project, NSW Floods, 21 Nov 2022).

We also give thanks that drier parts of the country are being blessed with exceptional yields, and that the Murray mouth is receiving a good flush.

In all this, the farmers and their communities continue on. Their hopes, spirits and determination endures. Please pray for safety, rest and strength for all those involved in what is expected for some to be a long, drawn-out, and dangerous harvest. **Most of all, pray that people would cry out to our Lord Jesus Christ in their time of distress and that he might hear their pleas for help.**

Pastor Darren Kupke
on behalf of the North West NSW Region

District Administrator

Financial update

The 2022 budget has by and large been tracking on budget, with a few larger variations in the investment space. These variations have been both positive and negative.

On the income side, congregation contributions are generally expected to come in on budget. This figure is often lower earlier in the year as many congregations pay their contribution in the last quarter.

Turning Point Ministry camps have been lower across income and expense due to Covid limitations, but also due to declining number of campers.

When looking at expenses, the LCA Budget contribution is paid in two parts, the remaining contribution of \$107,355 has been paid in the final quarter of 2022.

Employee benefits expense includes the positions of the new Communications Officer and Strategic Mission Facilitator. Other expenses include office, training, property, event, legal and audit, travel and grants expended.

Mission and Ministry expenses are slightly lower against budget due to a couple of congregational mission positions not being filled as quickly as hoped.

When it comes to investments, we have been blessed with dividend returns well in excess of market expectations, with \$731,215 being received in the first 3 quarters alone. But this needs to be kept in mind against a contracting market where the total value of the District's share portfolio has reduced back to \$11M. This is basically back to the initial value of the investment 2 years ago, and down from a peak market value of \$13.6M. That kept in mind, the Finance Advisory Committee is very aware that the market will have ups and downs, and thus this market value income or loss is always recorded as below the line income or loss, as it is not a change in the cash value we hold.

On the back of that investment loss, as shown in our balance sheet, the total Assets the District holds on the balance sheet is worth \$26.2M with liabilities of \$161K, leaving a total equity for the District of \$26.038M.

Russell Veerhuis,
District Administrator

<u>2022 NSW District Budget</u>		
	2022 Budget	2022 Jan - Sept
Revenue		
Congregations Contributions	\$157,300	\$60,950
Contributions from individuals	\$23,500	\$2,519
Turning Point Ministry	\$118,750	\$45,616
Other District revenue	\$63,500	\$12,959
Earmarked Grants and donations	\$34,500	\$9,040
Investment income	\$477,243	\$731,215
Government grant		\$3,000
Total Income	\$874,793	\$865,299
Expenses		
LCA Budget Contribution	\$214,355	\$107,000
Employee benefits expense	\$472,582	\$236,693
TPM Camp expenses	\$116,900	\$70,240
Frontier expenses	\$79,800	\$42,590
Depreciation Expense	\$166,950	\$125,213
Other expenses	\$238,950	\$143,606
Mission and Ministry	\$450,413	\$316,563
Total Expenses	\$1,739,950	\$1,041,904
Net Profit/Loss	-\$865,157	-\$176,605

Professional Standards

I need to ask you a question....Do you know what the LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations are?

I've mentioned them in previous Contact editions this year, perhaps you've seen a poster go up around your church or hall, but what do they mean, and do they apply to OUR congregation? We don't have children/young people attending I hear you say... we don't need to do this!

The LCA Child Safety Standards are for ALL congregations, in ALL Districts of the LCA. They have been developed so that the LCA can meet legislative requirements, adopted by all Australian State and Territory governments.

There are two parts to the LCA Child Safety Standards:

1. is to complete the Self-Assessment and
2. is to then complete the Child Safety Plan for your congregation/parish.

This is the task of the church council/governance body for your congregation/parish.

If you are asked for input, either as an adult or if you consent for your child to participate, please support your leaders with the process. Pray for your leadership as they undertake this task.

