



“
I thank my God every time I remember you
”

The Happy Prisoner *Philippians 1*



From the Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

The book of Philippians is a short letter that is permeated with the joy of Paul over the people at Philippi and the joy of knowing Christ is at work in them and in his own circumstances.

The church in Philippi was the first Christian congregation in Europe. The town was a Roman colony, named after Philip II of Macedon in 356 BC. In Paul’s time it was filled with retired Roman soldiers and Roman citizens who fully supported Caesar and the Roman government. There was a lot of resistance to the message of Christ and this resistance was also expressed towards the new followers of Christ.

Paul was writing from Prison in Rome to this congregation in Philippi and it is amazing how often Paul mentions joy in this book.

- I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now... Philippians 1: 3-5
- Convinced of this, I know that I will

remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith. Philippians 1: 25

- Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:2
- Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! Philippians 4:1

Remarkable!

Paul does not write to correct doctrine or bad conduct, but simply to thank

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“
I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel
”

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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

- Pr James Leach (Central West NSW parish) has declined the call to Crows Nest Qld
- Pr Matt Eckermann (Sutherland) has accepted the call to Loxton SA
- Pr John Borchert (Chaplain St Paul's College Walla Walla) has accepted the call to Walla Walla parish
- Pr Hans Peethala (Liverpool) has accepted the call to Horsham Vic.

Installation

- Pr Darren Jaensch was installed at Belconnen on 7 May.

Anniversary

- The Sydney Indonesian (GKIA) congregation celebrated their 30th anniversary on 27 May

Deaths

- Pr Lloyd Boughen died on 2 March 2023. Pr Lloyd served St Marys from 1970 to 1976, and Henty parish from 1984 to 1989.
- Pr Tim Zanker died on 16 March 2023. Pr Tim served Gilgandra-Dubbo parish from 1998 to 2006, and Liverpool and Yaagoona from 2006 until his retirement in 2017.

From previous page

God for the believers in Philippi. The book is infused with his joy over these people.

But how is this possible? Paul was writing from Prison. How can a prisoner who has been falsely accused and arrested by the Roman government write such a book filled with joy? You would expect a tone of bitterness, protest, anger, or resentment, not joy.

After all it was in Philippi that Paul had been imprisoned in stocks after preaching the Gospel. He had spent a night in prison in Philippi earlier on. You would think that such memories would bring back resentment.

Most prisoners today are unhappy. Many are them are unhappy all the time. A good number contemplate suicide or self-mutilation. Being a prisoner is a terrible experience. Yet here is Paul in prison, full of joy.

There is only one answer to this enigma and that is Jesus. Paul knows Jesus as his Messiah and Saviour. When Jesus is present in one's life, there is resounding joy.

Eli Stanley Jones (1884–1973) was an American Methodist Christian missionary. He worked extensively in India. He is best remembered for his book "The Christ of the Indian Road". In 1938 he was called by Time magazine, "the world's greatest Christian missionary."

“
When Jesus is
present in one's
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”

E. Stanley Jones, is quoted as saying "When I met Christ, I felt that I had swallowed sunshine."

What amazing joy.

Happiness comes and goes. Depending on the circumstances that we are experiencing, and what is happening in our lives, we may feel happy or sad. We are happy when things are going well, but unhappy when things go badly. But when we have discovered Jesus, the joy is always there, whether things are going positively or negatively. Where Jesus is, there is joy!

When you are tempted to look at all that is going wrong around you, when you can only see pain and decay, think of Paul in prison and how he found joy in Jesus. Turn to Jesus beside you, in you and let him turn your gloom into joy.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop NSW and ACT District

Walking together IN MISSION
Bible Study with the Bishop

**Philippians 1: The Happy
Prisoner**

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

**Wednesday 21 June
7.30pm on Zoom**

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



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

**LCA NSW and ACT District Pastors' Conference
6-8 March 2024 ~ Wagga Wagga**

**LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod
8-10 March 2024**

Lutheran Primary School Tamar Dr Wagga Wagga

Online registration for pastors, delegates and visitors
will be available late November.

Reports, Proposals, and Nominations due to
office.nsw@lca.org.au by mid November.

Enquiries to District Office phone 02 8660 1200
email admin.nsw@lca.org.au

Installation of Pr Darren Jaensch at Belconnen

Pastor Darren Jaensch was installed at Holy Cross Belconnen, on Sunday 7 May. We welcome Darren, his wife Julie, and their sons Isaac & Lachy.

Already long term Canberra locals, Darren has spent much of his ministry in Army chaplaincy, culminating in his role as Director General Chaplaincy for Army from 2017-2023, based in the ACT.



Pr Darren Jaensch installed by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, prayed for by fellow ACT pastors

In 2022 Pastor Darren was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List as a Member (AM) in the Military Division of the Order of Australia for 'exceptional performance of duty in chaplaincy leadership and development'.



Pr Darren and Julie Jaensch

At the 2022 NSW and ACT District Synod Pastor Darren was elected as Additional Pastor to District Church Council.

