

June
2021



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
NSW and ACT
DISTRICT

Contact

“
A new creation
has fresh
potential
over the old
”

Planting and Renewing Congregations



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

People love new things. New furniture, a new car, new clothes. We become excited when we get new things. It gives us a new lease of life.

This captivation with all things new, is found not only in what humans create, but also in the very essence of creation itself. We enjoy seeing a new plant grow and produce its first fruit. New shrubs that grow and create a beautiful environment make us happy. New lawn grass, replacing red clay dirt, fills us with satisfaction.

Jesus talked about new things. Jesus gave us a new commandment. In John 13:34-35 he says "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" Jesus sent us his Holy Spirit who forms us into a new creation and a new humanity. Jesus even made new wine at Cana!

Paul, in 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*"

So why this fascination with new things? Well we are drawn to new things, because it changes our normal experience. New things give us a sense of going forward. A new creation has fresh potential over the old.

When it comes to churches, we find that according to statistical records, new churches receive 30% new members annually, long established churches receive about 3% new members each year.

This reality is one of the reasons, why we promote the establishment of new communities of faith in our district. This is why across NSW and the ACT, we

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”

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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 Smith (Bishop, Qld District) has declined the call to Wagga Wagga
- Pastor Kees Sturm (Henty) has been called to Townsville Qld
- Pastor David Schuppan (Murrumba Downs Qld) has accepted the call to LifeWay Illawarra.

Acceptance into SMP Program

- DCC supported the application of David Jarman (Tamworth) and Malcolm Hall (Albury) to the LCA SMP program, and both were approved by the College of Bishops at their recent meeting.

Conclusion of Ministry

- In April Dean Eaton stepped down from his role as mission facilitator and mentor with LCA New and Renewing Churches, due to personal family reasons. Dean's ministry influenced most of the congregations in the NSW and ACT District, especially those seeking to plant and renew ministries. We thank God for all he has done through Dean.

Deaths

- Pastor Ted Prenzler died on 12 May 2021. Ordained in 1956, Pastor Ted served in Wagga Wagga (1959-1963), St Pauls College Walla Walla (1963-1968), as LCA Youth Director (1968-1976), and in Qld and SA before retiring in 1996. After retirement he continued to serve as locum in many locations including Woden and Sydney.
- Pastor Colin Hentschke died on 23 May 2021. Ordained in 1951, Pastor Colin served at several locations in SA, as well as at Lavington/Corowa/Glenroy from 1976-1983.

From previous page

are investing heavily in supporting church planters who focus on raising up new communities of faith. This is why each congregation is encouraged to spend energy on supporting the growth of new places.

Renewing Churches

It is not only new churches or communities of faith, which have our attention, we also want to see old churches renewed or 'repotted'. Because renewed churches, are more likely to receive more new people too. Renewed churches get excited about sharing their faith and this results in new people joining in.

Plants which have been in the same pot for years, when they are repotted, have a new lease of life. Repotted plants grow better and produce more fruit. Repotted plants have new soil and flourish from the nutrients in that soil, and they have more room to grow. Repotted congregations have a renewed vision of the purpose of the church.

We are on a journey – individually and together

Spend a little time in the New Testament and it becomes apparent that Christianity has this strong sense of being a journey. A journey with God and a journey with others. A journey where we help and support others and a journey where we receive help and support from others.

Our District's strategic directions – *Walking Together in Mission* encourages us to see that our life together as the Lutheran Church in NSW and ACT is one of walking with each other. Even though God has placed each of our congregations and ministries into a specific and often different contexts, that we are not alone in being God's missionaries in these contexts.

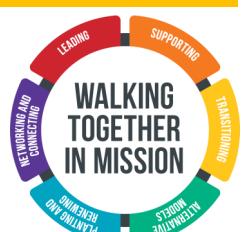
Walking Together in Mission is about us as a District walking with you and your congregation or ministry to help you respond to the changing context you are being God's missionaries to. *Walking Together in Mission* is not the District having a top down approach, instead it is about encourag-

**We all want to
see new people
coming to know
Jesus**

Our strategic plan emphasizes these two truths when it says we will focus as a district on planting new churches and renewing long established churches.

Let us all get on board either being involved in planting a new church, or supporting a congregation which is. Why? Because we all want to see new people coming to know Jesus.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop, LCA NSW and ACT District



ing your congregation or ministry to reflect on your current situation, your context and where you maybe heading in the next year, 5 years, 10 years or even longer. Think about:

- How is your community changing?
- What are the possible opportunities God is placing before you?
- What are the possible challenges?
- What changes may God be calling you to make?
- Where might you need help?
- How can you support and work with others?
- Where could you bless others?

And if you need help in exploring your journey contact Bishop Robert, as we are looking forward to Walking Together in Mission with you.

Pastor Richard Schwedes
Assistant Bishop, LCA NSW and ACT

Pastors and Mission Leaders Conference

Early in May the NSW and ACT District pastors, lay workers, church planters, and some congregation council members gathered at Warrambui for the Pastors and Mission Leaders Conference.

A Renewal and Repotting Story

One of the highlights of the conference was our keynote speaker Stephen Gardner from St Paul's Anglican Church, Canterbury, in Sydney's inner west. Stephen shared his journey and some lessons in being involved in renewing or repotting a congregation.

The parish at Canterbury had been unable to support a full-time pastor for many years. It had shrunk to 20 active members, and is in an area of Sydney that is considered challenging for Christian churches. However, since 2017 the parish has been on a renewal or repotting journey, growing to an active community of over 150 people. It was helpful and encouraging to hear their story, the lessons they have learnt and the challenges they encountered.

The key aspects include connecting with the wider community, connecting with each other, and encour-

aging spiritual growth. All of these ministries are supported by missional focussed governance/administration.

