

“
whatever
transpires,
God will
look after us
”

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Perfect Love casts out all Fear

As I write this article, people are full of fear over the corona virus – COVID-19. The number of people who have contracted the disease is 180,000. The share market has dropped 30% of its value, concerts are being cancelled, sports events are being played in stadiums without crowds. Schools are being shut down. Italy is in lockdown. People are not travelling, and people are panic buying toilet paper! No doubt, by the time you read this, things have changed dramatically again. Everywhere there is anxiety.

The LCA has issued guidelines for how the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated in this time of contagion. The Vatican has ceased all services at Catholic churches across Rome. The pope is even doing sermons by video rather than at his window.

How are we to react as Christian's in this time of illness and threat?

1 John 4:11 says "perfect love casts out fear". For those who trust that God is in charge, there is no need to fear. Not because God will protect every



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

Christian from the virus, but because whatever transpires, God will look after us. If we contract the virus, God may give us the strength to overcome the illness. If we die because of the virus we know we are safe in heaven with the Lord, because that is the promise to all those who put their trust in Jesus. St Paul writes in Romans 14:8, "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

The Black Death swept through Europe killing one in four people. In 1527 Martin Luther penned the article, "Whether one may flee from a deadly plague". Luther's advice in summary was that anyone who has responsibilities to others should stay. The Christian pastor, city officials, doctors, clerks and constables, servants to masters, people in charge of orphans, people nursing sick friends all should not flee but stay. "A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". (John 10:15) However he says, if someone is weak and fearful, let him flee in God's name as long as

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LCA NSW 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



LCA NSW District
38th Convention of Synod

Walking together
IN MISSION

DISTRICT NEWS

For your prayer and care

Call

- Pastor Peter Ravikumar (from India) has accepted the joint call to St Pauls St Marys and Our Saviour Springwood.
- Pastor Lassi Pappinen (from Finland) has accepted the call to Southern Cross Finnish Congregation, Sydney. Each of the above pastors are awaiting visa approval.

Installation

- Pastor Hans Peethala was installed at Living Waters Liverpool on Sunday 2 February 2020.

Anniversary

- Lutheran Aged Care Albury celebrated its 60th Anniversary on 16 February 2020.

New Pastor for Liverpool



Pastor Hans Peethala was installed at Living Waters Liverpool on 2 February 2020. Pastor Hans moved from Holy Cross Belconnen ACT where he served for just over 10 years.

Pastor Hans is pictured above with his family (l-r) Ethan, Yarmiyah and Cynderella.

Below, pastors gather to pray for Pastor Hans during the service led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus.



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he has made adequate provision for others to provide care where it was his responsibility. In other words, our first response should be to stay, but if your faith is not strong enough to stay make sure someone else has taken care of the persons you are responsible for.

The plague also ravaged the city of Rome in 265AD. Doctors were unable to treat the illness. Fear again gripped the city. People avoided each other. Thousands of people died. People staggered around trying to find others who might look after them. The bodies of the dead were simply piled up in the streets, no one dared to bury them. General good neighbourliness turned to avoidance. People who were sick went to their neighbours for help, only to be shoved back outside the door. Panic and fear of death made people treat each other like animals.

Some Christians started to make a different response. They started to take care of fellow citizens who were sick, fully knowing that caring for them might mean they would catch the disease. Many of them did care for their neighbours and they died doing so. They said, 'we know our future is

“
God's perfect
love for us
casts out all fear.”

secure no matter whether we live or die.' They literally sacrificed their lives caring for their neighbours.

In doing so the message of Christ and his love for us, was received by many in Rome. Many became Christians and the history of Rome was changed accordingly.

Not all of us will have such great faith that we are prepared to lay down our lives for another. But the good news is, Jesus has done this for us, even if we can't yet do it for others.

So, be at peace in this time when fear grips the world, because we know God's perfect love for us casts out all fear. He will protect us whether we live or die. With this reassuring good news in your heart, you can be calm, through this time of contagion.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus

Tribute to Ann Robertson - A faithful, humble servant

Long time member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Sutherland, and lay member of District Church Council for nearly a decade, Anne Robertson passed away on 2 January 2020, after suffering pancreatic illness for some months.

Thanks to her God-given faith, Ann was a strong member of her church at Sutherland. She was always a reliable and willing helper, and found it difficult to turn down any opportunity to help someone. For many years in addition to looking after her own family, Ann was actively involved in ministry to people of all ages, from the kids ministry through to the Young at Heart ministry. As a member of the congregation's pastoral assistance team, she regularly visited and kept in contact with members. She also ministered to others outside the church as the opportunity arose.

In addition to her work in the congregation, she also volunteered many hours serving the District as a member of the District Church Council over nine years. Her skills including her attention to detail were highly valued, especially when it came to looking at constitutions!

Ann is sadly missed by many, however, we take comfort in the knowledge that she is now at rest from her labours in her eternal home.