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

Farewell to Pastor Tim Zanker



Paul Timothy (Tim) Zanker
30/8/1952 – 16/3/2023

Pastor Tim Zanker was born in Bordertown, SA on 30 August 1952, the eldest of four children to Pastor Clem and Margaret Zanker. As a pastor's family on the move, Tim's primary school years were spent in Tanunda SA, and his secondary education at St Peter's College Indooroopilly, Queensland.

In 1970 he began studies at Luther Seminary in Adelaide. Tim and Denise were married in 1975, and Tim was ordained on 5 December 1976 at Temora NSW. Tim served in Queensland parishes at Mount Gravatt, Eight Miles Plains, and Warwick; then in Victoria at Dimboola and Hamilton. In 1998 Tim moved to NSW to serve Gilgandra-Dubbo parish, and in 2006 moved to Sydney to serve Liverpool and Yagoona until his retirement in October 2017. In NSW Tim served as a regional pastor and on District Church Council for many years.

Tim believed bonds with people were built while talking and working together, while digging a trench or over a beer on the back verandah or a cuppa in a cafe. He was a steady role model, expressing his simple, uncomplicated faith through actions rather than pious show, allowing people to explore ideas, using him as a sounding-board. Many saw him as a wise and gentle father or grandfather-figure, particularly in later years. Some respected him as a mentor, many as a confidante, most as a friend.

After his retirement he regularly led services in vacant congregations. He loved fixing and building things, his hobbies included carpentry, car maintenance, brewing, baking and cooking. He loved spending time with family. He was a caring pastor and a kind, generous friend.

The life and service of Pastor Tim Zanker was celebrated in a Thanksgiving Service on 31 March 2023, led by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, former Bishop Mark Lieschke, and Pastor Hans Peethala.

We thank God for Pastor Tim's faithful service to his Lord and the church. We pray that God will comfort Pastor Tim's wife Denise, and family, Miriam, Liz, Butch, Damian, Zac, Jordan and Benjamin, and Tim's father Clem.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

Child Safety Standards for Congregations

THANK YOU and congratulations to all congregations who were able to submit their Child Safety Plans by 31 March!

Many of you worked very hard during February and March to meet the deadline, and we are pleased to advise that this has resulted in an impressive number of plans coming in across the district. It really is wonderful to see child safety being positively embraced by our congregations and especially encouraging to hear about the innovative child safety strategies that congregations are putting in place.

Now that your congregation/parish Child Safety Plan is developed, this is the time to make sure that you implement your child Safety steps and monitor your progress through your leadership team. Don't forget to keep the congregation informed and celebrate your progress.

Haven't completed your Child Safety Plan yet?

For those congregations who are either still working on their Child Safety Plans or are yet to commence the process, please note that **you are still required to complete your Child Safety Plan and send it through.**

Child Safety Plans can be submitted via the online portal on the Child Safety Standards webpage.

I am available to assist you, as is Nicole Hall, from the Child Safety Standards team. We may contact you over the coming weeks to guide you through the process, either by phone or perhaps a Zoom type meeting.

Remember, this is a very important part of your congregational responsibilities, both synodically and legally, **particularly in jurisdictions such as NSW where child safety compliance is regulated by government** via the Office of the Children's Guardian, NSW.

No children in your congregation?

If you have no children attending your congregation regularly, you may be eligible to complete a 'Congregation Without Children Assurance'. If you think this applies to your congregation, please give myself or Nicole a call to discuss. The "Congregations Without Children – Child Safety Assurance" form can be found on the CSS webpage.



New child-friendly resources

Our new 'Speak Up' poster and 'Who keeps me safe at church?' resources are now available on the **LCA Child Safety webpage**. Just look for the resources section on the right-hand side of your screen and scroll down. Alternately, give me a call and I can email them to you.

Training and WWCC/WWVP

I need to remind people that undertaking/maintaining your Safe Church training remains key to congregations meeting their requirements. As noted earlier, compliance is regulated with the Child Safety Standards and part of that means that in reference to Standards 5 & 7, these are vital to attaining those standards.

If you have questions, please be in contact.

THANK YOU for your contribution to making your congregation's activities a safe environment for all participants. May God continue to bless all that you do in His name.

Carolyn Kiss
LCA Professional Standards Officer - NSW and ACT
carolyn.kiss@lca.org.au 0457 770 100

For all online resources go to the
LCA website www.lca.org.au
and under the
SERVICES & RESOURCES tab
select **CHILD SAFETY**

Child Safety Standards Implementation Support Officer: NICOLE HALL css@lca.org.au
08 8267 7372 or 0491 011 643

Child Protection Project Officer: MARY-ANN CARVER mary-ann.carver@lca.org.au
0490 281 727

Indonesians celebrate 30th Anniversary

On 23 May 2023, the Indonesian Christian Church in Australia (GKIA) celebrated its 30th anniversary. A thanksgiving service was held on 27 May 2023 at Petersham Town Hall.