The feedback from many who attended the conference was that this story was very encouraging. We actually heard how God can bring life to something that looked nearly dead, through His church.

Sharing the Journey

Another important aspect of the conference is for pastors and mission leaders to grow closer together by spending time with each other, through sharing our stories of joys and struggles, praying for each other and learning from each other. Throughout Christian history this has been important for the church, and we see it as important for us as a District, that we work and be church together.

We also heard from:

- **Lutheran International Mission** – Pastor Matt Anker, and how the LCA is actively involved and supporting mission in overseas countries.
- **Grow Ministries** – Jodi Brook and Christine Matthisas, with their new resource for Growing Disciples, a resource for confirmation and faith development.
- **LCA Child Protection Officer** – Mary Ann Carver shared with us the 10 principles of Child Safe Standard, and encouraged us to embed them into our congregational life. These principles have or will become law in many states of Australia.
- **District Bishop** Robert Bartholomaeus and **LCA Bishop** John Henderson shared about what is happening in the wider church, with the discussion on Women's Ordination, General Synod, and the challenges and blessings we are experiencing as church.

And most importantly, each day we were blessed to be able to begin and end the day with God's Word through a variety of worship services.

Our conferences are not designed to only bless those who attend. We pray that they also bless the congregations and ministries we serve. Take some time to ask your pastor or mission leader what they learnt or experienced from the conference that can help and bless your congregation's or ministry's mission.

Pastor Richard Schwedes



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* The LCA endorses the National Church Life Survey and financially supports all congregations to participate.



Mission Thinking:
Focus on the field not the barn.

Good Governance and Mission

Sometimes in the church and in Christian circles, governance is seen as a nuisance to mission and ministry, instead of being supportive to the mission and ministry God has given us. This arises because of a misunderstanding of what good governance is all about.

Governance in the Church

One of the biggest mistakes we can make is to limit governance to simply making good financial decisions and making sure that we are meeting all our legal obligations. Good governance for ministry and mission is more than that. In fact, just focussing on the financial and legal matters when it comes to governance may actually lead to bad governance. Why? Because a key to good governance is ensuring we are focussed on living out why we actually exist.

In a practical sense this means focussing on our objectives, mission and strategic directions as a church or ministry of the church. Our response to our financial and legal obligations should always be based on why we exist, assisting us to live out our objectives and mission in the environment God has called us to.

Applying the Rules

As a result of COVID-19 we have observed good and not so good governance in churches and in other organisations. COVID-19 brought about a number of

rules and restrictions for us as church. Legally we can't avoid these rules. Many of the rules and restrictions were brought in to help and care for the community.

Some churches and organisations applied these rules without considering their mission and objectives. People relating to such organisations had a sense that all the organisation cared about was keeping out of trouble. The attitude appeared to be 'here are the rules, you must do this or that, its not our fault but the governments'. In many cases there was a sense of coldness with little love or care for others.

Other churches and organisations gave some more thought to how they applied the rules and restrictions in the light of their mission and objectives. Many encouraged their communities to see that these rules were in place to care for and love others. They went out of their way to greet people in a welcoming and encouraging way. They made it easy for people to comply with the rules. They considered the diverse opinions of their community. They explored other ways they could serve and care for people and keep engaged with people, considering the restrictions and rules in place.

This latter group was not just focussed on their legal obligations, but more importantly on the community God has placed around them to serve. They were not just concerned about not getting into trouble, but their main focus was on living out who God called them to be.

A Missional Approach

So how might we develop a more missional approach to governance?

- Focus continually on who God has called us to be and what has God called us to do.
 - Know our mission, objectives and strategic directions, and view everything through these.
 - Spend a significant time at each meeting in listening to God, reflecting on and sharing what God says and prayer.
 - Reflect on who has God placed in your organisation's life to serve and share the Gospel with.
- Understand the financial and legal responsibilities you have, then shape your response to these based on your objectives and mission. Think about how your response can reflect your mission, objectives and strategic direction. This may take time, prayer and much discussion.

Pastor Richard Schwedes



LIVING WATER
2021

LCA/NZ SIMULTANEOUS ART EXHIBITION

The Visual Arts Working Group of the LCA Commission on Worship is inviting artists of all ages, stages and media to participate in exhibitions in their local communities during August 2021 on the theme 'Living Water'. We encourage you to connect with other artists in your church community, school or aged-care facility to explore the theme and unleash your creativity. Exhibitions can be held anywhere – in your school hall, your church, the local coffee shop – wherever you can share your work and the living water of Christ's gospel. For more information, to receive a resource pack or to register your interest, email libby.krahling@lca.org.au or visit the LCA Visual Arts website at www.lca.org.au/visualarts

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA | COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

Illawarra Parish joins the LifeWay Multi Point community

How do we continue to be God's church and fulfill His purpose for us?

In the Illawarra like many of you, we grappled with this question over many years, as our numbers slowly declined. What we noticed was a tendency for church, out of fear of loss, to become busy trying to protect itself, resulting in a focus that becomes more and more inward.

Yet, we know God promises so much more. He does not give a spirit of fear, but of power and love.

We looked into scripture, we connected with healthy church communities in our area and online. We developed a plan and encouraged our community to focus on Prayer, Worship, Meeting and Eating together. We trusted God to work on us, through good times and hard times. We saw throughout COVID growth potential in online ministry, with our services reaching existing members and new faces. Small group online ministry began to grow, with a very successful life group throughout the shut down period.

Has it always been easy? No, we have had to grow and change. We have experienced significant speed bumps and turbulence on the way. The Church leadership felt called to consider partnership opportunities with LifeWay and took these to the congregation. After many months of prayerful consideration and discussion, the Illawarra Church community overwhelmingly decided to join LifeWay. This was followed by a unanimous endorsement of the partnership by the existing LifeWay community in Epping and Newcastle.