Liz Eckermann



Ann Robertson
16 Jan 1954 -2 Jan 2020

District Synod 2020: Walking Together in Mission

After a summer of drought, bushfires, hail, floods and now the threat of Coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout NSW and the ACT, delegates gathered at St Paul's College in Walla Walla on 6-8 March for the 28th Convention of NSW District Synod. We were reminded by our host, principal Don Walkley, that as a community of faith we carry hope to a hurting world. Don shared with us the challenges of bringing hope in a school environment – as a school principal, how does he bring hope to a family who have lost their home and their land? How do we share hope with students with learning difficulties, or family tragedies?

As a church, how do we share hope with people in NSW and the ACT? District Treasurer Bruce Arnold reminded us that “if a problem can be solved by throwing money at it, we have money to throw.” The District has been blessed with significant funds from the sale of Concord House, around \$13 million of which is in the process of being invested in a combination of Australian and international shares, once the market settles following Coronavirus.

Despite the financial gifts which God has given us as a District, not all problems can be solved with money. And so delegates spent several hours on Saturday working through themes from the District Strategic Plan – *Walking Together in Mission* – sharing with one another how our congregations are changing, where we need



Opening worship in St Paul's College Chapel

to offer and receive forgiveness, where we might feel God is leading us. We explored the seven priorities which have been identified for *Walking Together in Mission*, and what these might mean in our local contexts:

- Walking together in mission
- Alternative models of ministry that best serve the District
- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations and ministries in transition
- Planting and renewing congregations
- Networking and connections between congregations and ministries
- District Leadership though the Bishop leading Leadership Teams

Cambodia taught her about herself and others, helping her understand empathy; Rohanna was struck by the impact of wars and revolutions on Germany and Russia, and awed to experience the history. We also heard from Señora Sehm, who arrived in Australia from El Salvador in the 1980s. Two years ago she became the school's first Spanish teacher after decades of German in the curriculum. A changing society brings changing opportunities.



Paul Bullen (far right) led delegates in Strategic Plan discussions during Bishop Robert's report

This was certainly a change from the 'business as usual' – which usually consists of reports being delivered and motions debated. Perhaps you might ask your Synod delegate or pastor what they heard, and what they were able to share with others?

Over dinner on Saturday evening delegates had the chance to learn more about the St Paul's family, hearing how two students have grown through school trips. Mia's trip to

There was still Synod business to be discussed, of course. Three motions were brought before the Synod. The first was for a \$1 million grant to St Paul's College to supplement a recent loan from the District for new facilities. The grant was not requested by St Paul's, but proposed by the District's Finance Advisory Committee. Some concerns were voiced that delegates could have been provided more information, but the motion passed with a strong majority.



A proposal from District Church Council to change the quorum requirements for Synod was passed. This means that while pastors emeriti retain full rights to vote and speak at Synods, they will not be counted towards the requirements for quorum. This will be

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Delegates spent time 'walking together' in table discussions

important for future Synods to be convened, as only two or three emeriti pastors usually travel to Synod.

The way the District's name appears on branding will also be changing in the near future, after a proposal to include the ACT in the name, brought by Good Shepherd Tuggeranong Congregation, was unanimously passed.

The questions of bringing hope, and treading new paths was echoed in the presentations of some of our guests from the LCA National Office. Pastor Matt Anker, Assistant to the

Bishop for International Mission, encouraged us to think about how we might hear and learn from overseas churches, who can share their experiences of multiculturalism, spiritual warfare, and church planting. LCA Secretary Nigel Long updated us on the Reconciliation Action Plan, exploration of membership of the Lutheran World Federation and International Lutheran Council, and the review of the call process – all issues which came out of the National Synod in 2018. Australian Lutheran College principal James Winderlich encouraged us to see the process that God

is leading the church through as refinement, and an opportunity to discover afresh who we are and where God is calling us.

Back in the District, we celebrated with Warrambui, as they shared the records they have broken for longest stay, largest group, and total annual bed nights, which have grown significantly since 2015-17. Lutheran Aged Care Albury turned sixty this year, with banners in the street and an eight-page editorial, and Turning Point Ministries told us about how their ministry continues to bless youth in LCA congregations and beyond.

After receiving these reports and others, delegates made their way on Sunday morning to Zion church in Walla Walla, where over 250 people packed out the closing worship service. Bishop Robert Bartholomeus encouraged us to continue to be immersed in life with Jesus Christ, who walks with us as we walk together. After a hearty lunch, it was time for the journey home – several hours for some of us – before the next Synodical Convention in 2022, where we will continue to share reflections, challenges, joys and hopes in the journey we are walking with our Lord and Saviour.

Jacob Traeger



(l-r) Peter Zweck (LCA General Church Board member) with NSW District Church Council members - Tony von Brandenstein, Liz Eckermann, Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, Assistant Bishop Richard Schwedes, Pastor Christian Fandrich and Ward Westphal. Absent from photo - Bruce Arnold, Joanne Knobel



LCA NSW District
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IN MISSION**



Synod closing worship was held at Zion Walla Walla, joining together with members of Zion and nearby congregations. All enjoyed fellowship over lunch afterwards.

An old church made new. God never discards what is good

The Concordia Lutheran Church of Yagoona was formally established on the 31st August 1947. In those days it was a thriving light in the south west of Sydney, the home of the first McDonald's restaurant, the local drive-in picture theatre. It was a blue-collar bastion, nurturing Christian families in faith, love and caring.