The thanksgiving service was attended by Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus who delivered the sermon from Psalm 100:5 which is also the theme of the celebration. Also present were Mrs. Jenny Bartholomaeus, representatives from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, several Indonesian priests who are domiciled in Sydney, representatives from several Indonesian communities in Sydney, and Bishop I Nyoman Agustinus of GKPB (Bali) who had served as pastor of GKIA (2003-2007).

Songs of praise were presented by our Women's Vocal Group, Youth Vocal Group, and GKIA Choir. The Sunday School children played the traditional musical instrument 'angklung' performing the song 'Give Thanks, and 'Tari Kipas' by GKIA ladies and teens.

The service was of thanksgiving and gratitude for God's guidance over 30 years of the GKIA journey.



Pr Sahat and Bishop Robert cutting the anniversary cake

Riris Nur Cahaya Tobing



Children performed playing the traditional 'angklung'



LLL sponsors Tract Writing Workshop

A small but dedicated group gathered at Warrambui at the end of April to take part in an exciting new initiative. Drawn in by Dr Mark Worthing, and travelling from three states to take part, seven writers came together to create tracts suitable for distribution amongst a target age group of 20-40 years old, who may or may not have had contact with church previously.

Dr Worthing gathered people of varied ages and differing backgrounds- including missional workers from two states, a church planter, pastors, and representatives from Lutheran Media and the LCA NZ Department of Local Mission. This tract writing project aimed to complete 12-14 drafts within a three-day timeframe; our very productive days meant we finished up with over twenty proposed tracts written and passed through their first edit! These tracts are now being circulated amongst a diverse group of readers who will provide further feedback before they are finally edited and submitted to the Lutheran Tract Mission for publication.

Vigorous discussion took place around suitable subjects for the new tracts; we collaborated freely to create stories that people might find themselves in, seeking ways that would speak about God's awesome love to a new audience. We were blessed to be addressed by Pastor Peter Ravikumar at the commencement of the workshop; Pastor Peter spoke passionately about

his experiences of communicating God's love through word and deed in India and Australia. The natural setting of Warrambui provided a great location for discussion and the opportunity for reflection through walking together, fellowship in playing games and cultural exchange via storytelling around an 'Aussie' campfire with interns from Papua New Guinea- this storytelling was helped along by a generous sharing of toasted marshmallows. The experience of setting a marshmallow on fire above the coals and then deciding exactly the right time to blow the flame out for maximum sweetness was great fun.

We are thankful for the opportunity to meet our colleagues in the church and to work together for God's kingdom in this way. We also thank the staff of Warrambui for caring for us so beautifully during our stay.



(L-r from back) Bridgitte Willshire, Dr Mark Worthing, Jacob Traeger, Pr Peter Ravikumar, Pr Richard Fox, Jeremy Lie, Tania Nelson

Bridgitte Willshire, St Paul's Sydney

THEOLOGY OF MISSION PORT MACQUARIE, NSW 24-28 JULY 2023

What on earth is God doing for heaven's sake and how do we join God in this work? This intensive will look at how God has worked in the past, and what God is doing in other places, to help us discern how God is working with us today. Our context has changed radically in the past decade. To bring the good news of Jesus to the world today we need to move beyond programs and techniques and get back to the basics of being Christians in our communities. This intensive will be led by Pastor Steen Olsen (LCANZ emeritus pastor and bishop) and Pastor Mat von Stanke (Life Way, Newcastle NSW).

INTRODUCTION TO PREACHING PORT MACQUARIE, NSW 21-25 AUGUST 2023

Dr Tim Stringer will be leading this unit, designed especially for current lay preachers and those preparing for this role. The intensive will also be of interest to experienced preachers who are interested in honing their skills of public proclamation within the current preaching context. Special attention will be given to missional preaching, the use of multi-media, and delivering sermons via various on-line platforms. Participants will learn not just how to exegete a biblical text, but also how to exegete (or read) a congregation. There will be opportunity to deliver a short sermon in class and receive feedback, as well as to deliver a sermon in an appropriate setting after the intensive and receive further feedback.

JESUS AND THE GOSPELS PORT MACQUARIE, NSW 25-29 SEPTEMBER 2023

An understanding of who Jesus of Nazareth is and how he is portrayed in the Gospels is fundamental to the church's task of mission today. In this unit, taught by Frontier School of Mission dean, Dr Mark Worthing, participants will learn basic skills of reading the four Gospels. They will look at the different portrayals of Jesus in the synoptic Gospels and in the Gospel of John. There will be a focus on how Jesus was understood in the Gospels and how various groups view Jesus today.

Students may enrol in one or more of these intensives for credit toward a Certificate or Diploma in Ministry, or they can be taken as an audit. The members of St Peter's, Port Macquarie are able to provide billeting for students who need accommodation for these weeks.

For further information contact
Academic Dean, Dr Mark Worthing
EMAIL: frontier@lca.org.au
PHONE: 0428 557 663

**EQUIPPING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR
GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD**

frontier.lca.org.au



Credit students can apply for FEE-HELP, Audit students are charged a nominal fee of \$400 per unit



FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...