The decision was one which came easily for many, with a similarity in the missional perspectives of the congregations. The Illawarra's mission statement as endorsed unanimously by the congregation in 2016 was 'Living Christ's Love, Growing By Grace and Sharing His Hope with All'. The LifeWay mission statement is 'Living Jesus' love, Sharing His Hope with all, Growing in grace together'. It is not hard to see the similarity!

The decision to partner with a larger community was also a hard one for some members, feeling a sense of grief at what is lost at the time of starting a new journey of faith. We are working together to bring hope to all our people. To remind them of the assurance that living by faith gives. We have felt the movement of the Holy Spirit already, with Pastor David Schuppan recently accepting the call to be LifeWay's location pastor for the Illawarra.



Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus (left) and Pastor Mark Schultz lead the launch service of LifeWay Illawarra on 25 April

We did not expect to be able to issue a call so swiftly, but the circumstances came together very quickly.

A future for the Lutheran Church in the Illawarra:

As LifeWay, we are embarking on a new journey with our community; a journey of trust in a faithful God who called us to dream and continues to call us to dream as we consider how we can carry on his mission in this world. What God has in store will challenge us, stretch us and maybe even frighten us. But the call of Jesus is to "Go", so we can't just sit there! If it wasn't bigger than us, then there would be no need for faith. But we step forward with eyes of faith, dreaming of a new future and trusting in the promise of God to his people:

I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper and not harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

The Bible tells us that the Christian life is one of healthy growth and multiplication. A life of discipleship, living to the glory of the Father will naturally produce good kingdom fruit (John 15). This fruit is seen as multiplying disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), leaders (Acts 6:3-7; 14:23) and churches (Acts 2:42-47). As we live out God's vision for us here, we are simply living out his call to multiply through the power of the Gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Imagine... disciples making disciples as they live lives of living praise.

Imagine... LifeGroups all over the Illawarra embracing their local communities and sharing Jesus' hope with all.

Imagine... living Jesus' love in our daily life in such a way that it influences those around us to desire more for their life.

Imagine... a vibrant Christian Church that is thriving and growing and known for its love.

Imagine... being part of a movement and seeing new congregations planted in the next 10 years as we boldly step into the harvest.

That's the future we are imagining as LifeWay Illawarra. What's the future you are imagining for your church and community?

So as church we encourage you to pray as we have also been praying:

Lord, prepare our hearts for what you have for us next and give us a heart of faith to go where you call us to go. Amen.

Michael Dobie
Illawarra



District Church Council news

Supporting Congregations and Ministries in Mission and ministry

Liverpool Church air-conditioning

The Liverpool Lutheran Church applied to the District for assistance to install air-conditioning in their church hall complex. Some areas of Western Sydney can be quite humid and remain over 40 degrees for many days, meaning those churches that are not air-conditioned are very uncomfortable. District Church Council (DCC) resolved to assist the Liverpool congregation with the installation of air-conditioning through an \$8500 grant and a \$10,400 loan from the Mission Development Fund.

St Paul's Sydney Mission and Ministry Development Facilitator

St Paul's Sydney Lutheran Church submitted an application for a Mission and Ministry development Facilitator to work in a part-time capacity in the St Pauls congregation. The DCC recommended that the position be increased to full-time with the proviso that the position includes working with other congregations in Sydney. DCC agreed to fund this position for a period of 3 years at a total cost including resources of \$238,810 over 3 years.

David Jarman and Malcolm Hall Special Ministry Pastor program approval

David Jarman has been faithfully serving the Tamworth Lutheran Church on a part-time basis for the past few years, and Malcolm Hall has recently been called to serve the Albury Lutheran Church in a pastoral capacity. The DCC has supported an application to the College of Bishops for both David Jarman and Malcolm Hall to be enrolled in the LCA SMP program. These were both approved by the College of Bishops at their meetings.

Planting and Renewing Congregations

Glenmore Park Mission House Solar

It was decided that as good stewards of the resources God has given us, it would be appropriate to put solar panels on the Western Sydney (now LifeWay Westside) Mission House. This was completed at a total cost of \$4248, and will provide electricity savings greater than \$1000 per year for the next 15 -20 years. The church planter's contribution to the panels is a small levy of \$10 per week to acknowledge their share of the electricity savings.

Networking and Connecting between congregations and ministries

LCA NSW and ACT District Communications Officer

As part of the continued *Walking Together in Mission* focus the DCC has decided to employ a Communications Officer to help promote the NSW and ACT District strategic direction. This role will include promo-

tion through the website, social media, resource coordination and other means to help share the good news stories of what is happening in your communities. This role is envisaged to be one day per week and DCC has agreed to fund this position at \$40,750 over 3 years.

District Leadership through the Bishop leading leadership teams

Mission and Ministry Grant applications

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus on behalf of the Mission and Ministry team presented four points to the DCC to consider when looking at mission and ministry grant applications:

- Adult baptisms are likely to take place.
- There is a recognition that follow-up of new believers in some form of discipleship training needs to be planned for
- An awareness that the goal of mission and ministry is seeing fully devoted followers of Christ. This means disciples of Jesus who exhibit the habits of disciples. (Pray daily, worship weekly, read scripture daily, serve in ministry locally and in the world, share time, abilities and wealth, spiritual friendships and fellowship.)
- An increase in worship attendance in congregations or communities is likely after some years.

These can be thought of as key measures to assist in monitoring and understanding our mission and ministry projects.

Governance of Specific Ministries

Warrambui Dome redevelopment

The Warrambui Dome development continues to push ahead. There have been some unexpected delays and requirements put in place by the Yass Valley Council when they designated that the project needed to be an integrated project, rather than a stand-alone project, this has meant the original building has had to be upgraded to today's standards of construction. This has added a 25% increase to the original estimates.