The community was initially served by Pastor Miller as a home minister from on the 25th August 1946. Pastor Appelt from 26th November 1947, and Pastors Jaensch from the 21st November 1948, Weiss from 19th December 1954, Witt from 29th June 1958, Thamm from 5th June 1966, Burger from 29th January 1971, Sellars from 18th December 1988, Orta from 8th January 1989, Briese from 7 February 1992, Mickan from 17th June 2001 and lastly Pastor Zanker from 25th February 2017 to the 14th October 2017. Members who were ordained as ministers from Concordia were, Fred Schafrank, John Simboras, Stephen Torning, Martin Roseberg and lastly Greg Fowler.

The church grew vigorously during the 1960's and 70's. Lifelong relationships steeped in Christian fellowship were formed, many continuing today. Many "Yagoona Yobbos", the youth group, married each other. With new people coming to the area to settle down and build homes, Concordia Yagoona was a vital anchor for the Lutheran faith in Sydney south west and in the lives of many families.

However, from the 1980's many families sought more affordable land and housing in suburbs further west as did their children and grandchildren. Time passed and many members aged and past away, throughout the 1990's the suburb of Yagoona and surrounding areas underwent a demographic and ethnic change. By the turn of 2000 nothing it seemed could prevent inevitable closure as church membership continued to decline. God had different plans however and the church was soon to be transformed.

On the 1st November 2014, Concordia Lutheran Yagoona entered into an agreement with the Gereja Kristen Indonesia di Australia (GKIA), the Indonesian Christian Church in Australia, to share the church and its facilities at Yagoona.

GKIA had its origins in 1962 as a fellowship (Indonesian Christian Com-

munity) for all Indonesian Christian denominations. The first full-time minister, Musa Sinulingga arrived from Medan, Indonesia in 1979 and served until 1985. He was followed by Ecky Possumah (1985-1988) and then by Rodger Russ from LCA Sutherland (1988-1993). A minister from Indonesia assisted Rev. Russ to transform this fellowship into a church and named it GKIA, an associate member of LCA NSW District on 23 May 1993. There followed two ministers from Indonesia who assisted in forming a church council. Three ministers from Indonesia then served GKIA from 1994 until 2007. GKIA became a full member of LCA NSW District on 21 April 2002.

In February 2008 the current minister, Sahat Simanullang arrived with his wife and son (a second son was born in Sydney) to serve the GKIA family which stretches from Manly to Campbelltown. With this new stability the congregation grew and problems with the Stanley St venue (across from Sydney Grammar) became more apparent e.g. parking and concern for the safety of the children. GKIA needed to find another church and a more permanent manse for Rev. Sahat and family. Prayers were answered.

At a meeting with LCA District two possible properties were nominated. Concordia church at Yagoona was the most promising. Rev. Tim Zanker and parish chairman, Ian Parisi, offered to share costs on a per capita basis with representatives of each congregation forming part of a church property committee. Although the manse was occupied by tenants at that time, eventually it would be reallocated as the manse for the GKIA Minister. This occurred in 2016. Despite the move GKIA maintained their close connection with Reverend Sam Simpendorfer who had been a good friend and mentor at St Paul's in Stanley St.

Concordia Yagoona likewise had been praying and waiting for God's direction. A dedicated prayer of the church was offered up on most Sundays in hope of an answer from God. The costs of maintaining the church and facilities were becoming a heavy burden with only three or four members not on the pension. Eventually it became clear that with Concordia's shrinking membership and GKIA's growing numbers, GKIA would be more able to look after the church



Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus and Pastor Sahat Simanullang

property. It seemed God wanted Concordia Yagoona to hand the baton to the GKIA. Soon that became a reality and the answer to each congregation's prayers.

After many meetings and with the blessings of the LCA District, Concordia Yagoona ceded the church and facilities to GKIA for \$1 on the 31st October 2018. Although the church assets exceed \$2m, Concordia always recognised that they have never been the property of its members. We are all merely caretakers of everything our Lord gives us.

Although members of Concordia Yagoona and GKIA may differ ethnically in languages and customs, the last five years have shown that God loves us all and we now share that same love together. We are happy here together at Yagoona and have come to realise how richly blessed we truly are. Joint services have taken place and with so much in common we are certain God will continue to lead us forward. We also give thanks for GKIA Pastor Sahat Simanullang who leads Concordia Yagoona in service on the first Sunday of each month.

While we do not know our future we don't worry. We strive to do good, to be God's people, He will never discard us. He will let us know in His own time.

God never discards what is good.

Ian Parisi, Wahyu Widiono,
Trina Supit

Mission Goes God's Way



Jacob Traeger

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” So said the Lord through the prophet Isaiah (55:8). When we became a sending church at Immanuel Woden,

we had a vague idea about how things would pan out. We already had a couple of missional communities – groups of people focussed on building connections with those outside the church. We were hoping this would grow and build into a church planting team, ready to start worship in a new location around about now. As much as we have been praying and seeking God's will, we have to acknowledge that this hasn't taken shape as rapidly as we'd hoped.