Without a doubt, it feels a little odd putting together the Turning Point Ministries page for the Contact for the last time. A few months ago, I announced that it was time for me to step down and out from TPM as Chairperson and resign from my casual admin position. I have always said that I will be involved for as long as God tells me to be and it's now that I hear his prompting. I will of course cherish every moment spent with my fellow team members, leaders and campers. I've really enjoyed getting to know our campers' parents and families and I thank you for supporting our ministry.

My first TPM camp in 2002 was a JYC with the theme, "Love God, Love Others." That still summarises what life is about for me - people and the God who loves us so. Thank you for journeying with me as I've grown and matured (somewhat) over the years, and for welcoming my husband and child into the fam. A special thanks to Russell Veerhuis who has been so passionate in raising the next generation and seeing potential in everyone, including me.

It is with sadness to share that Bri O'Keeffe and Cameron Veerhuis have also recently stepped off the TPM Team. Both Bri and Cameron have been a part of TPM for the majority of their lives and have put countless hours and immeasurable effort into building up young people in Christ, and in Bri's case, helping the women of our District connect through Sisterhood camps.

Some may say that Turning Point Ministries is in fact at a turning point of its own. I trust that God is before, behind and within the LCA NSW and ACT District and our broader TPM family. Please continue praying for and supporting this ministry.

In Christ, Peta Bennett



Save the Date for...

Sisterhood

18 - 20 August

Leadership Camp

24 - 26 November

History Makers

16 - 19 January

JYC

19 - 21 January

The TPM Camping Team is looking for some key positional people. We are in need of senior leadership who can assist in the oversight of our camping ministry.

We are also looking for senior leaders who are keen to join the team so that we can continue to supply a quality and Safe camping environment. If you feel God is leading you in that direction, please get in contact with the team.



(02) 8660 1200

tpm.org.au
TPMevents.nsw@lca.org.au

facebook.com/tpmcamping
@turningpointministries_nsw



WARRAMBUI NEWS

June 2023

Prayer Points

- For our 2023 Interns from PNG (Grace, Moreenicka & Rose)
- For recruitment of the remaining staff to return us to our full complement
- For continued growth in capacity and bookings
- That as a team we may live out Our Values as we serve people by living Jesus

Praise Points

- For our returning guest groups, particularly those who haven't been since before the pandemic
- For the charity groups who stay with us & for the opportunity to support their valuable work
- For the beauty of our site during autumn and winter

Centre Director's Update

The Cold and the Beautiful

The cold weather has settled in at Warrambui, but when the sun comes out the days are beautiful. Most mornings we get a wonderful view over the fog that has settled in the lower Yass River valley. It has been quite an adjustment for our PNG Interns who have had their first experience of frost.

Bookings and Charity Groups

Bookings and booking enquiries continue to improve and we are grateful to welcome back groups we have not seen since before the pandemic.

In the April school holidays, Warrambui hosted three different charity groups.

The first group was the Magic Ride (magicride.com.au), and included around 40 cyclists who completed 380-500kms of riding during the week, depending on route options chosen, returning each night to Warrambui to rest and re-fuel. The cyclists were raising money for Feel the Magic (feelthemagic.org.au) a charity that helps support grieving kids and their families. They successfully achieved their target, raising a total of \$153,325.

The second group was the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation (kookaburrakids.org.au) a charity that

provides support to young people aged 8-18 who live in families impacted by mental illness. Their camps aim to provide a fun experience where the young people also receive education and support to help them grow in many ways including in resilience, in self-esteem and in their ability to cope effectively.

The third group was our much loved, long-term client St Vincent De Paul who have used our site for many years to conduct camps that offer respite and recreation for children whose childhood is impacted by circumstances beyond their control.

It is our pleasure and privilege to support such worthy organisations in their valuable work through our ministry at Warrambui.



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Warrambui's Values

From the later part of last year through to early this year, we were very blessed to have Dr Ian Marks working with us as we sought to reflect, re-focus on our mission and re-establish a strong community that continues to be centred on Christ.

During this time, we as a Warrambui Team discussed what we wanted our Values to be, to serve as a foundation for how go about our service together, and how we interact with our guests and each other. The values we have agreed and committed to are:

Our Values

Doing Things in the Light

Walking in the light of Jesus and, as stewards of God's resources, being accountable, open and honest in all that we do.

Consistently acting with a high-level of integrity and trustworthiness

Valuing Individuals

We are all loved children of our Heavenly Father created equal in His image, with our own unique talents, skills and gifts.

We seek to value our guests, fellow team members and all those we come into contact with as God values us.

Growing Together

We strive to continually grow and be more like Jesus.

As a Team and as individuals we actively pursue opportunities for growth, development and continuous improvement

Solutions Focused

We seek to be joyful in hope, patient in trouble and faithful in prayer.

We understand challenges are inevitable and we view them as valuable opportunities for creative, effective and long-term improvement.