The DCC tasked the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) with reviewing the costs of the development to ensure that we can provide clear accountability to the broader District. One thing that was clear to the FAC was that any extra costs associated with the development due to the additional council requirements have been unavoidable but necessary. Whilst some areas of the development primarily the dome renovation elements have been able to be undertaken, Warrambui only received construction approval for the new kitchen and additions in mid-May.

DCC acknowledges that this development has been

Continued next page





Caring through active listening



Grace, peace, and mercy to you from our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray for you during this time, asking God to watch over you and to guide you in His ways.

We have been talking about how to reach out to others by walking in their lives. A big part of this is listening. The funny thing about listening though is that you can listen without hearing. It is a trap that many of us fall into naturally. It can be easy to listen to what we think or want to hear rather than what is being said.

An example of this is music. Have you ever sung along to your favourite song on the radio, only to have someone point out that the words you are singing are wrong? One of my favourites is ‘cheap wine and a three-legged goat...’ (do you know the right words?) This is what is known as passive listening, when you listen but do not really hear what is going on and your brain fills the gaps. This is not the kind of listening that Christ did. Rather He used what is called active listening, a form of listening that engages you into the conversation. A musical example of this is when you are in the band, choir, or music group, and you are listening for your cue to join in. Here you are listening carefully to everything.

Active listening is the listening I learnt to use as a teacher, and God has used this gift in me to help reach out to others.

When we listen actively as a Christian, we are listening for points of prayer. Think on the conversation, what is being said and how you would give that to

God. By doing this you are hearing what is being said rather than your brain filling in the gaps. Also, as you do this, you are praying to God. You are bringing Him into the conversation and giving the Holy Spirit a chance to guide you and your response.

Another way to practice active listening is to not give answers to problems and concerns. Instead reward what you think you have heard to make sure you are right. Try things like, “It sounds like you are saying...”, “Did you mean...” and so on. When you do this you are not only showing the person that you care and are listening to them, but also that you respect them enough to make sure that you have understood them.

When we listen actively as a Christian, we are listening for points of prayer.

I have heard many times in my life (yes active listening was hard for me to learn), God gave us two ears and one mouth, they should be used in that ratio. While this is a simplification, it is a great place to start.

Last time I challenged you with inviting someone over for a conversation. This time I want to challenge you to listen to them with a new heart, a heart that is actively listening. Who do you think you might not have heard properly? Is there someone that said something you did not understand? Try prayerful, active listening to start the process of walking in their life. You cannot be there for someone if you do not know what it is that they need.

God bless you,

Brant Waterson
Discipleship and Outreach Coordinator, Orange

Continued from previous page

necessary to remove the asbestos and other risks from Warrambui and bring the Dome up to current standards for our guests.

St Paul's College Mortgage with LLL

As the LLL continues to walk down the road of being an authorised deposit-taking institution, across the NSW and ACT District we have started securing the LLL loans with Mortgages on the property they resource. This is a necessary step for the LLL in showing their ability to manage and secure the risks associated with Funding. NSW and ACT District have put in place a mortgage on the LLL loans with St Paul's College.

St Paul's College Board nominations

DCC endorsed the nomination of Jenny Zweck to St Paul's College Board. The application was supported by both the SPC Board and Lutheran Education Victoria Tasmania and New South Wales (LEVNT). DCC

gives thanks for Jenny's willingness to serve in this way.

New South Wales Child Safety Standards

Mary Ann Carver, LCA Child Protection Project Officer met with the DCC to discuss the implementation of the new Child Safety Standards in New South Wales. The 10 Child Safety Standards have been developed in the rollout from the Royal Commission. The NSW Government has been the first state trialing the implementation of these standards, and congregations will need to work towards getting these implemented as they roll out in the near future. DCC met with Mary Ann to understand the Safety Standards and the implementation procedures. We should note that whilst the majority of these standards are not new, the government will be looking to formally regulate them in all organisations that run programs for children to help provide a safe environment for our children.

Russell Veerhuis, for DCC

District Administrator

Financial update

This year has presented new challenges as we learn what it means as individuals and congregations to live with the ongoing impact of Coronavirus. Many congregations have struggles as they have gone back to regular worship with some reporting as many as 20% of members have not returned.

Local Congregations

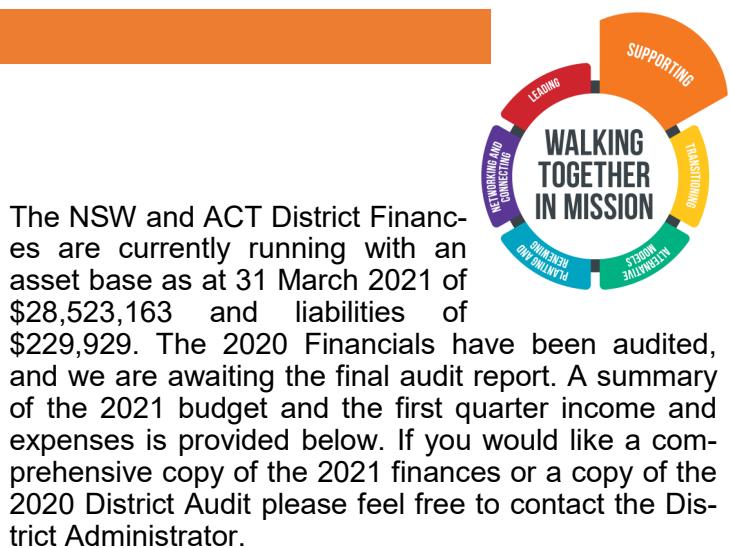
During the last 12 months the NSW and ACT District has been able to receive the Federal Government's JobKeeper, JobKeeper 2.0 and JobKeeper 3.0 for the vast majority of pastors and staff in the District. This has meant that together with the Cashflow boost, congregations have received over \$1.15M in Government assistance. For most of our congregations this has been the lifeline that has allowed them to survive and pay employed staff during the Covid period. We are extremely grateful to the Federal Government for all their support over this period.