Sometimes in our churches we can think of 'mission' as some kind of quick fix. We might hope there's initiatives which will bring young people into church. We might hope that our plans to connect more deeply within our communities will grow our congregation's numbers. When this doesn't happen as quickly as we'd thought, we can become discouraged. Perhaps we give up or decide to try something

else. Or perhaps we think we need to try harder and suffer burnout.

We are called to be churches walking together in mission, places where love comes to life. But the mission we're called to is not one we own. We are called to be diligent in how we plant and water, but it is God who will provide the growth (1 Cor 3). Doing nothing is not an option, but God does not promise that our actions will be rewarded in the way we might think.

Throughout the season of Lent, we are reminded once more that God's ways are not our ways. God's mission to the world ends in what appears to be abject failure. We hear again Jesus' call to “deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him” (Matt 16:24). If we are trying to use 'mission' as a way of saving 'our' church, we may well lose it.

Being a church in mission means opening ourselves up to God's direction and God's timing. The giver of all good gifts may not do things our way, but he won't disappoint. For us at Immanuel, our leadership and congregation have been driven deeper into prayer than we have in many years. We've been blessed that God has drawn some not-yet-believers to us – but often not in the ways we had expected or planned, and not yet in the

numbers we had hoped.

God has used our journey as a Sending Church to grow us to receive the people he is calling; to support and grow them in the faith. God has used this journey to grow us in our faith and deepen our reliance on him. Because the mission we are caught up in is not primarily to grow numerically or survive as an institution. God's mission to humanity means we're participants in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and we have the joy of introducing those who haven't yet experienced this new life to Jesus Christ.

As you step out into God's mission, how might God grow you? How might your congregation's plans open you up to receive God's gifts in unexpected ways? As we walk together in mission, Jesus Christ, God's Word made flesh, remains our hope and our future. As God reminded Isaiah: “my word shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

To find out more about Immanuel's church planting project and get in touch, please visit our website woden.lutheran.org.au/church-planting

Jacob Traeger, Woden

Australia Day Honours to Woden members

Meryl and Rex Packer have been recognised in the Australia Day 2020 Honours List.

Members at Immanuel Lutheran Church Woden Valley in the Australian Capital Territory, Meryl's and Rex's volunteer contributions include more than 40 years of service to the LCA New South Wales District's Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, at Murrumbateman, approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Canberra.

Rex was chair of the Warrambui Board from 1982 to 1992 and has been treasurer for most of the past decade. Meryl served as a Board member from 2004 to 2014. She was recognised as Warrambui Legend in 2015, with Rex receiving the same honour in 2016.

Meryl has been the Lutheran Women of New South Wales (LWNSW) reporter for Lutheran Women magazine since 1976. She was Lutheran Women of Australia treasurer and a national



Rex and Meryl Packer

committee member from 2000 to 2003 and from 2012 to 2015 and has served as LWNSW first vice-president and treasurer.

As well as serving in their local congregation, Rex and Meryl also have volunteered in community roles. Meryl is a former treasurer of Calisthenics ACT, while Rex is a former president, treasurer and executive member of the Australian Calisthenics Federation and was made a Life Member of the feder-

ation in 2000. He is a former president of Calisthenics ACT and was made a Life Member of the territory body in 1991. He was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000.

Rex and Meryl said receiving their honours was a 'very humbling and exciting' experience, 'now that we're accustomed to the idea of being honoured in this way'.

'At first, we felt a bit embarrassed, as there must be many others who do similar things in the church and community. In a way, it's recognition for those people, too, and for the Lutheran Church!'

The congratulations of the church are offered to these recipients and any other members honoured with awards.

Lois Grosse

Story reproduced with permission from *The Lutheran*.

Albury Aged Care celebrates 60 years of service

On 14 February 1960 The Lutheran Women of the Riverina began providing residential care for the frail elderly in an Albury cottage called Riverview Terrace.

These pioneering women saw a need in the community and worked tirelessly to respond to that need.

The first Lutheran Aged Care 20-bed nursing home (as they were then called), commenced operations in 1975. Five retirement units were also constructed at the site with one visitor commenting "that he hasn't seen anything as good anywhere in Melbourne".

By the late 1980s the local committee could see that the expectations of the community were changing in relation to aged care and it was decided to construct a new facility. The design was innovative at the time and a significant departure from the traditional

nursing home.

This was O'Brien Court Albury and it was the first Lutheran Aged Care residence that was purpose built. O'Brien Court is now known as Arrunga - a specialised memory support area.

1993 saw Lutheran Aged Care commence to offer Community Packages (now known as Home Care) in addition to providing residential aged care, while constructing a new 60-bed nursing home, which commenced operations in 1994 as Yallaroo in Stafford Road, West Albury. Yallaroo celebrated its 25th birthday in 2019. Pember-ton View Independent Living Village (35 houses) was the next addition in 1991.

By 2001 Lutheran Community Care Services included services to Veterans, multi-cultural services and rural and regional services, (Corowa and Culcairn). In 2005 it began offering Extended Aged Care in the Home (EACH) packages, which saw the beginning of the High Care services.