Servant Hearted

We serve people by living Jesus, following the example of our Servant King.

We actively seek to understand the needs of others so that we can better serve them.

We pray that God will uphold us in keeping these values and in sharing His love with all those we serve through His place, Warrambui.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,

Dean Salzke—Centre Director



Financial Information

Warrambui Income & Expenditure Statement 1 January - 31 March 2023			
	Budget	Pro-rata Budget	Actual to 31 March
Total bookings	100	25	22
Total occupied bed nights	11,639	2,910	2,198
Operating income	\$ 943,258	\$ 189,828	\$ 230,014
Operating expenses	\$ 1,210,565	\$ 295,691	\$ 306,446
Operating surplus/loss	\$ (267,307)	\$ (105,863)	\$ (76,432)
Non-operating profit, primarily from the quarry, is \$28,950 giving a net loss of \$47,818.			

Bookings and bednights are less than anticipated, but income was higher than expected for those camps.

Warrambui's ministry contribution to the District is \$28,330 mostly from the Arise Volunteer Internship Program (with the PNG Interns & the Internship Development Officer) & discounts for Lutheran groups.

Catering supply and staffing costs were high as staff appointments/arrivals were not yet complete and guest catering was covered using external staffing sources.

PNG Interns Update

Hello Lutheran faithfuls,

We were excited to join Warrambui on 27 January 2023. The welcome and hospitality was beyond our imagination and is continuing. We very much appreciate it.

The PNG Interns and I have settled in and began the new program with many opportunities for learning and a teachable spirit. It was certain this was a calling for which we were "sent into the deep" (DUC IN ALTUM) to quote the motto from my previous teaching at a Catholic teachers' college in PNG.

We are on a fishing trip!

Warrambui's mission in extending Gods love in our living and work has motivated us all. Hands on training in hospitality, school programs, sharing Frontier School of Mission studies and discussions on the habits of highly effective people gave the best introduction to the Arise Volunteer Internship Program for the Interns.

Our Mission of serving people by living Jesus and impacting lives by the power of the Holy Spirit at Warrambui has led the Interns to demonstrate the values of practising Gods word, loving and accepting individuals, growing together and serving whole heartedly.

We are grateful of Warrambui's Board, staff, volunteers and Lutheran church congregations for their support.

Florence Siba—PNG Internship Development Officer

Call for nominations for the...

Warrambui Awards

To recognise individuals for their outstanding contribution.

Warrambui seeks to recognise the significant contribution by individuals in the development and support of Warrambui over a period of years. This may include the initial setup of the facility, attendance at regular work camps and special projects, significant service as a member of the Management Committee/ Warrambui Board, significant service over and above the normal duties as an employee, or ongoing or significant financial support.

Nominations can be submitted by an individual or a congregation.

Nominations are being accepted for the following awards:

- **Warrambui Service Award**
- **Warrambui Legends Award**
- **Warrambui Certificate of Appreciation**



Nominations can be submitted by e-mail to the director@warrambui.com.au or by mail to Warrambui Awards, 322 Greenwood Rd, Murrumbateman NSW 2582. **Nominations close 31 July 2023**

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

District Church Council news

Supporting Congregations and Ministries in Mission and ministry:

Child Safety Standard

The NSW and ACT Professional Standards Officer, Carolyn Kiss reported to our last meeting and updated the DCC on how the NSW and ACT congregations are going with regard to getting their Child Safety assessments completed, and their Child Safety plans in place by the March 31 deadline. Pleasingly the DCC heard that most congregations are doing very well, while a few are lagging behind getting in their plans. It was restated that the Child Safety standards Office is there to assist all congregations to prepare their plans and ensure they are submitted. If congregations have no children, they have the option of submitting a Child Safety Assurance form.

Gunnedah Lutheran Parish

The DCC noted with sadness the closure of the Gunnedah Lutheran Parish with the secretary writing a letter to thank them for their faithful service.

Alternative Models of ministry that best serve the District:

Lifeway Newcastle – podcasting and video recording equipment

The DCC received an application from Lifeway Newcastle for a mission outreach grant to support the purchase of podcasting and video recording equipment to establish a recording studio for filming Christian education resources. The equipment will also be used to record and present Christian discussion and content across a variety of media platforms. The DCC heard how the Mission and Ministry team and the FAC were very supportive of this application, and noted how it would also be beneficial for use by Frontier School of Mission and other ministries of the District. The DCC were excited to support this new ministry and happily recommended it to the LLL for a mission outreach grant.

Planting and Renewing Congregations:

St Johns Church Plant - Jindera

The DCC was blessed to hear from the St Johns Church Plant leader, Peter Reed on all the various groundwork going into the planting of this new congregation. Peter and his wife Nikki are in the process of moving into the Jindera community, and he is also transferring his work commitments from the Albury Lutheran church to be full-time work in the St Johns Church plant based in the Jindera Lutheran School. The new community has initially been gathering once a term at the Jindera Lutheran School Hall, with students from the School providing all of the music and sound support. This has the added blessing of assist-

ing many families from the school to connect in with the new community. The DCC also recognizes the support provided to this church plant from the Albury Lutheran Church.