District Investments

The Finance Advisory Committee in implementing the District's Investment Strategy has resolved to invest a further \$1.2M in the Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund, and \$800,000 in Vanguard Investments Australian Shares Index Fund. This will bring the total investment so far to \$3.8M in Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund and \$3.4M in Vanguard Investments Australian Shares Index Fund. The total initial investment in Vanguard Investments International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund is \$2,166,666.

The current value of these investments as at 31 March 2021 was.

- Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$4,336,293
- Vanguard Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$3,682,314.
- Vanguard Investments International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund \$2,440,610.



The NSW and ACT District Finances are currently running with an asset base as at 31 March 2021 of \$28,523,163 and liabilities of \$229,929. The 2020 Financials have been audited, and we are awaiting the final audit report. A summary of the 2021 budget and the first quarter income and expenses is provided below. If you would like a comprehensive copy of the 2021 finances or a copy of the 2020 District Audit please feel free to contact the District Administrator.

Notes for the first quarter summary

- Interest from investments has not been received as the LLL bank interest is only credited to accounts in May of each year. Share investment income not received during the first quarter.
- Office Expenses include strata levy's for the District Office.
- Grants of \$177183 have been provided to NSW and ACT District congregations to support ministry in the first quarter of this year. Some of these are grants for the whole year.
- Share price variation is included in other income, as direct income is not received.

Russell Veerhuis, District Administrator

	2021 Budget	2021 Jan-March
Income		
Congregations Contributions	\$164,650	\$16,999
Mission and Ministry Income	\$78,000	\$2,854
TPM Camp income	\$122,750	\$12,658
Investment income	\$391,333	\$9,160
Other District Income	\$29,500	\$651
Total Income	\$786,233	\$42,322
Expenses		
LCA Budget	\$210,775	\$0
Mission and Ministry	\$508,831	\$179,015
Office Expenses	\$96,900	\$15,636
Staff Salaries + housing Expenses	\$370,884	\$92,228
TPM Camp expenses	\$122,100	\$27,818
Depreciation	\$100,620	\$60,015
Other expenses	\$33,200	\$4,727
Total Expenses	\$1,443,310	\$379,439
Net Profit/Loss	-\$657,077	-\$337,117
Other Income		
Share investment growth		\$198,923
Total Net Profit/Loss		-\$138,194

Walking together IN MISSION a Bible Study series



Join with members of the LCA NSW and ACT District in the next online Bible study led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus
**Wednesday 16 June, 7.30pm
on Zoom**

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



WARRAMBUI NEWS

June 2021

Prayer Points

- For the completion of the Dome Refurbishment Project
- For blessing and protection of Warrambui's staff, for the recruitment of new staff, and that God would unify us together as a new team
- For God's leading in future planning by Warrambui Management and Board

Praise Points

- For new and returning bookings in 2021
- For God's guidance in the recruitment of new staff to fill vacancies
- For the beautiful autumn weather that guests and staff have enjoyed
- For the natural beauty of our site.

Centre Director's Update

New and Returning Guests

The good news at Warrambui is that we are continuing to see increased guest numbers as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease.

At times this has felt like the return of old friends – such as a Canberra teacher who has been bringing his orchestra students to Warrambui for over 20 consecutive years prior to 2020.

It has been great to reunite with such groups and hear how Warrambui has a special place in their hearts and how eager they are to return after missing their stay last year.

We have also seen a number of schools who are new to camping, or have not held a camp in a while, choosing to come stay with us. These teachers have identified the important role camping can play in getting to know students, building their confidence and building unity within a cohort, particularly after such a disrupted year as 2020.

Members of our staff have greatly enjoyed running activities for these groups (including archery, obstacle course, initiative/team-building games and campfires) and seeing the children grow whilst having fun.

Bookings still continue to be lower than the pre-COVID-19 period, and it will

take some time for things to return to "normal", but we continue to thank God for the blessing of the groups He is sending our way.

Dome Refurbishment Project Delays

The challenging news at Warrambui is that the Dome Refurbishment Project continues to be substantially delayed which is having a significant impact on our staff, operations and guests.

The main cause for the delay is an unexpected ruling in relation to our development application that occurred late in the approval process. Based on advice, we were operating on the understanding that the refurbishment of the existing Dome was considered maintenance and separate from the new development of the adjoining kitchen.

However, in mid-December Council advised us that they had undertaken a more thorough assessment of our application and had now determined that it is an integrated development meaning that the existing Dome and the new kitchen would be considered one whole development. This then triggered requirements to update the fire protection measures for the existing Dome and overall development including the installation of internal fire-proof linings and provision of a large, dedicated firefighting water supply. These additional measures are costly, have required significant advice and

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,

"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jeremiah 29:11

rework from the architects and consultants, and have necessitated additional levels of review and approval by external authorities.

These requirements have led to very significant delays in the project, which has in-turn lead to increased delay fees from engaged contractors.

The original planned finish date for the project was late February - early March. It is now estimated to be late July – early August.

The delayed development has also led to significant impacts for staff as we are hosting and catering for

increasing bookings whilst operating only out of the Village.

It has also, regrettably, impacted guests with some bookings having to be cancelled or hosted by another local campsite as we do not have the space available.

As we continue to proceed in faith, and seeking God's guidance, we ask that you keep this project in your prayers asking that God would guide our decisions, and make straight the paths, so that the updated Dome facility will be used for His glory and to grow His people.

Staffing

Since late last year, we have had a number of new staff members join our team and we are seeking to further recruit new staff to fill vacancies as bookings increase.

We also ask that you would pray for our staff during this challenging time, that God would strengthen us, give us rest and peace, call further people here to serve Him, and unite us all as a team.