Dellacourt residential aged care in Nicholson place opened in 2005 and linked with the O'Brien Court residence, creating a complex of 92 beds, administration section, production kitchen and individual house dining

rooms, serveries and a large multipurpose area also containing the Living Hope Chapel. Four years later the number of aged care beds was increased to 122 with the Alkira extension.



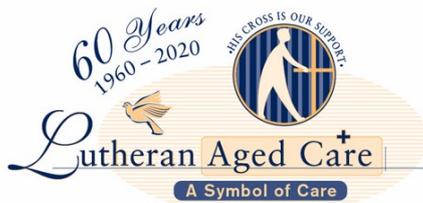
**Albury Aged Care
CEO Wendy Rocks**

Nicholson Park, the second Independent Living Village, was added in 2009. In the same year Emily Gardens at The Rock opened. It was a joint venture between the community, Lockhart Shire and Lutheran Aged Care.

In 2015 Lutheran Aged Care was granted Consumer Directed (Home) Care Packages, followed in 2017 by Short Term Restorative (Home) Care packages.

It is with heartfelt gratitude to the Lutheran Women, volunteers/auxiliary members, past and present board members, management and our wonderful staff that we celebrate 60 years.

Wendy Rocks



Caring is at the heart of all matters

Care is the core business at Lutheran Aged Care, including spiritual care, says pastoral care nurse Angela Uhrhane.

"The word spiritual care can have broad definitions and is often misunderstood," she said.

"Meaningful Ageing Australia defines spirituality as being 'integral to, but not confined by, religion and faith. It is about what gives us a purpose to our lives. It is about our sources of meaning and hope, which in turn is intimately related to our connectedness to ourselves, to others and to the world'.

"When we provide spiritual care it means that we meet people where they are in their lives so that their wellbeing can be enhanced.

"We connect with people and work out with them what is important on an individual basis."

Resources for training staff are utilised from Meaningful Ageing Australia. Lutheran Aged Care has a current membership with this organisation which is continually developing its resources for residential and home care services.

Lutheran Aged Care has a well-established pastoral care team. Pastor Darryl Mattner is the Chaplain and is supported by Angela Uhrhane (pastoral care nurse) and Debbie Lieschke (pastoral care worker).

The pastoral care team is also supported by a small group of dedicated volunteers who visit the people that live at Lutheran Aged Care on a one-on-one basis.

In addition to the visits there are regular church services at each campus and a Hymns We Love program.

"Pastoral care is filled with joys and sorrows as we spend time with people

while they are adjusting to receiving care, living life but also when dying and receiving palliative care," Angela said.

Pastoral support is available to the people who live at Lutheran Aged Care, their family members, the volunteers and the staff also.

The program extends over all campuses, Dellacourt and Yallaroo in Albury, Home Care and also at Emily Gardens at The Rock.

Lutheran Aged Care is seeking expressions of interest for the next pastoral care volunteer training course, which is planned for May 2020. Contact Angela on (02) 6060 4071 or angela.uhrhane@lcalbury.com.



**Albury Aged Care
Pastoral Care nurse
Angela Uhrhane**



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DID YOU KNOW?

Enrolments are still open
for 2020 and 2021

HENTY SHOW SUCCESS - Two students attended the Henty Show in February with great success. **Piper Williams** placed 1st in Wool and 2nd in Grain. **Clarissa Peasley** placed 3rd in the Junior Cattle Judging, winning through to compete in Sydney Royal Show!

SWIMMING CARNIVAL - A fantastic effort from all our championship event competitors to our novelty events. Competition was close on the day, but congratulations goes to **Kavel** as the overall house winner!

NEW STUDENTS - We welcomed forty five **Year 7 students**, twelve of those are boarders. The students are settling well into their new school routine. This was evident at their recent Dragon Boat activity as they learnt to work as a team!



HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

St Paul's theme/intent for 2020 is **Higher Expectations**. A clear message to raise standards of learning and conduct. We are looking forward to a year where we all embrace this intent, so as to take St Paul's into higher levels of achievement and celebration. During the course of the year our staff will nurture this theme in all our endeavours.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW LEARNING HUB

Students have been enjoying the new Learning Hub which includes indoor and outdoor learning areas. The Hub offers great areas of learning with three tutorial rooms for senior classes, our library and open plan learning areas, this new space has been a great success! It certainly has provided a haven for students during breaks on our recent hot days. Our **Official Opening** will be conducted by The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, on **Wednesday 8th April, 10.30am** followed by morning tea. The College Board and School Community wishes to acknowledge the generous grant from the Commonwealth Government and support from the LCA NSW District.



SCHOOL REUNION'S

40 YEAR : 28 March 2020

1980 to 1985 : David Lieschke for program 0427 402 162.

50 YEAR : 3 & 4 October 2020

1970 to 1975 : Marg Noske
margnoske@gmail.com or
Heather Haberman 0444 539 686.





Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre
322 Greenwood Road Murrumbateman 2582

www.warrambui.com.au

(02) 6220 1000

WARRAMBUI NEWS

March 2020

Prayer Points

- For the three interns in 2020: Imogen, Adam and Caleb
- For the God's guidance in the recruitment of new staff to fill vacancies
- For ongoing blessing and protection of Warrambui's guests, staff, volunteers and residents in 2020
- For God's leading in the future planning by Warrambui Management and Board

Praise Points

- For protection of the site over summer
- For recent rains filling tanks and making us green
- For Lahne's incredible contribution to Warrambui's Ministry over 21 years.
- For the safe arrival of babies to three staff members

Centre Director's Update

Strange start to 2020

As it has been for much of the country, it has been a strange start to 2020 at Warrambui. The fires and smoke have led to a delayed start for one of our interns, and the postponement and cancellation of some bookings.

No doubt this is one of the challenges God has in store for us this year along with numerous, and often unexpected, blessings.

New arrivals

We have been blessed with three new interns for 2020 – Imogen Radford from Tumbarumba, Adam Welch from Clarence Town (north of Newcastle), and Caleb Stone from Griffith. They are three remarkable young adults and we are looking forward to seeing what God does in their lives during their year of service. You can read more about them on the following pages.



The new Arise Intern team for 2020

We have also had further new arrivals in our community with three of our staff members becoming first time fathers in December-January. We congratulate our Maintenance Manager, Josh Weber, and his wife Thea on the arrival of Isaiah, Operations Manager Stephen and his wife Ruth on the arrival of Eliana, and Head Chef Hash and his Wife Dilu on the arrival of their Eliana.

Largest group ever

At the time of writing, we have just farewelled our largest ever group – 205 students and teachers from a local Canberra school (which left only 12 of our 217 beds unused for the night). This group came to us at short notice after they could not attend their regular venue due to the fires.

Injuries to Chefs

One of 2019's biggest challenges came in late August when our Head of Catering, Benedict D'Rozario, and Head Chef, Sanjaya (Hash) Vithanage, became unable to work due to injuries. These injuries resulted in considerably more time-off for our two Chefs than anticipated. Using chefs from a temping agency, and with a lot of teamwork and effort from our wonderful staff, we made it through our peak period and into the start of

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. Psalm 145:3

the new year. Hash has returned to full-time work from late January and we hope to see Benedict back on deck from mid-March. Please pray with us for his continued recovery.

Farewell to the Amazing Lahne

At the end of 2020 we farewelled the amazing Lahne Graham who had been with us for 21 years. Lahne, as Office and Bookings Manager, had long been the smiling face, and friendly telephone voice, of Warrambui. Lahne has been a constant, Godly, presence amongst our team, mentoring many Interns and living out our mission to serve people by living Jesus. She will be greatly missed by staff and guests alike and we wish her God's blessing for her new career in disability services. Please pray that God will guide us as we seek to recruit the right people to fill our vacant positions.

Work Camp

Warrambui again held its annual Work Camp on from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 February. We greatly appreciate the remarkable volunteers who came along and helped out with many repairs, landscaping and maintenance tasks. Despite the rain preventing us from working on the Sunday it was still very welcome.

Major Projects

We continue to work on three major projects into 2020.

The harvest of the pine forest has now been completed and we are establishing plans for the

rehabilitation of the area. We are working with Greening Australia who have offered us 5,000 eucalypts and 100 volunteers for National Tree Day on Sunday 2 August. We will be inviting members of the District who wish to join us to come and participate in the re-planting. Further details to follow.

The horizontal-flow reed bed section of our effluent system needs repair. After investigation we have determined to replace it with a new, more efficient vertical-flow reed bed which, together with improvements to the lagoon, will improve the life of the overall system and treat the wastewater to a higher standard. This project is estimated to cost \$150,000 with funding to come from our capital works fund established over the past 5 years. We would rather this money is spent on more exciting projects, but this is obviously essential infrastructure.

We continue to work on plans for the refurbishment of the iconic Dome. Current options being considered include the removal of asbestos sheeting, the inclusion of an ensuite with the internal teacher's room, and the extension of the kitchen area to create a more efficient space to enable us to better cater for our guests across the site. As with our other projects, we are being mindful of resources but looking long term, seeking to ensure that the Dome remains an attractive venue for groups for decades to come.

Ministry Contribution

We continue to focus on the ongoing viability of Warrambui in not only in terms of finances, but also suitability of venues, reliability of infrastructure, appropriate staffing levels and contingencies, regulatory compliance and risk management. All this is a balancing act.

Warrambui's ministry and mission is also part of this balance, with significant resources allocated to supporting and growing God's Kingdom in areas including:

- discounts to Lutheran groups, including TPM camps, reducing the costs of camps/retreats and thereby allowing more people to attend and benefit;
- the growing of young people in the Arise Volunteer Intern program through study, mentorship, community investment and service;
- the operation of the Retreat Hut as a place of prayer, reflection and refreshment for ministry workers of all denominations; and
- conducting free programs for Christians schools whereby Warrambui team members share key aspects of our faith when leading students through the Stations of the Cross Walk or Creation Walk.

It is our privilege and joy to be able contribute to the Kingdom in these ways, beyond "serving people by living Jesus" as an accommodation centre.

Prayer support for 2020

We are deeply grateful to the members of the NSW District for your support. We humbly ask that you continue to uphold our ministry in prayer through 2020, with all its challenges and blessings.