District Leadership through the Bishop leading leadership teams:

James Haak Fund extension

The James Haak fund was originally set up to support the education and training of Pastors. It has been noted that there was a gap in the ability to use the fund, and so the DCC increased the breadth of the terms to include funding support of up to \$2000 per annum for lay people who are serving in congregations where there is no called Pastor. The DCC also approved up to \$4000 for such lay persons serving who might wish to train through Frontier School of Mission.

NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod 2024

The 2024 NSW and ACT District Synod has now been set for the 8-10 March 2024 in Wagga Wagga. The Synod and opening and closing worship will be shared between the Bethlehem Lutheran Church congregation and the Lutheran School Wagga Wagga. The Theme for the Synod is yet to be finalized.

NSW Intercessors team

The DCC heard how Pastor Darren Kupke is heading up a NSW intercessors team, who continue to hold up the many NSW ministries in prayer. Bishop Robert reported that at each conference he attends, every new thriving ministry, also reports they have a team of intercessors upholding them in prayer.

Pastor Will Frost

Bishop Robert shared with the DCC that the College of Bishops has approved the call of Pastor Will Frost to the District as a Locum Pastor for 1 year with possible extensions. Pastor Will Frost is currently serving the Albury Lutheran church congregation in their vacancy.

General Convention of Synod and Scenario Analysis

The Finance Advisory committee recommended to the DCC that given the recent General Synod resolution regarding women's ordination, the district think about undertaking a systematic scenario analysis with a view to the possible different outcomes of the Synod in 2024 and how these might impact our District and its congregations. The DCC has requested the FAC to conduct this analysis looking at all of the possible outcomes.

Continued next page

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Governance of Specific Ministries:

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

The Warrambui Board reported how Warrambui is continuing to receive a lot of positive feedback about the redevelopment of the Dome, including it becoming the facility of choice for some groups. Warrambui are continuing to recruit new staff with several new chef's joining the team over the past couple of months. The DCC heard that it is anticipated that Warrambui will potentially take until the end of the year to be fully back on their feet. Warrambui has also welcomed Pastor James Leach to the Board who will provide wisdom as well as Pastoral oversight.

Turning Point Ministries

The DCC heard that some of the senior leadership of TPM are being called into other roles. This has left a leadership vacuum amongst the team. It was noted that a majority of our Lutheran congregations have

minimal or no youth, and that many of the people who have been supporting TPM over the years have been coming from non-Lutheran congregations. The DCC advised TPM that given the changes, it was wise management to condense the number of camps for the coming 12 months whilst they seek new people to join the TPM team.

Lutheran Education in Victoria, NSW and Tasmania LEVNT

Shane Patterson the Director of Leadership and School improvement at LEVNT reported on the impending Strategic planning day for St Pauls College as well as an update on how the NSW Lutheran Schools are travelling. He also reported on ongoing conversations that have been had with St Mary's kindergarten, about whether they would like to invite LEVNT to provide further support to the kindergarten.

Russell Veerhuis, on behalf of DCC

District Administrator

Financial update

The 2023 budget has by and large been tracking on budget, with an asset base of \$28,410,940 and liabilities of \$238,648 as at 31 March 2023. A summary of the 2023 budget and first quarter income and expenditure is provided in the table.

On the income side, Congregation contributions are by and large expected to come in on budget. This figure is often lower earlier in the year as many congregations pay their contribution in the last quarter. Turning Point Ministry camps have been lower across income and expense due to the declining number of campers. When looking at expenses, the LCA Budget contribution is paid in two parts, and so half the contribution (109,000) was paid in the second quarter of this year. The District has contributed \$121,718 to the various ministries of the District as approved by the Mission and Ministry team and the DCC.

The Finance Advisory Committee in implementing the Districts Investment Strategy has not made any further changes to the District's investment mix. As with all investment mixes, it has been our international investments that have been holding their value in the past 12 months.

The current value of these investments as at 31 March 2023 was \$11,994,348 broken down as follows:

- Australian Ethical Investments Australian Shares Index Fund \$3,624,959
- Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund \$3,741,576.

2023 NSW District Budget		
	2023 Budget	2023 Jan-Mar
Revenue		
Congregations Contributions	\$152,300	\$22,500
Contributions from individuals	\$12,500	\$3,453
Turning Point Ministry	\$107,870	\$3,637
Frontier School of Mission	\$97,500	\$2,500
Other District revenue	\$46,700	\$1,132
Earmarked Grants and donations	\$34,000	\$7,000
Investment income	\$478,020	\$74,437
Total Income	\$928,890	\$114,659
Expenses		
LCA Budget	\$218,000	\$0
Employee benefits expense	\$387,993	\$86,581
TPM Camp expenses	\$107,450	\$23,836
Frontier expenses	\$91,700	\$17,290
Depreciation Expense	\$178,900	\$44,725
Other expenses	\$235,800	\$66,914
Mission and Ministry	\$474,230	\$121,718
Total Expenses	\$1,694,073	\$361,064
Net Profit/Loss	-\$765,183	-\$246,405

- Vanguard Global Value Equity fund \$2,089,788
- Vanguard International Shares Select Exclusions Index Fund \$2,538,025.