Yours in Christ,

Dean Salzke - Centre Director

Financial Information

Warrambui Income & Expenditure Statement, 1 January - 30 April 2021			
	Budget 2020	Pro Rata Budget	Actual to 30 April
Total Bookings - Total	149	47	23
Total Occupied Bed Nights	15,769	5256	1821
Operating Income	\$ 1,360,011	\$ 453,337	\$ 206,699
Operating Expenses	\$ 1,202,335	\$ 400,778	\$ 309,356
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$ 157,676	\$ 52,559	\$ -102,657

The operating loss for April year to date is \$102,657. This has resulted from continued reduced bookings, additional running costs due to COVID-19, and the continued delay in the Dome Refurbishment Project.

At the time of budgeting, completion of the Dome

was anticipated to be in early March, at which time Dome bookings, and whole site bookings, were expected to recommence.

The impacts of continued reduced bookings due to COVID-19, and the Dome Refurbishment Project delay are reflected in the low figures for actual bookings and occupied bed nights.

We continue to monitor and respond to the current financial situation. We remain optimistic that bookings will continue to increase as the year progresses. We also believe that a refurbished and greatly improved Dome will be a desirable venue for new and returning clients with a refreshed look and feel, and better suited to their needs.

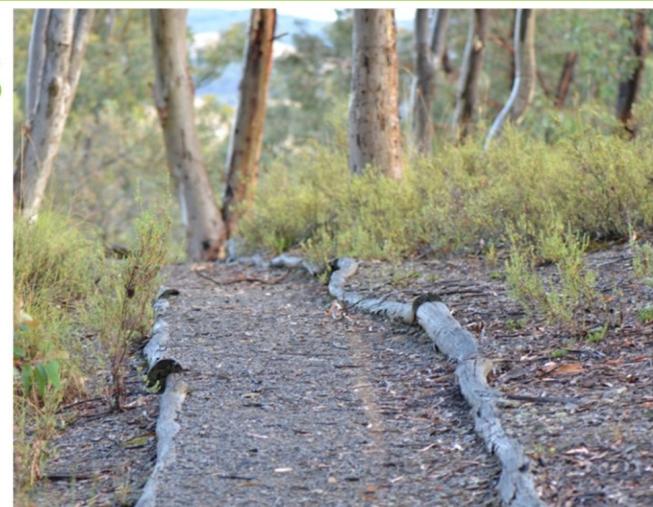
WARRAMBUI SUPPORTERS KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to hear more regular updates of Warrambui News, you can join our Friends and Supporters Facebook Group at

www.facebook.com/groups/warrambuifriends

or join the e-news mailing list by emailing

supporters@warrambui.com.au





Turning Point Ministries

Faith filled events,
growing disciples
of Jesus Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

Sisterhood
13 - 15 August
Women of all ages

Back2Base
29 June - 2 July
Grades 7 to 12
*Leaders Day Monday 28 June

Junior Youth Camp
2 - 4 July
Grades 3 to 6

Young Adults Retreat at Tumbarumba
8 - 10 October
Ages 16+

Leadership Camp
19 - 21 November
Ages 16+

SAVE THE DATES 2022

History Makers
18 - 24 January
Grades 7 to 12

Summer Junior Youth
22 - 24 January
Grades 4 to 6

Mountains
Back 2 Base 29th June - 2nd July 2021
Years 7-12 @ Warrambui | GO TO TPM WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO: WWW.TPM.ORG.AU

INVITING YOU ALL TO OUR WINTER CAMPS!

We're pumped to let you know that registrations are open for Back2Base and Junior Youth Camp. With our high school and primary school aged camps being held back-to-back, there's something for everyone.

First time TPM campers can come along to Back2Base for only \$150!

Early Bird and Family Discounts also apply.

Head to www.tpm.org.au before June 13 to register online.

Junior Youth Camp
Join us for a weekend of fun learning about
The fruit of the Spirit!
Grades 3 - 6 @ Warrambui July 2 - 4 \$180
Register online before June 13: tpm.org.au/events/jyc



The Ordination discussion

During the recent school holidays, I saw the musical 'Frozen' with my family. A quote from the show stuck with me: *The heart is not so easily changed, but the head can be persuaded*. Why do people change their mind? How do people change their mind? How do people know that they have reached the 'right' conclusion? Were they previously 'wrong' and now 'right'? What about in the context of faith and theology? What is the balance of reason and revelation? What happens when one person, or group of people, have reasoning and revelation that differs from others? How do we respond?

A key scenario where these questions are currently being played out is the ongoing debate about women's ordination in the LCANZ. I am part of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Belconnen, ACT, which has a long history of support for women's ordination. We met with Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus late last year to discuss ways that our congregation can promote women's ordination and a number of options were discussed.

One suggestion was to conduct a non-binding plebiscite of individual communicant members of LCA churches in the NSW and ACT District about women's ordination. This would provide an opportunity for all people to have their voice heard and provide additional data to inform ongoing discussions on women's ordination in the LCANZ. A proposal was submitted to the District Church Council (DCC) at their February meeting and they determined that such a vote would not be beneficial and so did not support the proposal. The reasons given included an acknowledgement that a vote on a theological issue such as women's ordination should be based on theology and not the popular vote. They also said there is not a list of names and email address of all members in the NSW and ACT District and so it would be impossible to say that such a vote would be an accurate reflection of the members of the District. There were also concerns about how any information collected would be used.

Listening to Others

Another suggestion for action was to hear from someone who supports the ordination of men only to seek to understand their perspective. Bishop Robert organised for Pastor Christian Fandrich from the Burrumbuttock Parish to speak at Holy Cross Belconnen on Sunday 14th March. The evening was chaired by Bishop Robert with 25 people in attendance.