God's Blessings,

Dean Salzke - Centre Director





SAVE THE DATE

WARRAMBUI TREE PLANTING

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2020

On Sunday 2nd August, Greening Australia will be bringing 100 volunteers to Warrambui to re-plant the pine-forest area.

We'd love Warrambui volunteers to be a part of this weekend! More details will be coming out soon, and you can make sure you hear about them by joining the supporters email list. Simply email your name to supporters@warrambui.com.au

There is a time for everything...

A time to plant and a time to uproot...

Ecclesiastes 3



Photos from Work Camp February 2020



Meet the Volunteer Interns for 2020

Adam Welch

Hello, my name is Adam Welch and I'm from Clarence Town NSW. I'm 19 years old and I have two sisters and a brother.

I finished school in November and towards the end of the year I did casual work at a fencing company in Tomago NSW. I have been brought up in a Christian family in the Presbyterian Church all my life, but have been to other church denominations before, including Baptist, Uniting and now Lutheran.

I hadn't heard about Warrambui until I was told about it through a friend and thought it was a good opportunity for me and I decided to be a Warrambui intern thinking that's what God wanted me to do, and that it would also be a good chance to understand the bible in more depth and grow in faith. Overall, I'm looking forward to what God has instore for me this year with my time at Warrambui.

God bless, Adam



Imogen Radford

Hi there! My name is Imogen Radford and I am 18. I am originally from Tumbarumba and grew up with five siblings (four who are older, and a twin). I finished high school last year and made the decision to apply for an internship here at Warrambui.

I attended two camps at Warrambui over the past year and have enjoyed listening to stories from past interns about their year here and how they grew, both personally and within their relationship with God.

The first month has been busy, but rewarding. We have had a lot of support from everybody here at 'Bui and have been able to connect as an intern team. I have enjoyed having time to reflect during serving tasks such as cleaning and kitchen, as well as learning the ropes to running programs. I am eager to see what God has instore for me this year and what path He will lead us on as the year progresses.

God Bless, Imogen



Caleb Stone

Hello, my name is Caleb Stone. I am from Griffith in Country NSW. I am 19 years old and I finished high school in 2018. I am the oldest child in my family, I have three siblings and much to my parents surprise I was the first to move out of home.

Prior to the internship I hadn't been to Warrambui as far as any camps or activities are concerned. After moving in I felt completely welcomed and at home. I love my work and the

mission set out by Warrambui "To serve people by living Jesus."

I wanted to be an intern as I felt a calling to serve and to grow in faith. This year I hope to grow myself as well as those around me and to develop a better understanding of the Lord's word.

Blessings,
Caleb :)





History Makers**

12 - 16 May
Ages 10 to 16
***CANCELLED**

**Special thanks to the LLL Camping Ministry grant

Leadership Camp

17 - 19 May
Ages 16+
***CANCELLED**

Young Adults Retreat at the Coast

10 - 12 May
Ages 16+
***CANCELLED**

Better Blokes

5 - 8 June
Blokes of all ages

Junior Youth Camp

17 - 19 July
Grades 3 to 6

Sisterhood

21 - 23 August
Women of all ages

Back2Base

5 - 9 October
Grades 7 to 12

Young Adults Retreat

20 - 22 November
Ages 16+

Easter Camp:

Easter Camp will no longer be held in 2020, and will be run in 2021.



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



The devastating bushfires across Australia over summer 2019/2020 had a dramatic impact on so many areas of the state with smoke also causing hazardous conditions. This situation and these conditions led the TPM Camping Team to make the difficult decision to postpone our January 2020 camp programs.

This decision was made with the concern for the health and safety of all people involved. We have now rescheduled History Makers and Leadership Camp to the April school holidays.

The January Young Adults Retreat has also been rescheduled to May, but with a desire to support the coastal communities impacted by the fires, we have kept our booking at Burrill Pines.

The rescheduling of youth camps to April holidays has subsequently meant that Easter Camp will be pushed back to 2021. Our apologies to those young people who were preparing to attend, we do hope you're able to make it next year.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all people directly impacted by the fires.

****All TPM events are subject to ongoing review due to the COVID-19 virus. Please check the TPM website for event updates.**

A little update on the used stamps for mission projects. Firstly, a big thank you for your continuing support for this project of the church. We received news recently that a total of \$13755 was raised last year Australia wide. We express our thanks to all involved. The need for the support of our overseas missions continues to be great, and our donations from Australia can go a long way in meeting some of that need.

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

To support mission projects,
send used stamps to:

Arthur Schuster
17 Titheradge Pl
Chapman ACT 2611

Marie Bahr
Unit 1, 452 Kemp St
Lavington NSW 2641

Ruth MacConachie
16 Village Bay Cl
Marks Point NSW 2280

Marie Hamann
39 Raymond Rd
Springwood NSW 2777

Technical note: please leave plenty of envelope around the stamp when you separate it from the letter, as any damage to the perforations renders the stamp valueless.