Russell Veerhuis, District Administrator



St Paul's College - Celebrates 75 Years

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

What a wonderful afternoon and evening we had on Friday 17th March to celebrate our 75 years! With perfect weather and close to 700 Staff, Students, Parents, Old Collegians and Community Members joining in the celebrations. We were honoured to host four members of the Foundation Class of 1948 (from left: Harvey Heinjus, Joan Gibbons, Lorraine Wiesner, Cecil Lieschke). A Thanksgiving Service with Bishop Robert Batholomaeus praying a blessing over the College, followed by formal proceedings which included presentations to the Foundation Students and to the Walla Walla Historical Society. The new Lutheran Schools Partnership, InspirED was officially launched by Anita Morton (SPC), Brad Moss (St John's Jindera and St Paul's Henty) and Janet Moeller (Wagga Wagga Lutheran Primary School).

Demonstrations, food and activities ran well into the evening, culminating in the drawing of the P & F Raffle. Thank you to all who attended, and to all who had a part in the planning of the event. *Photos courtesy Rob Lacey Photography).*

PETER PAN PRODUCTION

During May we were blessed to experience the wonderful world of Never Never-Land. Our cast and crew, capably lead by Mrs. Stacey Hartwich and Mr. Damien Foley, staged an entertaining and visually spectacular production with lots of laughs, guest canine stars, and even some flying! It was a fabulous opportunity to gather as a community and celebrate the talent of our young people.



Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT Convention at Jindera

The 56th Convention of Lutheran Women NSW-ACT was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Jindera on Saturday 29th April 2023. The convention was hosted by the Burrumbuttock fellowship, assisted by members of the other fellowships in the Burrumbuttock Parish.

We gathered under the theme: God, the source of Hope, based on Romans 15:13.

Rhonda Burns welcomed the 83 attendees as well as visitors and guests and wished all a Blessed day. Our musician for the day was Abigail Fandrich.

In his opening devotion, Rev Dr Mark Worthing told us that the text is one of Blessing and Benediction. It's a text that Paul got excited about. There is a promise – good news to all the world. When will this happen? There's waiting and hoping. God's peace and love is for ALL.

Hope – we use this word a lot, hope the weather will be good; hope everything is well for you...

Real HOPE – confidence in the future. HOPE has no expiry date. God is the God of the future. Our God is the God of HOPE, not of wishful thinking.

Pastor Mark Worthing, Dean of Frontier School of Mission, was also our guest speaker. Frontier was established by Pastor David Grulke and previously operated from Albury.

Frontier School of Mission is now part of the NSW-ACT District. The district called Pastor Mark to the position of Dean on a 50%-time basis, and he serves the Port Macquarie congregation 50%. Frontier trains laity, equipping lay members to meet the needs of congregations. Study units are available as academic credit, or as an audit (no written work). Currently Frontier is assisting in training Interns at Warrambui. Pastor Mark is also working on providing resources for ACR publishing and with Lutheran Tract Mission. Frontier supports mission.

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus thanked Pastor Mark for his work and his enthusiasm. We joined in prayer for the work of Frontier School of Mission.

We were blessed to have spot speakers give us updates of the work they are carrying out, not only within the LCANZ but also with many of the projects that are supported by Lutheran Women of Australia.

Beryl Smith – Treasurer of LWA delivered a greeting from



Convention attendees met at Bethlehem Jindera on 29 April

President Grace Kroehn and updated on LWA matters. She encouraged all to support Lutheran Women magazine.

Christine Matthias – Grow Ministries; introduced us to some amazing children's ministry resources available to congregations.

Julie Krause – Australian Lutheran World Service; thanked everyone for the generous support given to so many people who are often the forgotten in the world. She introduced us to some of the people (via PPT) whose lives have been changed, through training available for them.

Pastor Richard Fox – Lutheran Media said that he'd been 'spruiking' HOPE for years! Messages of HOPE are often the first point of contact via radio and social media. He encouraged us, parents, or grandparents to look at their kid's ministry 'Happyland'. As Lutheran Media is resourced by donations, he thanked all for their support.

LCANZ International Mission committee member – Gillian Heintze, provided a comprehensive report of the work that is being undertaken where Lutheran Women of Australia projects are supported.

Shari Savio – (LLL) introduced us to a video message from Ross Smith, CEO of LLL. We were informed that there are 38,000 account holders of the LLL – the bank of the Church members. The LLL is the only philanthropic bank in Australia.

Anita Morton – Principal of St Paul's College, Walla Walla told us that there are 300 students at St Paul's, now in it's 75th year of operation. There are partnerships/shared staffing with other Lutheran schools in the region. There is joint marketing and support and a principal's support network among the schools in Walla Walla/Henty Jindera and Wagga Wagga.