Pastor Fandrich clarified that he is not simply promoting maintenance of the 'status quo' as he believes the current status is of deepening division and animosity, and that the women's ordination issue has revealed much larger issues within the church. This immediately piqued my interest because a Lutheran female pastor in Australia (ordained overseas) had told me a very similar thing. As I listened to the presentation, and pondered the questions posed by the audience, I began to see some of these looming issues.

Pastor Fandrich began his presentation by sharing his own story. I appreciated his honesty by including details such as his



time away from the church in his post-confirmation years and his previous acceptance of women's ordination as experienced in Germany. He also made a clear distinction between the church and the world, and gave examples of female leadership in his non-church life. So here was a pastor who accepted female leadership in the secular sphere, and whose views on women's ordination had changed over time. I was ready to listen.

The remainder of the presentation was a mix of outlining some arguments for the ordination of men only, addressing some of the arguments commonly used to support women's ordination and responding to questions from the audience.

This format sometimes made it a little difficult to follow the argument being presented and I felt that predicting and addressing some of the arguments used to support women's ordination detracted from building a strong case for the ordination of men only. For example, significant time was spent discussing whether society is progressive or regressive, even though many people in the audience may not use the argument of 'society has progressed since Biblical times' to support women's ordination. Another detractor from building a strong case for the ordination of men only was a reliance on the Theses of Agreement. The argument presented for the ordination of men only also included the challenging teaching about subordination, which was troubling for many attendees.

I appreciated Pastor Fandrich's encouragement and positive attitude about ways that women are involved in non-ordained ministry and highlighting the often-undervalued vocation of parenting and the vital role that parents play in teaching their children about the Christian faith. However, for me, this detracted from the main topic of presenting a strong case for the ordination of men only.

Throughout the presentation and during the questions from the audience, I began to gain a clearer understanding of the ‘bigger issues’ at hand that are uncovered by the women’s ordination debate. These include the interpretation of Scripture, role of the Lutheran Confessions, nature and consequences of the Fall, and the practice of Holy Communion.

It would have been interesting to hear more from Pastor Fandrich about *how* and *why* his mind was changed about women's ordination. However, time limitations meant that Pastor Fandrich was unable to share all that he had prepared, and attendees were



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

The College of St. Paul's

Service to Community : ANZAC Day Services

St Paul's students and staff honoured with respect and dignity those men and women who either died, or suffered injury, as a result of a global conflict at ANZAC Day services in Walla Walla, Henty, Holbrook, Culcairn, Brocklesby, Urana, Ardlethan and Jindera. Sincere thanks to Cheryl Paech and a team of willing students who made rosemary wreaths, Pastor John for playing the Last Post; and to Julie Barber for leading the Walla ANZAC parade on horseback.

School Community : Debutante Ball, Harmony Day

Finally, Year 12s were able to participate in their **Debutante Ball** early March, and what a lovely night it was once again for our College community. It was a great effort by our students to learn the dances in such a short space of time, taking into the disruption and last minute cancellation in 2021. Many thanks to Felicity and Daniel Klemke from our Parent & Friends Association who received the Debutantes.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) organised a fun filled **Harmony Day** to celebrate our cultural diversity—a day of cultural respect for everyone you calls Australia home. Students and staff did an amazing job, finding orange clothes to wear! Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week and traditionally signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. Funds raised on this day will go towards SRC's annual fundraising donation.

Curriculum : Agriculture, Why We love St Paul's

The agriculture faculty has been busy - partnering with Nutrien Ag Solutions and S & W Seeds to create an **official pasture demonstration site** here at St Paul's. This site is pasture based with over 30 different varieties on site and over the coming weeks, months and years we look forward to sharing our learning experiences with the wider agricultural community. Our students will have access to the demonstration site experts that will further enhance their knowledge in leading agriculture pastures and how to successfully choose a pasture suitable for their own enterprise.

The transition into the St Paul's College community has been a very positive move for our family. As parents we love the communication from the teachers and the holistic approach to education. Our kids are engaged in their learning and have settled in easily to their new school environment and peer groups.

We couldn't have asked for a better start to the school year.

**Matthew & Kerri Klemke
Henty NSW**



ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR 2022, Round 2 interviews start 1st June

Walking together IN MISSION

The following Bible study is the fifth in a series that focuses on each of the seven priorities of our District strategic plan 'Walking Together in Mission'.

This study can be used by individuals or in a group.

Join the study online on Zoom led by Bishop Robert on Wednesday 16 June 7.30pm. Email kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au to register.



Study 4: Planting and Renewing Congregations

Planting Seeds

In primary school, I remember having gardening lessons. We were each allocated a small patch of land, about two square meters. Each student received some seeds and were shown how to plant them. Not too deep and not too close. Radishes were the seed of choice. They germinated within days and were easy to look after. So, each of us planted, watered and waited for the new plants to appear.

The garden beds were cared for by students, with different levels of enthusiasm. Some beds were tended with regular attention, and others, when the seeds took too long to germinate or it seemed too heavy a burden to keep watering them every second day, they were soon neglected.

Looking back, I am thankful for this educational experience.

- Were you taught about gardening as a child? What seeds did you try planting?

The Bible frequently uses plants or seeds to illustrate how things function in God's world. In Matthew 6:28 Jesus tells his followers, "Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin." Again in Mark 4: 28 Jesus says "The Kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain."

Planting new churches and renewing old ones is a corresponding fruitful activity in the Kingdom of God. From statistical evidence, we know that old established congregations usually grow by about 3% in new members each year. Whereas new young churches report about 30% new members each year. Because of this evidence, we promote the starting of new churches in our strategic plan. It seems to be the

easiest way for lots of new people to come to know Jesus.

We know God loves new things. The word 'new' occurs 206 times in the scriptures. God makes us part of a new covenant, Jesus gives us a new commandment, God makes us into a new creation and a new humanity, he even makes new wine. We should not be surprised he likes to work through new congregations and renewed congregations.