If you are in a leadership role in your congregation/

Continued next page

parish and you are uncertain as what to do about the Child Safety Standards, *please* contact me. Professional Standards staff are here to support congregations with this process. It's new for everyone, including PSD, who have been tasked with implementing the Child Safety Standards for congregations. As with many things, doing nothing doesn't make it go away!

Each year the District Office sends congregations an Audit sheet for updating members' Working with Children/Working with Vulnerable People details. This update is vital in maintaining validations for WWCC or WWVP. If you have new details about your WWCC or WWVP, please make sure you give them to your chairperson or designated person in your congregation, so that the District can validate them.

Returning the Audit sheet to the District office is very important, thank you for supporting the District with this.

Thankyou to every one of you that has completed your training this year. If you are unsure if your training has expired/lapsed, or if you are requiring new training, don't hesitate to contact me.

We are about to enter the season of Advent, already there is much 'tinsel and music' in the shops!! My prayer is that whatever your current circumstances are, you will be able to welcome the Christ child into your life with renewed joy.

Carolyn Kiss
LCA Professional Standards Officer
NSW and ACT District



District Prayer Calendar

nswact.lca.org.au

To join the NSW and ACT District Intercessors Prayer List,
email Kaye office.nsw@lca.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

	Parishes / Congregations	Pastors & Church Workers (and family)	Location
December	4 District Committees	District Church Council, Lutheran Women NSW, all other district committees	
	11 NSW and ACT District Office	Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus (Jenny) Tanya Cunningham, Communications Kaye Simpfendorfer, Receptionist Russell Veerhuis, Administrator	
January	15 Turning Point Ministries youth camps and campers at Warrambui		
	22 Central West NSW	Pr James Leach (Adele, Amelia, Keziah, Zeek, Eliora, Netanya, Tobias) Brant Waterson , Discipleship & Outreach Coordinator, Orange (Elizabeth, Calhon, Anastasia)	St John's Forbes St Peter's Orange St Paul's Parkes
	29 Gilgandra/Dubbo	vacant	St Mark's Dubbo St John's Gilgandra Preaching place Nyngan
February	5 Gunnedah/Tamworth	vacant	Trinity Gunnedah St Paul's Tamworth
	12 Leeton/Griffith	vacant Pr Ian Kotzur , locum (Yvonne)	St Paul's Griffith St John's Leeton
	19 Temora	Pr Darren Kupke (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Trinity Temora Zion Trungley Hall Chapel on the Hill
March	26 West Wyalong	Pr Darren Kupke (Lee-Anne, Zakea)	Immanuel West Wyalong
	5 Bass Hill Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen (Iida, Sylvi, Taimi)	Sydney Finnish
	12 Campbelltown	Pr Hans Peethala (Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa)	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
	19 Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste (Tina, Matthew, Scarlet)	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	26 Chinese (Mandarin)	Matthew Wan	Sydney Hills District

Walking together IN MISSION

a Bible Study series



Jonah 3: Finally on Track

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

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

**Wednesday 7 December, 7.30pm
on Zoom**

To register, please email
office.nsw@lca.org.au

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

Support Stamps for Mission by saving your used stamps and pass them on to the Church.

The Church is able to sell them and then use the money to fund missionary work in our region of the world. May the Lord bless you all and may this work continue to prosper.

Ingrid Harder of Wodonga does the sterling job of getting these stamps ready for sale and we owe her a huge debt of thanks for all her work on our behalf.

Yours in Christ,

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

Upcoming Events 2023

- Jan 17 - 20** **History Makers**
Warrambui, Years 7-12
- Jan 20 - 22** **Summer Junior Youth Camp**
Warrambui, Years 3-6
- Feb 9 - 12** **LCA General Synod (in person)**
Melbourne
- March 17** **St Paul's College 75th Anniversary**
St Paul's College Walla Walla
- March 17 - 19** **LWNSW & ACT Retreat**
Warrambui, *Women of all ages*
- April 22 - 25** **Young Adults Retreat**
Talbingo Mountain Retreat, Ages 16+
- April 29** **LWNSW & ACT Convention**
Bethlehem, Jindera



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Contact Newsletter

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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