Dean Salzke – Warrambui Centre Director told us that 2023 is bringing increased bookings following some challenging years. School groups are now returning to camping. Dean told us that there are to be 2 new bridges built which will hopefully eliminate the issues of the local road being flooded. They have welcomed a group of Interns and a support person, from Papua New Guinea. There remain some staffing challenges with vacancies on the team. Dean thanked Lutheran



Elected office bearers: (L-r) Tanna Mackenzie, Bianca Rosetti, Diana Semmler, Sabine Sloan, Heather Habermann, Helen Gabriel

Continued next page

Women of NSW-ACT for the ongoing support of the ministry at Warrambui.

Bishop Robert shared with us about new ministries, Church Plants, in the district. One of those is at Jindera, operating through work at St John's school. Peter Reed is working there, building a team to bring ministry to staff and families of the school community.

We remembered previous members now residing with their Lord as we sang 'My hope is built on nothing less' while memorial candles were lit.

Jane Franke – Open Door bookshop, Temora provided us with a great display of books and giftware to purchase.

Convention thanked Anne McVay for her 6 years of service to LW-NSW/ACT as secretary.

Office bearers were elected and installed:

President	Tanna Mackenzie
Vice President	Charmain Lieschke
2 nd Vice President	Heather Habermann
Secretary	Bianca Rossetti
Treasurer	Helen Gabriel
Extra members	Sabine Sloan & Diana Semmler
Spiritual Advisors	Pastors Mark Sempfendorfer & Peter Fuhlbohm

The offering (\$3489) will be divided between St John's School Jindera Church Plant; Warrambui Arise Intern program and Lutheran Media.

Pastor Peter Fuhlbohm led closing devotion, reminding us that our HOPE is anchored in Jesus.

Thanks to all involved in a wonderful day of fellowship, worship and of course a bountiful supply of food.

Carolyn Kiss

District Prayer Calendar

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

nswact.lca.org.au



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

	Location	Pastors and Church Workers (and family)	Congregations
June	4 Port Macquarie	Pr Mark Worthing (Kathy)	St Peters Port Macquarie
	11 Springwood	Pr Peter Ravikumar	Our Saviour Springwood
	18 St Marys	Pr Peter Ravikumar	St Paul's St Marys
July	25 Sutherland	Pr Mat Eckermann (Elizabeth, Ewan, Braden)	Good Shepherd Sutherland
	2 Sydney	Pr Richard Schwedes (Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary, Brooke)	St Paul's Sydney
	9 Narraweena	Pr Richard Schwedes (Veronica, Mercedes, Zackary, Brooke)	Redeemer Narraweena
	16 Belconnen	Pr Darren Jaensch (Julie, Isaac, Lachy)	Holy Cross Belconnen
	23 Canberra/Queanbeyan	Pr Gabor Szabo (Annamaria, Domonkos)	St Peter's Canberra St John the Baptist Queanbeyan
August	30 Cooma	Pr Melvin Salzke (Ruth)	Trinity Cooma
	6 Canberra Finnish	Pr Janne Pekkarinen (Helena, Simeon, Hildamari, Liinakaisa)	Trinity Finnish Canberra
	13 Tuggeranong	Pr Paul Hannola (Karen)	Good Shepherd Tuggeranong
	20 Woden Valley	Pr Tim Muller (Mary) Jacob Traeger, Mission Facilitator and Church Planting Leader (Kate)	Immanuel Woden Valley
September	27 Warrambui	Dean Salzke Centre Director (Anna, Noah, Joshua)	
	3 Albury	Vacant Pr Will Frost (interim)	St Luke's Albury
	10 Albury Aged Care	Pr David Jarman (Nicole)	
	17 Burrumbuttock	Pr Christian Fandrich (Sarah Joy, Enoch, Abigail, Andreas, Thomas, Sophia, Noah, Bethany)	Trinity Bethel Holy Cross Burrumbuttock St Peter's Gerogery Jindera - Bethlehem - St John's Chapel
	24 Henty	Pr Darryl Shoemsmith (Shirley)	St Stephen's Culcairn St Paul's Henty St John's Pleasant Hills

Walking together IN MISSION
Bible Study with the Bishop
Philippians 1: The Happy Prisoner

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

**Wednesday 21 June
7.30pm on Zoom**

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



Upcoming Events

- June 13-15** **Mission & Ministry Conference**
Warrambui, Pastors, lay workers, ministry leaders
- June 21** **'Walking Together' Bible Study**
Zoom online meeting
- August 18-20** **Sisterhood**
Warrambui
- October 9-11** **District Pastors' Conference**
Warrambui
- 2024 dates**
- March 6-8, 2024** **District Pastors' Conference**
Wagga Wagga
- March 8-10, 2024** **NSW and ACT District Synod**
Wagga Wagga
- October 4-7, 2024** **LCANZ General Convention of Synod**
Concordia College, Adelaide, SA

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.



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Contact Newsletter

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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
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Marden SA 5070