Marie Hamann



**GOOD SHEPHERD
COMMUNITY CHURCH
TUGGERANONG LUTHERAN PARISH**

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL, 2020

Join us in giving thanks for

30 years of God's blessing since the opening of our worship centre

Lunch to follow

Cnr Hambidge Cres & Proctor St CHISHOLM ACT

Please rsvp by Saturday 18th April

email: shazzamagpie@gmail.com

or phone Sharon 0402 944 723

If you can't attend

But would like to send a special message or photo

Memoir

Please email it

or mail it to

Good Shepherd Community Church

PO Box 34, CALWELL, ACT 2905

By Friday 27/03/2020

LWNSW 54th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Saturday, April

***POSTPONED**

Theme: CARRIED IN OUR SHEPHERD'S ARMS

Based on: Isaiah 40:11

Venue: Living Water Lutheran Church

15 Burrelli Street, Wollongong

Registration and morning tea: 9.00 am

Commencement: 9.45 am with Devotion

All welcome



travellers HOPE ALIVE

DEBUT ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2020, 6.30PM

AT LIFEWAY LUTHERAN CHURCH • 56 NORFOLK RD EPPING

LIVE MUSIC • SPECIAL GUEST RACHEL TOMC • FOOD STALLS • PRIZES & MORE!

FREE ADMISSION • ALL WELCOME



@travellersLWmusic



LISTEN AND FOLLOW ON



Changing Church - How?

Guest speaker Professor Pat Keifert

Saturday 11 July 2020 9am to 5pm

This practical one day conference is ideal for pastors, church leaders and all who are interested in being a changing church in a changing environment.

The focus will be on why a changing church is needed, and how it can happen.

Pat Keifert is an experienced missiologist, emeritus professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary (USA), the author of Talking about Our Faith and Welcoming the Stranger: A Public Theology of Worship and Evangelism.

Optional accommodation will be available at Warrambui on the Friday and Saturday evenings. More details to follow.



Assisting regional people coming to Sydney

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



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
March	1 Temora	Darren Kupke - Lee-Anne, Zakea	Trinity Temora Zion Trungley Hall Chapel on the Hill
	8 Bass Hill Finnish	Aapo Kaivosoja – Sanna, Nooa, Selma, Viena	Sydney Finnish
	15 Bennelong Asian Ministry		Bennelong Asian Ministry
	22 Campbelltown	vacant	Good Shepherd Campbelltown
April	29 Central Coast	Allan Taruste - Tina	St Matthew's Woy Woy
	5 Chinese	vacant	Chinese Lutheran Sydney
	12 Estonian	Allan Taruste - Tina	St John's Estonian Sydney St Peter's Estonian Canberra
	19 German	Christian Hohl - Ute	Gnadenfrei Chester Hill Martin Luther Sydney
	26 Illawarra	Simon Mackenzie – Oiy, Aussie, Jeni, Jane Erik Braunack-Mayer - Annette	Living Water Nowra Living Water Oak Flats Living Water Wollongong
May	3 Indonesian	Sahat Simanullang - Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau	Indonesian Yagoona
	10 Latvian	Colvin MacPherson - Linda Mark Schultz – Jo-Anne, Jack, Anna, Alex, Georgia Mark Simpfendorfer - Kaye, Calvin, Joshua, Dylan	Sydney Latvian LifeWay Epping LifeWay Newcastle
	17 LifeWay	Mathew von Stanke – Elise, Lily, Aaron, Noah Wilkinson Hu, Magali, Anna, Esther	Cross Cultural and Asian Ministry Chaplain
	24 Liverpool	Hans Peethala – Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah	Living Waters Liverpool
	31 Port Macquarie	vacant	St Peters Port Macquarie Taree private home

LCA IT Online Shop

LCA agencies and congregations can now order computers and other IT equipment via the LCA IT Online Shop.

The products in the online shop have been sourced from reputable suppliers and are recommended by our IT team.

Go to <http://itshop.lca.org.au> to see the range and place your order.

All prices are ex GST. Please allow for delivery costs.



Hardware · Software · Hosting Services

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



Upcoming Events

- April 13-17** History Makers ***CANCELLED**
Ages 10-16, Warrambui
- April 17-18** Leadership Camp ***CANCELLED**
Ages 16+, Warrambui
- April 18** LW NSW Convention ***POSTPONED**
Wollongong
- April 23-25** Pastors' Wives Retreat
Jamberoo
- May 8-10** Young Adults Retreat ***CANCELLED**
Ages 16+, south coast
- June 5-8** Better Blokes
Blokes of all ages, Warrambui
- July 17-19** Junior Youth Camp
Years 3-6, Warrambui
- August 21-23** TPM Sisterhood Camp
Women of all ages, Warrambui
- October 19-21** Mission & Ministry Conference
Pastors and lay Workers, Warrambui

Contact Newsletter

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kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au

www.lcansw.org.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

*** All NSW District events are subject to ongoing review due to the COVID-19 virus. Please check relevant websites for event updates.**

BETTER BLOKES 2020

www.betterblokes.com

With: **Jason Elsmore**
Author of "Jesus the Bloke"

Dale MacArthur
A family man who loves to encourage, challenge and inspire men to live whole hearted lives.

Get real... Get to Better Blokes!

WARRAMBUI RETREAT AND CONFERENCE
CENTRE JUNE 5-8, 2020

MARK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY!

Brochures and registrations will be available by March 2020 at:

www.betterblokes.com

TRANSFORM