Bible Passages

Take a look at the bible passages below and after reading each one ask these questions.
(Do as many passages as you have time)

Matthew 9: 14-17
2 Corinthians 5: 16-20
Ezekiel 36: 22 – 27
Isaiah 43: 16 - 19
Revelation 21:1-5

- What new thing is God doing in these passages?
- Is this text saying something to you about your attitude to new things including new churches?
- What does this text say to your congregation or your ministry?
- What are the practical implications of this text to the NSW and ACT District?

Conclude in Prayer

Here is a suggested prayer to get started.

Dear Jesus, your Word, the scriptures, often speak about new things. Forgive us for being content with old routines and habits. You are always doing a new thing in our midst. Grant that we can be part of these new things. Raise up church planters and mission pastors that would plant and renew congregations throughout our district, in your name we pray. Amen



I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and people, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all — the testimony given in its proper time.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

	Location	Pastors and Church Workers (and family)	Congregations
June	6 Liverpool	Pr Hans Peethala (<i>Cynderella, Ethan, Yarmiyah, Carissa</i>)	Living Waters Liverpool
	13 Port Macquarie	<i>vacant</i> Pr Mark Worthing locum Pr Haydn Blaess locum	St Peters Port Macquarie Taree private home
	20 Springwood	Pr Robert Hamann locum (<i>Marie</i>) Pr Rex Mickan locum (<i>Robyn</i>)	Our Saviour Springwood
July	27 St Marys	<i>vacant</i> Pr Erik Braunack-Mayer	St Paul's St Marys
	4 Sutherland	Pr Mat Eckermann (<i>Elizabeth, Ewan, Braden</i>)	Good Shepherd Sutherland
	11 Sydney	Pr Richard Schwedes (<i>Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary, Brooke</i>)	St Paul's Sydney Redeemer Narrabeen
August	18 Yagoona	Pr Sahat Simanullang (<i>Nuritalia, Paskalis, Givendiau</i>)	Concordia Yagoona
	25 Belconnen	<i>vacant</i> Pr Ian Rentsch (<i>Suzanne</i>)	Holy Cross Belconnen
	1 Canberra/ Queanbeyan	Pr Gabor Szabo (<i>Annamaria, Domonkos</i>)	St Peter's Canberra St John the Baptist Queanbeyan
September	8 Cooma	Pr Melvin Salzke (<i>Ruth</i>)	Trinity Cooma
	15 Canberra Finnish	Pr Janne Pekkarinen (<i>Helena, Simeon, Hildamari, Liinakaisa</i>)	Trinity Finnish Canberra
	22 Tuggeranong	Pr Paul Hannola (<i>Karen</i>)	Good Shepherd Tuggeranong
	29 Woden Valley	Pr Tim Muller (<i>Mary, Joel</i>) Jacob Traeger , Mission Facilitator and Church Planting Leader (<i>Kate</i>)	Immanuel Woden Valley
	5 Warrambui	Dean Salzke Centre Director (<i>Anna, Noah, Joshua</i>)	
	12 Albury	Malcolm Hall , Church Planter/ SMP (<i>Celia</i>)	St Luke's Albury St Andrew's Corowa
	19 Albury Aged Care	Pr Darryl Mattner (<i>Sonia</i>)	
	26 Burrumbuttock	Pr Christian Fandrich (<i>Sarah Joy, Enoch, Abigail, Andreas, Thomas, Sophia, Noah, Bethany</i>)	Trinity Bethel Holy Cross Burrumbuttock St Peter's Gerogery Jindera - Bethlehem - St John's Chapel

Continued from page 12

not able to ask all of their questions. The attendance figures, engagement, robust discussion and questions demonstrate that women's ordination continues to be a topic of interest and passion within our church. Thanks to Pastor Fandrich for presenting and Bishop Robert for facilitating the process.

What about you? Have you changed your mind about women's ordination, or another theological issue? Why did this happen? How did it happen? Would you like to share your story?

The head can be persuaded, but the heart is not so easily changed. Through decades of debate, heads have been persuaded on both sides of the argument. Individuals have changed their minds. But as a church we are still in two minds. How do we respond as individuals? How do we respond as a church? Can our leaders step up to guide the church through this? How can we maintain unity? Are we motivated from a place of love or are we driven by the Law and fear of consequences? Maybe it is time to focus on the heart.

Renée Simpfendorfer

Walking together IN MISSION a Bible Study series



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

**Wednesday 16 June,
7.30pm on Zoom**

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

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>



Contact Newsletter

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LCA NSW & ACT District Office
215/20B Lexington Dr
Bella Vista NSW 2153

Phone (02) 8660 1200

Email:
kaye.simpfendorfer@lca.org.au

www.lcansw.org.au

Upcoming Events

June 16 'Walking Together' Bible Study

Zoom online meeting

June 19 LW NSW Convention

'Building on the Rock' Immanuel Woden

June 29- July 2

Back2Base

Years 7-12, Warrambui

July 2-4

Junior Youth Camp

Years 3-6, Warrambui

July 6-8

LCA General Pastors Conference

Tanunda SA (COVID-19 permitting)

September 24-26

LWA Convention

Horsham, Vic. (COVID-19 permitting)

Sept 28- Oct 3

LCA General Synod (COVID-19 permitting)

Melbourne www.generalsynod.lca.org.au

October 8-10

Young Adults Retreat

Ages 16+, Tumbarumba

November 19-21

Leadership Camp

Ages 16+, Warrambui

Lutheran Women of NSW Convention

Saturday 19th June 2021

"Building on the Rock"

Matthew 7:24

Immanuel Woden Valley ACT

37 Burnie Street, Lyons

Registration and cuppa from 9am for 9.45am start
Lunch provided (\$15 each), the day concludes by 3pm

All attendees must register by June 4, email
heather.noller@gmail.com phone 0448 665 537 (8am-8pm)



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



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